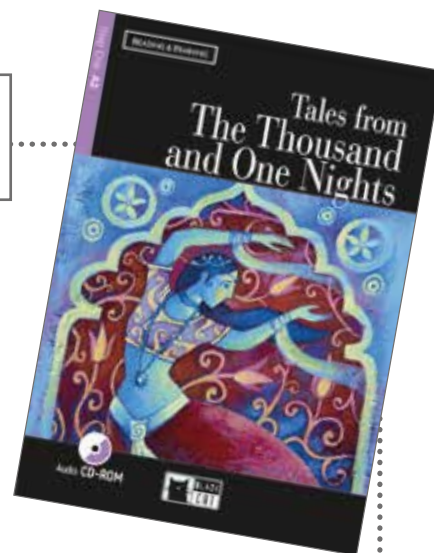


# LESSON PLAN

## 1/4



## TALES FROM THE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS

- Aim:**
- to develop reading skills and expand vocabulary
  - to practice speaking skills and giving opinions
  - to predict the continuation of a story
  - to identify a literary genre
  - to encourage the pleasure of reading

**Level :** A2

**Time :** 50 minutes

- Materials:**
1. front cover illustration of the graded reader **TALES FROM THE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS**
  2. worksheet

### INTRODUCTION

This lesson plan introduces **Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves**, one of the wonderful stories from the **Tales from the Thousand and One Nights**. No one knows the exact age of these exciting stories nor the author. But a few of them are from the 9<sup>th</sup> century or before. The short extracts chosen will draw students into the plot, encourage them to ask questions, develop their vocabulary and predict what will happen next. All this with the aim of increasing their pleasure in reading

### BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE STORY

Ali Baba and Kasim are brothers and they live in a city in Persia. Kasim is rich and has a shop where he sells gold. Ali Baba is poor and he collects wood in the forest and sells it in the city. One day as he is collecting wood in the forest, he sees forty big, strong horsemen who are thieves. The saddlebags on their horses are full. The captain of the thieves goes to a big rock and says, 'Open, sesame!' and a large door opens onto a cave. The forty thieves enter and after a while they leave and their saddlebags are empty. When Ali Baba is alone he goes to the big rock and says, 'Open, sesame!'. He enters the huge cave and sees many bags full of precious jewels and gold and silver coins!

### DISCUSSION

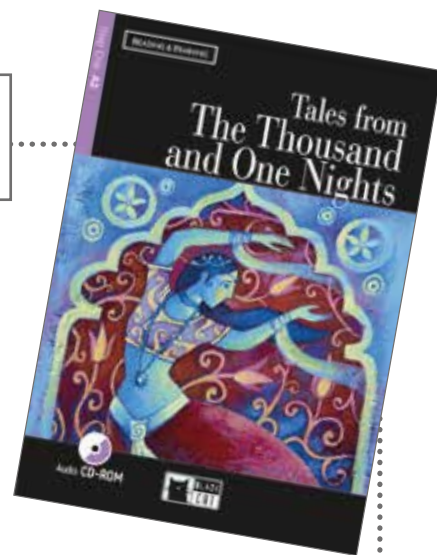
At this point there are some questions that must be answered.

- a. How does Ali Baba feel when he sees these riches?
- b. As Ali Baba is poor, will he take some of the jewels and gold and silver coins?
- c. Is he afraid of the forty thieves who could return at any time?
- d. Will he be able to get out of the cave?



# LESSON PLAN

## 2/4



### PROCEDURE

#### Before the lesson

- make a copy of the worksheet (one per student)
- tell your students you're going to be speaking about a story called *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, which is part of a collection of short stories called *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*.
- read the background notes on the story to the class
- write the title of the graded reader on the board

#### First Step (10 minutes)

Ask the students to comment on their first impressions and ask them these questions.

- What genre do you think it is? Why?
- Show the students the cover illustration and ask them these questions.
- Who is the girl on the front cover?
- Where does this kind of design come from?
- What do the girl's clothes say about her origins and culture?

#### Second Step (30 minutes)

Give students the worksheet and explain that the text comes from Part One of the story.

- Ask them to do **Exercise 1**, *Before you read*.  
[KEY: 1 c, 2 a, 3 d, 4 e, 5 f, 6 b]
- Read **Exercise 2**, *Extract Part 1*. You could read it out loud to make the dialogue more dramatic.
- Then ask the students to read it alone or in pairs for a more detailed understanding the second time.
- Ask students to comment with their opinions, predictions, feelings and observations.
- Ask students to read **Exercise 3**, *Extract Part 2*.

#### Last Step (5 minutes)

Ask students to do **Exercises 4 and 5**.

These exercises can be done in pairs or in small groups. They could be done as written homework if there is no time in class.

