



Arabian Nights



*Retold from the original
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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
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What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion

Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. Why does Scheherazade tell the king a new story every night? Who tells you stories?

2. In “The Tale of the Merchant and His Wife,” the old man tells the merchant “your promise to return here is a brave one.” Do you agree? What is the bravest thing you have ever done?

3. In “The Tale of the Merchant and His Wife,” the old man tells the demon that his story is even more amazing than the merchant’s story. Do you agree? What is the strangest thing that has ever happened to you?

4. How does the fisherman convince the genie to help him? Can you think of any other way that the fisherman might have outsmarted the genie?

5. In “The Porter’s Tale,” the sign above the door reads, “For those who meddle in the concerns of others, the punishment will be great.” What do you think this means? Have you ever tried to learn about something that was none of your business?

6. How is “The Porter’s Tale” similar to the book’s main story? Which dervishes’ story was your favorite? Which of Scheherazade’s tales did you most enjoy?

7. Sinbad the Sailor has a great number of misadventures. Why do you suppose he continues to travel? Where would you most like to travel to?

8. When Aladdin goes below ground he finds a magical lamp with a wish-granting genie inside.

What would you wish for if you found such a lamp?

9. How does the wizard get Aladdin's lamp? Has anyone ever taken something of yours without your permission?

10. Ali Baba's wife is said to be very clever. Do you agree? How does she save her husband from the thieves? What is the cleverest thing you've ever done?