

“Aladdin shows that even if you’re a bit lazy to begin with, you can still use your wits to help things come out right.” Abdul, 14



ALADDIN AND HIS MAGIC LAMP

As soon as Aladdin started cleaning the lamp there was a sound like a clap of thunder. A swirling cloud of smoke filled the room, changing until it formed the outline of a huge green figure.

Aladdin and his mother live a poor and humble life. Then one day Aladdin meets his long-lost uncle, and his life is changed for ever. Can his new friend be trusted?

When Aladdin persuades the Sultan to let him marry the beautiful Princess Badroulboudour, he thinks his happiness is complete. But what will the Sultan’s Vizier do now that his own son’s chances of marrying the Princess are doomed to failure?

It seems that Aladdin’s beloved Princess has been lost forever when he angers the evil sorcerer. Can Aladdin think of a way to bring his wife and his elderly mother back to safety?



ALADDIN AND HIS MAGIC LAMP

from The One Thousand and One Nights



Retold by Haitham Al-Khawaja
Illustrated by Sura Ghazwan

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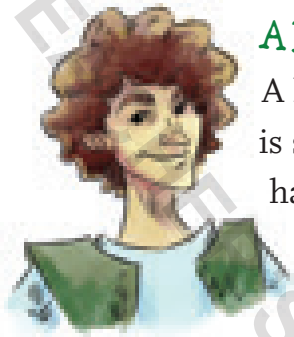
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THE CHARACTERS

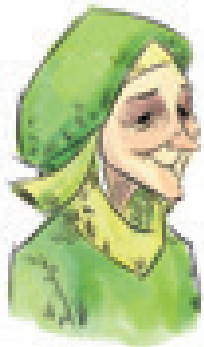
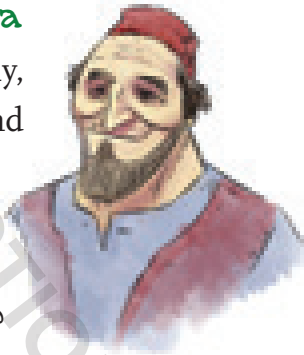


Aladdin

A handsome young man, Aladdin is spoiled by his doting mother and hard-working father. Will he ever learn that making a real effort to improve yourself is worthwhile?

Mustapha

Aladdin's father loves his family, working hard as a tailor and trying to bring up his son to find satisfaction in a profession. Will he succeed in his dearest wish before he works himself to death?



Aladdin's Mother

Devoted to her diligent husband and carefree son, she sacrifices a great deal for her family, but is Aladdin really worth her efforts?

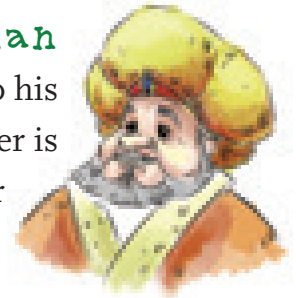


The Sorcerer

The man says he is Mustapha's brother and promises to make life easy for Aladdin, but when he tells Aladdin about the dangerous mission he plans for the boy, whose future does he really have in mind?

The Sultan

The wise Sultan rules justly, listening to his people's concerns. His beautiful daughter is the love of his life, but can he keep her safe from the wiles of the Sorcerer?

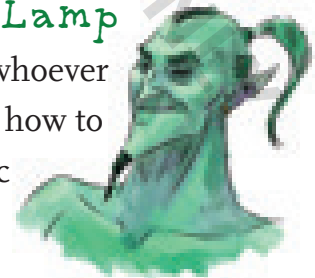


Princess Badroulbadour

The Sultan's daughter had been going to marry the son of the Grand Vizier, but when the rich and glamorous Aladdin comes into her life everything is turned upside down. Will her life with Aladdin be calm and serene?

The Genie of the Lamp

The Genie must do as he is bidden by whoever wears the magic ring and knows how to summon him. But is the Genie's magic stronger than the Sorcerer's cunning?





ALADDIN AND HIS MAGIC LAMP

Many centuries ago a tailor called Mustapha lived with his family in a large and rich city. Mustapha was hardworking and devoted to his wife and son Aladdin, doing his best to give them happiness and security.

The tailor had been overjoyed when Aladdin was born; having a child had always been his dream. He wanted the best possible upbringing for his only son, and encouraged the boy to work hard and be self-sufficient. He looked after Aladdin well, teaching him courage and honesty, and implanting in him noble Arabic values.

Mustapha's wife was a kind and loving woman who desired nothing but the welfare and wellbeing of her family. Thus Aladdin grew up in the hands of parents who tried hard to provide him with all the means for an honest and respectable life.



They emphasised the importance of hard work, and of establishing a good name in order to be successful.



Aladdin grew up to be a handsome youth, cheerful and well-liked by everyone in his neighbourhood. Unfortunately he had one great fault, which caused his parents much sorrow and trouble. By the time he was fifteen years old he should have been earning a living, but instead he preferred to waste his time in idleness, amusing himself in the streets with

his friends. His father tried to teach him how to use a needle, but Aladdin had no interest in working in the tailor's shop. As soon as his father turned his back the lazy boy would run off for the whole day.



You may wonder why the collection of stories which includes Aladdin is called *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights*. This is because from the ninth century onwards the collection became associated with the story of King Shahryar 'of India and China', who rather gruesomely starts to believe that no woman can be trusted to be his wife, so has every new wife executed soon after he marries them.

Eventually the vizier, whose duty it is to provide suitable women to be the king's wives, runs out of candidates. Scheherazade, the vizier's beautiful daughter, offers herself as the next bride, and her father reluctantly agrees.

On the night of their marriage, Scheherazade begins to tell the king a tale, but does not end it. The king, curious to know how the story ends, is thus forced to postpone her execution in order to hear the conclusion. The next night, as soon as she finishes the tale, she begins – but only begins – a new one, and the king, eager to hear the conclusion, postpones her execution once again.

So it goes on for 1,001 nights, and in the end the king spares Scheherazade's life.

The tales in *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights* vary widely: they include historical tales, love stories, tragedies, comedies and poems. Many of the stories depict ghosts, sorcerers, magicians, and legendary places, which are often intermingled with real people and geography.

The first collection of *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights* in a European language did not appear until the early 1700s, when a French version was produced by Antoine Galland, based on an Arabic text. Galland's collection was very popular, and in the 1800s many more editions and translations of the ancient manuscripts appeared.

The Book of One Thousand and One Nights includes some stories which do not appear to be based on written texts, and *Aladdin* is one of these. Instead they come directly from traditional storytellers that Galland met. Some people have suggested that Galland invented