THE SULTAN AND THE SCRIBE



Quentin Flynn

James Hart

Nelson Literacy Directions

NELSON
CENGAGE Learning

NLD Level: 7
Reading Age: 9.1–9.3
Text Type: Narrative

The Sultan and the Scribe

Text: Quentin Flynn
Editor: Sharon Parsons
Text design: John Parsons
Cover design: Jess Kelly
Series design: Simply Literacy Limited, James Lowe and Jennifer Warwick
Illustrations: James Hart
Production controller: Adam Bextream

Nelson Literacy Directions
NLD Level: 7
Reading Age: 9.1–9.3
Text Type: Narrative

Text © 2010 Simply Literacy Limited
Illustrations © 2010 Simply Literacy Limited

Copyright Notice
This Work is copyright. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the Publisher. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, for example any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, subject to certain limitations. These limitations include: Restricting the copying to a maximum of one chapter or 10% of this book, whichever is greater; Providing an appropriate notice and warning with the copies of the Work disseminated; Taking all reasonable steps to limit access to these copies to people authorised to receive these copies; Ensuring you hold the appropriate Licences issued by the Copyright Agency Limited ("CAL"), supply a remuneration notice to CAL and pay any required fees.

ISBN 978 0 17 018354 3

Cengage Learning Australia
Level 7, 80 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne, Victoria Australia 3205
Phone: 1300 790 853

Cengage Learning New Zealand
Unit 4B Rosedale Office Park
331 Rosedale Road, Albany, North Shore NZ 0632
Phone: 0800 449 725

For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

Printed in China by 1010 Printing International Ltd
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 14 13 12 11 10

For teachers' Inspection Only

The Sultan and the Scribe

Written by Quentin Flynn
Illustrated by James Hart

Contents

1 Prologue 4
2 Who Are You? 7
3 Truly Sorry 14
4 Full of Air 17
5 Welcome 20
6 Epilogue 28

NELSON
CENGAGE Learning
For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

Meet the Characters



Sultan Khaled-e-Omar

A sultan whose letters get him into trouble.



Ajmal the Scribe

The official letter-writer.



Sultan Ahmed Anwar

A neighbouring sultan.



Princess Dahlia

Sultan Ahmed Anwar's grumpy wife.



A Scary Scorpion

A terrible fate awaiting ex-official letter-writers.

For teachers' Inspection Only

POST CARD

Dear Reader

Here's a story all about what can go wrong if you mean to write one thing, but end up writing something with a completely different meaning. I do it all the time – but that's how the best stories are written. I hope you enjoy this one!

Quentin Flynn
Author

The Palaces



1. Sultan Khaled-e-Omar's palace
2. Sultan Ahmed Anwar and Princess Dahlia's palace

1 Prologue



Ajmal leapt out of bed, and gulped down some figs and bread for his breakfast. It was going to be a great day.

For teacher's Inspection only

Today, Thursday 29 May 1542, was his first day as Official Letter-Writer for the Grand Sultan Khaled-e-Omar.

In Arabia, very few people knew how to write. It took years to learn how to make beautiful curving letters and words. It took years of practise to hold your tongue in just the right way!

29 May 1542

When Ajmal had left Official Letter-Writing School in April, he had earned top marks.

Even so, Ajmal was nervous. He combed his hair, then gazed into the mirror.

"I am a good letter-writer," Ajmal told himself. "My letters will help to build the sultan's fortunes!"

Ajmal dressed and jumped on his donkey. There was a lot of traffic, but luckily, he found a donkey parking space right outside the sultan's palace.



For teachers' Inspection Only

2 Who Are You?

Inside the palace, Ajmal was shown to his Official Letter-Writing Desk. He checked his pens and his inkwell of royal purple ink. He unrolled his parchment. Then he twiddled his thumbs.



Suddenly, a crowd of courtiers swept past. At the head of the crowd was the grand sultan himself.