

---

THERESA NUZZO SCHOOL MARSA  
Half-Yearly Exams 2019 - 2020

---

**GRADE 6 ENGLISH**  
**READING COMPREHENSION**

Wednesday, 19th February, 2020

Time: 50 minutes

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Register Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Marks

(max. 30 marks)

---

**GRADE 6 ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION 1**

---

Look at this information.

(6 marks)

## ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS

The Book *One Thousand and One Nights* is a collection of stories mainly coming from Arabia and Persia. However there are a few stories coming from India, Central Asia and China. All these stories were later collected together. The main story is about **Queen Scheherazade** who needed to entertain her husband, **King Sheheryar** or she would be put to death.



Queen Sheherazade narrating the stories to the king.

---

### HOW THE STORIES CAME ABOUT

King Sheheryar discovered that his wife was unfaithful and so he put her to death. He was so disappointed that he decided that all women were bad. So when he married again, he killed his wife the day after the marriage so that she could not betray him! This carried on for several marriages.

At last, Scheherazade decided to marry the king knowing that he would kill her the very next morning. However, on the first night of their marriage she told the king (her husband) a story without finishing it and promised the king to finish it off the following night. The king was so curious how the story ended that he postponed the execution. Scheherazade finished the story the following night but started another one. The king was very curious again and once again he did not kill Scheherazade. Each evening, she told a story, leaving it incomplete and promising to finish it the following night. The stories were so entertaining that the king was so eager to hear the end and puts off her execution from day to day until he abandons his cruel plan.

### INTERESTING FACTS

- Sometimes the collection of stories is called **The Arabian Nights**.
- Some stories from the collection are **Sinbad the Sailor, The Three Apples and The Merchant and the Genie**.
- A **genie** (or *jinni*) in the stories is a creature who obeys the orders of the one who possesses it. It can grant wishes and is magical.
- Some stories like **Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves and Aladdin** were not originally in the collection of stories but were added later when they were first translated into French.

**A. Underline the best answer from the brackets:**

(½ mark each)

1. **One Thousand and One Nights** is a collection of (books, stories, places).
2. The first queen (helped, betrayed, killed) the king.
3. A genie is a magical (creature, animal, stone).
4. The stories were translated first into (English, German, French).

**B. Tick: True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG)**

(½ mark each)

		T	F	NIG
1	All the stories come from the same country.		✓	
2	<b>The Arabian Nights</b> is another name for the collection of stories.	✓		
3	The king married 10 wives before marrying Sheherazade.			✓
4	Sheherazade was a princess before she married the king.			✓
5	Sheherazade finished the first story on the first night.		✓	
6	The king killed Queen Sheherazade.		✓	
7	A genie can grant you three wishes.			✓
8	Aladdin was included in the collection at a later time.	✓		

**GRADE 6 ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION 2****SECTION 1****MEETING JASMINE**

(10 marks)

This is part of a re-told story of **Aladdin**. It takes place in **Agrabah** a city in Asia, where children who were very poor stole their food from the market to live. They were called **Street Rats**. Aladdin was one such boy. This is how he met **Jasmine**, the princess, who escaped from the palace and went to the market without guards! **Abu** was Aladdin's pet monkey. **(paragraph 1)**



Aladdin felt a shift in the market crowd's mood. People were turning their heads and watching a girl as she walked through. She wore a tan robe and headscarf, the clothes of a local... but didn't feel like a market regular. She moved slowly and gazed at everything with a child's wonder. Her eyes were large and clear, her hair as black as midnight. She had a warm smile on her pretty lips and was obviously murmuring hellos to the people who really didn't care or want to talk. She walked with the grace of a cloud in the wind, as if her body weighed nothing at all, and held her head high with easy dignity. A Street Rat, a boy, walked in front of her, begging for food. **(paragraph 2)**

Abu chattered at him. If Aladdin was not going to finish the melon he was eating, the monkey would very much like to eat it himself.

"Shhh!" Aladdin ordered. **(paragraph 3)**

What happened next was nothing he or any Street Rat could possibly have foreseen. The beautiful girl took an apple from the closest stall and gave it to the boy who was begging her for food. And then walked away. The boy looked from the apple to the girl's retreating form, confused. **(paragraph 4)**

The fruit merchant grabbed her and demanded his money. She shrugged and shook her head as if he was insane. The Street Rat and everyone else watched her like she was insane. Which she must have been. She had just planned to take that apple? And give it away? Without paying for it? **(paragraph 5)**

The merchant also stared at her for a long, silent moment, not understanding. Then he grabbed her and threw her against the stall. A crowd gathered to watch. Some men mumbled and protested into their own scarves, but no one moved to help her. The merchant pulled out an extremely sharp dagger and raised it above her wrist. **(paragraph 6)**

A. Give short answers. (½ mark each)

1. Where did the story happen? Agrabah, Asia
2. What was Aladdin's pet called? Abu
3. How did the author describe the girl (paragraph 1)? Write adjectives:
  - a. her eyes large and clear
  - b. her hair as black as midnight
  - c. her smile warm
  - d. her lips pretty
4. What was Aladdin eating when all of this happened? melon
5. What did the girl grab from the stall? apple

B. Choose the best answer. Put a tick (✓) in the correct box. (1 mark each)

1. "Aladdin felt a shift in the market crowd's mood" (paragraph 2). This means that:  
 Aladdin saw the crowd moving.  
 Aladdin went to the market.  
 Aladdin knew that something was happening in the market.
2. The girl "didn't feel like a market regular" (paragraph 2). This means that:  
 The girl didn't visit the market often.  
 The girl visited the market often.  
 The girl visited the market for the first time.
3. The girl "shrugged and shook her head" (paragraph 5). This means that:  
 She was crazy.  
 She did not want to pay for the apple.  
 She was dancing.
4. Why did the merchant "stare at the girl for a long silent, moment" (paragraph 6)?  
 Because he liked her looks.  
 Because he did not understand.  
 Because he didn't believe what the girl said.

C. Underline the best answer from the brackets. (½ mark each)

1. The girl lived in a (palace, market, stall).
2. The girl was walking (hurriedly, gracefully, quickly).
3. The merchant was selling (vegetables, corn, fruit).
4. The dagger the merchant pulled out was very (shiny, sharp, short).

**MEETING JASMINE (*continued*)**

“Nobody steals from my cart!” the merchant bellowed. The point of his blade gleamed red in the afternoon light. By the time she started shrieking, Aladdin was already in the air and halfway to the stall. **(paragraph 7)**

“No!” the girl screamed. The knife descended quickly, whistling through the air. The crowd gasped. **(paragraph 8)**

“Thank you, kind sir!” Aladdin said, suddenly between the merchant and the girl. Before anyone had a chance to even register this newcomer’s presence, he gently pushed the man’s arm away with one hand and grabbed the girl with his other. **(paragraph 9)**

“A thousand blessings to you for finding my sister.”

“What?” the man asked, confused. “You know this girl?”

“I’ve been looking all over for you,” Aladdin said, admonishing the girl and wagging a finger in her face.

The girl was more than a little confused herself.

“What are you—?” she began to ask.

“Ssht!” Aladdin mouthed. “Just play along!”

“Explain yourself! She was stealing from my cart!” the merchant yelled.

“My apologies, good sir. My sister sometimes causes trouble. She wandered off from home again,” Aladdin said sorrowfully. He tapped the side of his head. “Sadly, she is a little crazy.” **(paragraph 10)**

The girl seemed furious at these words. Aladdin gave her a desperate look. Finally she got it. She nodded her head slightly. **(paragraph 11)**

“She said she knew the king,” the merchant spat. He made a show of letting his eyes travel up and down Aladdin. With her large golden earrings, perfect health and glowing skin, the girl seemed like someone who might know the king. And Aladdin, with his old and ripped trousers, was definitely not. Aladdin’s mind raced. Abu chattered inquisitively from the ground. The monkey obviously sensed the general trouble in the air. That was it. **(paragraph 12)**

“She thinks the monkey is the king,” Aladdin whispered loudly into the merchant’s ear. Loudly enough for the crowd and the girl to hear.

“Oh, uh, wise, great King,” the girl began uncertainly bowing in front of the monkey. **(paragraph 13)**



*Adapted from A Twisted Tale, A Whole New World by Liz Braswell.*

D. Find from the text: (½ mark each)

1. A word that means “shone” (paragraph 7) **gleamed**
2. A word that means “screaming” (paragraph 7) **shrieking**
3. Another word for “shouted” (paragraph 10) **yelled**
4. Another word for “angry” (paragraph 11) **furious**

E. Tick: True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG) (½ mark each)

		T	F	NIG
1	Aladdin went between the merchant and the girl.	✓		
2	The merchant wore a green head scarf.			✓
3	Aladdin claimed that the girl was his sister.	✓		
4	The girl wore golden earrings.	✓		
5	The girl was happy that Aladdin told the merchant she was crazy.		✓	
6	The merchant was not very angry.		✓	
7	The girl really thought that the monkey was a king.		✓	
8	Aladdin managed to save the girl from the merchant.			✓

F. Answer these questions: (1 mark each)

1. How does the author show that the girl was rich?

**Golden earrings, perfect health and glowing skin.**

2. Why did the girl look furious in paragraph 12?

**Aladdin accused her of being crazy.**

NOW, ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT BOTH SECTIONS

G. Tick who...? The first one is done for you as an example.

(½ mark each)

	Who... ?	Aladdin	The girl	The merchant
1	... had a pet monkey?	✓		
2	... took an apple from the cart?		✓	
3	... said "Explain yourself!"?			✓
4	... wore ripped trousers?	✓		
5	... had a dagger?			✓
6	... said that the girl was crazy?	✓		
7	... bowed before the monkey?		✓	

H. Answer these questions

(1 mark each)

1. How did Aladdin try to save the girl from the merchant?

**He faked that she was his sister. He also said that she was a little bit crazy.**

2. Why, in your opinion, Aladdin defended and tried to save the girl from the merchant?

**Because he liked her (1 mark); Because she was beautiful (1 mark); No one came to her help (1 mark)**

---

3. Do you think that Aladdin managed to save the girl? Why do you think so?

**Yes because it was a clever plan. Because the girl understood what Aladdin was doing; because the merchant couldn't punish someone who was crazy. Reward the marks for any plausible answer.**

**No because she really stole the apple.**

**END OF THE READING COMPREHENSION PAPER**