

"What a lot of dangerous adventures! I'm surprised Sindbad got home safely every time." Alice, 11



SINDBAD THE SAILOR

from The One Thousand and One Nights

A great roaring came from the mouth of the cave and to our horror we saw an enormous giant striding towards us. His skin was a sickly green, and his eyes burned red like fiery coals.

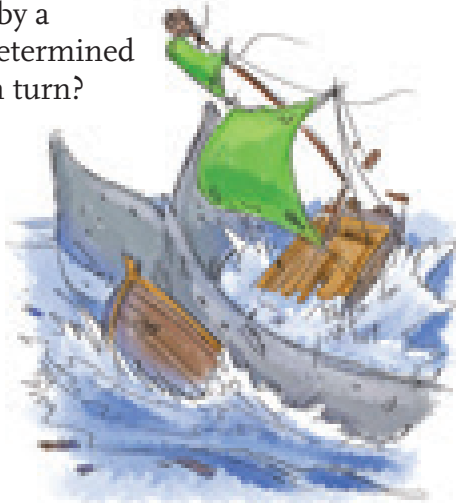
Sindbad makes an enormous fortune from his voyages, but he cannot resist joining further dangerous expeditions to far off lands. Will anything persuade him to remain at home in Baghdad?

When Sindbad finds himself in the valley of huge serpents, there seems no way out. What clever plan does he use to escape?

How can Sindbad and his friends possibly survive when they are trapped by a gigantic monster who seems determined to cook and eat each of them in turn?

The Old Man of the Sea is weak and feeble, and asks for Sindbad's help. But can he be trusted?

After Sindbad marries for the first time, tragedy strikes when his wife falls sick and dies. When he finds a second bride, will they ever find happiness together?



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THE CHARACTERS



Sindbad

Sindbad the Sailor risks everything to make his fortune. What threats will he face during his seven remarkable and dangerous voyages?

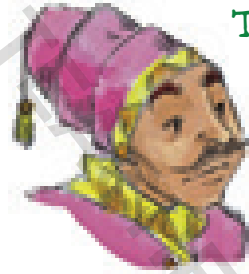
The Poor Porter

The poor porter works hard to try to feed his family. He is amazed when he sees Sindbad's great palace. How will his life change after he meets Sindbad?



The Maharaja

The Maharaja asks Sindbad many questions about Baghdad. Will he help Sindbad to return home?

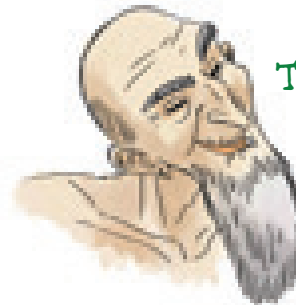


The King of the Traders

The King seems kind and friendly. What dreadful secret does Sindbad discover about the customs of his country?

The Island Monster

This huge and cruel giant cooks and eats one of Sindbad's friends. How can Sindbad escape before he too is killed?



The Old Man of the Sea

The old man is weak and asks for Sindbad's help. He seems harmless, but can Sindbad trust him?

Sindbad's First Wife

Sindbad's wife is beautiful and clever. At first they live happily together, but will she ever return with him to Baghdad?





SINDBAD THE SAILOR

There once lived in ancient Baghdad a poor porter, who was employed to carry heavy loads from one end of the town to another. He earned very little, and could hardly afford to buy bread to feed himself and his family.

One hot afternoon the porter was so tired that he put down his bundle and sat next to it by the roadside. By chance he had stopped next to a magnificent palace, with a domed roof of beaten gold and walls clad with fine marble.

The porter grumbled to himself. 'Life is so unfair!' he said. 'Why should I have so little, and others have so much?'

Now it so happened that the rich owner – Sindbad the Sailor – was walking in the grounds and overheard the porter's words. When he had returned to the palace he told his servants to invite the porter in. The poor man took up his bundle and was shown into a large and richly decorated chamber. He nervously approached Sindbad's magnificent chair.



‘Don’t be afraid,’ Sindbad said with a smile. ‘I heard what you had to say about your poverty. I will explain how I came to be so wealthy, and show you that I had to suffer many dangers to obtain my riches. Sit at my feet and listen, and I will tell you the story of the strange and wonderful adventures that I had on my seven voyages.’

THE FIRST VOYAGE OF SINDBAD

My father was a wealthy and much respected merchant, and when he died he left me a large sum of money. However, I was a foolish young man, and before long I had spent almost all of it. Luckily I realised how stupidly I was behaving, and I used what was left of my inheritance to buy some goods to trade with. I arranged to travel with a group of other merchants, and shortly afterwards we set sail towards the Indies, through the Persian Gulf.



and legends from many lands, including North Africa, Arabia, Persia, India and China. Some of these date from a time when there was no written language in the country of their origin. They would have been invented by storytellers, memorised and repeated, and added to over many centuries.

You may wonder why the collection of stories which includes *Sindbad* 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.