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Reviewer Spotlight: Ayah Issa

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REVIEWER SPOTLIGHT

Ayah Issa

Tell us about yourself. What’s your name and where are you from? What are you studying? Do you have specific career interests?

My name is Ayah Issa and I am Palestinian-American. I am currently completing my doctoral studies in Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education with a focus on the language practices and policies surrounding Arabic-speaking students in U.S. public schooling.

What brings you joy? Could you share some of your self-care practices?

My cat, Mango, brings me so much joy. I love spending time with her and my husband. Most recently, I’ve found a lot of joy in self care activities like comedy shows, walks with my husband and friends, and barre workout classes.

What led to you becoming a reviewer for the Language Arts Journal of Michigan? How has the experience been for you thus far? What connections, if any, do you see with being a reviewer to promoting literacy and English Language Arts?

I heard about the opportunity and was invited to review an article. Since then, I have enjoyed reviewing more articles and get excited whenever I get an email from LAJM for another reviewer opportunity. Being a reviewer as a graduate student supports my own growth as a writer and researcher. Especially, I appreciate the chance to discover upcoming research interests in the world of literacy and English Language Arts.

In what ways do you promote literacy in your home and community?

Being a part of an immigrant community, literacy has always been a big part of accessing opportunities. However, it’s been especially important to find culturally and linguistically relevant ways to support literacies in my community as well as multimodal experiences that build interest.

What is your favorite book or story?

The Best We Could Do by Thi Bui



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