

MINUTES FROM THE MIRACLE CITY

by Omar Sabbagh

- How do you explain the title of the novella, Minutes from the Miracle City? Why do you think the author chose that as the title?
- Pick one of the characters and explore their journey through the novella. Where in their lives did we meet them and where did they end up? How did they evolve?
- Saeed and Farida's storyline seems almost to be the central one in the novella. Would you agree? Why (not)? How can this storyline be interpreted in a wider social context / what does it teach us about the wider social context?
- 'No, Hakim was thinking, money is time; money is time. Yes, that was the better conclusion to make.' (p. 8) The phrase 'money is time' is used often throughout the book. How do you interpret it?
- The ending could be described as filmic. Do you agree? Does the ending leave you satisfied?
- 'He opened it and read.' (p. 136) Omar Sabbagh leaves the ending open for the reader to fill in the gaps. How would you continue the story?
- What kind of Dubai does this novella portray? Find examples to support your argument.
- What do you think the purpose and message of this novella are?