

## A Passage from Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

Here,  
that food is  
Middle Eastern food.  
Baguettes are French food.  
Spaghetti is Italian food.  
Pizza is both American and Italian,  
depending on which restaurant you go to.

Every food has a label.  
It is sorted and assigned.

Just like I am no longer  
a girl.  
I am a Middle Eastern girl.  
A Syrian girl.  
A Muslim girl.

Americans love labels.  
They help them know what to expect.  
Sometimes, though,  
I think labels stop them from  
thinking.