



JANET HARDY-GOULD

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves | Worksheet

Part 1: Reading texts

The Story of Ali Baba Factfile

People around the world know the name of Ali Baba! But where is his story from and how old is it?

Full name of story: Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

From the collection: One Thousand and One Nights

Age of story: Hundreds of years old

Type of story: A folk tale

Where story from: The Middle East

Important character: A ¹woodcutter called Ali Baba

Other characters: A clever young servant girl called Morgiana, and an old ²cobbler, Baba Mustafa.

Important places: A big forest, a secret cave

³Themes: Luck and ⁴greed

Famous sentence: Open Sesame!

Films from the stories of One Thousand and One Nights

There are many films from the stories of One Thousand and One Nights. The stories are old but people are still interested in them! The movies are always fun to watch because they happen in exciting places and have interesting characters.

The most important characters in the stories are often ordinary people with everyday lives. By chance, their lives suddenly change and they have exciting adventures. In these adventures, they meet terrible enemies and they need to escape from them quickly.

There are different types of films about the stories of One Thousand and One Nights. There are popular cartoons like Disney's Aladdin (1992) and Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (2003) by Dreamworks.

There are also many exciting ⁶live-action films. For example, there is Disney's Aladdin (2019) with Will Smith and Naomi Scott, and the older Hollywood film Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves (1944).

All about One Thousand and One Nights

What is One Thousand and One Nights?

It is a collection of stories from the Middle East and India. There are many different stories, but there aren't one thousand and one of them!

When was the Ali Baba story included?

Most of the stories were included between the 8th to the 13th century. But someone included Ali Baba in the 18th century.

Who is the ⁵author of all the different stories?

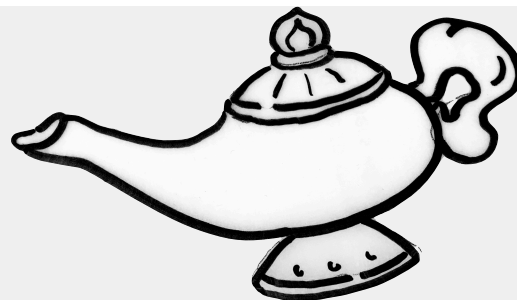
We don't know. The stories are folk tales from many different places.

What is special about the stories in the collection?

They are a 'story in a story' with a story teller.

Who tells the stories?

A woman called Scheherazade tells the stories. She tells a new story every night to her husband King Sharyar. He wants to kill her, but she stops in the middle of every story and finishes it the next day. Sharyar always listens and wants to hear the end of the story, so Scheherazade stays alive.



What are the stories about?

The stories are often about poor people who become rich.

What are some of the most famous stories?

The most famous ones are Aladdin, Sinbad and Ali Baba.

Glossary

- 1 woodcutter** a person who cuts wood in the forest
- 2 cobbler** a person who makes shoes
- 3 theme** the most important idea or message in a story
- 4 greed** when a person always wants more of something, especially money
- 5 author** writer
- 6 live-action film** a film with real actors



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Part 2: Questions and tasks

1 Before reading - discussion questions

- 1 What do you know about the story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves?
- 2 Ali Baba is a folk tale. Do you know any folk tales from your country?

2 Reading task

Read *The Story of Ali Baba Factfile*. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Underline where you find the information for your answers.

- 1 Ali Baba is a very old story.
- 2 The story comes from The Far East.
- 3 Ali Baba makes shoes.
- 4 Morgiana is intelligent.
- 5 Baba Mustafa is a young man.
- 6 Everything in the story happens in town.
- 7 One important theme is luck.
- 8 The well-known sentence in the story is very short.

3 Reading task

Read *All about One Thousand and One Nights*. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 In the *One Thousand and One Nights* collection there are ___ stories.
a 1001 b lots of c a small number of
- 2 The collection first included the Ali Baba story in the ___ century.
a 8th b 13th c 18th
- 3 Scheherazade always ___ the stories.
a tells b listens to c writes
- 4 Scheherazade is King Sharyar's ____.
a friend b sister c wife
- 5 In the middle of every story, Scheherazade always ____.
a listens b stops c laughs
- 6 A lot of the stories are about people who are ___ at first.
a poor b rich c ill

4 Reading task

Read *Films from the stories of One Thousand and One Nights*. Answer the questions.

- 1 Why are the stories fun to watch at the cinema?
- 2 What type of people are often the most important characters?
- 3 Who do the important characters meet in the stories?
- 4 There are two Disney films of Aladdin. How are they different?
- 5 Who is in the 2019 film of Aladdin?

5 Find the secret word

Find the words below in the texts *The Story of Ali Baba Factfile* and *All about One Thousand and One Nights*. Write them in the grid to find the secret word. The secret word is part of another name for *One Thousand and One Nights*.

	1					
2						
	3					
4						
5						
	6					
	7					

- 1 A large hole in the side of a mountain or hill.
- 2 A person who works in another person's home e.g. as a cleaner.
- 3 When somebody or something is well-known.
- 4 A person who makes shoes or repairs them.
- 5 Living; not dead.
- 6 Another word for a story.
- 7 The opposite to the beginning of something.

6 Vocabulary - interested or interesting?

We usually use adjectives with **-ed** to describe how someone feels. *People are still interested in the stories.*

We usually use adjectives with **-ing** to describe something. *The stories are very interesting.*

Complete the sentences below with the **-ed** or **-ing** form of the word in brackets.

- 1 I like the live-action film of Aladdin because it's _____. (excite)
- 2 Do you think these old folk tales are _____? (interest)
- 3 Children are always _____ by the story of Ali Baba. (amuse)
- 4 We can't watch that movie now because we're very _____. (tire)
- 5 The tales are fun, but some of them are _____ too. (frighten)
- 6 Are you _____ by the end of the story? (surprise)