

**Poetry**

**The Arab poet who inspired JK Rowling**

**who died at the age of 67 in 2008, needs no magic boost: long regarded as Palestine's national poet, he has given voice to suffer: ing with poemssuch as Identity | Card (write downl/iaman Arab**

নিজৰ দক্ষ, she would not be

**joiningacultural boycott. “The truehuman cost of the Palestinian conflict was seared upon my consciousness, as upon many others', by the heart-splitting**

| And my identity card number poetry of Mahmoud Darwish." is fifty thousands I have eight she wrote. “I believestrongly that children/And the ninth will cultural dialogue and collaboraKRowlinghas come after asummer/Will i tionismore important thanever longpossessed you be angry?). before and that cultural boycotts the mythical Rowlingnamed the poet are divisive, discriminatory and philosopher's knack inan extended - counter-productive” of turning every tweetexplaining M\*\* The problem with this stone she touches to why, despite be “”\* reading of Darwish and gold, so when she cited ingamong 15o his work, however, is the Palestinian poet signatories thathis life was a cata

Mahmoud Darwishas apolitical inspiration, you know he's a made man. Except that, in the Arab world, Darwish,

who called fora dialogue with Israelin an open letter to the Guard

\* The Guardian 28.10.15

Burnt out of his home

child, he fellinandout oflove with the PLO,

a nightmare” he said. “Poetry is perhaps what teaches us to nur

logue of dialogue denied.

**spent much of his life in exile and ended itinatexas hospital. Four years before his death, he was awarded a major prize in Holland, giving aspeech that gestured at the “charming illusion” of art: “Aperson can only bebominoneplace. However, he may dieseveral timeselsewhere: in the exiles and prisons, and in a homeland transformed by the occupation and oppression into**

ture the charming illusion: how

**to be reborn out of ourselves over**

**and over again, and use words to constructabetter world, a ficti**

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| tious world that enables us to sign village of Birwaas a small

**a pact fora permanentand com**

**prehensive peace... with life.” ClaireArmitstead**