

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

LANG 10

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Week 6

Directions: Notate the following text identifying Person, Verb Tense, kinds of phrases, kinds of clauses, figurative&literal language, and various elements of rhetorical strategies. Then, the SOAPStone and DIDLS worksheets. Accuracy 34% Completeness 33% Neatness 33%

The Fisherman and the Jinnee

from Tales from The Thousand and One Nights
translated by N. J. Dawood

Once upon a time there was a poor fisherman who had a wife and three children to support.

He used to cast his net four times a day. It chanced that one day he went down to the sea at noon and, reaching the shore, set down his basket, rolled up his shirt-sleeves, and cast his net far out into the water. After he had waited for it to sink, he pulled on the cords with all his might; but the net was so heavy that he could not draw it in. So he tied the rope ends to a wooden stake on the beach and, putting off his clothes, dived into the water and set to work to bring it up. When he had carried it ashore, however, he found in it a dead donkey.

“By Allah, this is a strange catch!” cried the fisherman, disgusted at the sight. After he had freed the net and wrung it out, he waded into the water and cast it again, invoking Allah’s

help. But when he tried to draw it in he found it even heavier than before. Thinking that he had caught some enormous fish, he fastened the ropes to the stake and, diving in again, brought up the net. This time he found a large earthen vessel filled with mud and sand.

Angrily the fisherman threw away the vessel, cleaned his net, and cast it for the third time. He waited patiently, and when he felt the net grow heavy he hauled it in, only to find it filled with bones and broken glass. In despair, he lifted his eyes to heaven and cried: “Allah knows that I cast my net only four times a day. I have already cast it for the third time and caught no fish at all. Surely He will not fail me again!”

Vocabulary

invoking (in·vōk'in) v. used as adj.: calling upon.

With this the fisherman hurled his net far out into the sea, and waited for it to sink to the bottom. When at length he brought it to land he found in it a bottle made of yellow copper. The mouth was stopped with lead and bore the seal of our master Solomon son of David. The fisherman rejoiced, and said: "I will sell this in the market of the coppersmiths. It must be worth ten pieces of gold." He shook the bottle and, finding it heavy, thought to himself: "I will first break the seal and find out what is inside."

The fisherman removed the lead with his knife and again shook the bottle; but scarcely had he done so, when there burst from it a great column of smoke which spread along the shore and rose so high that it almost touched the heavens. Taking shape, the smoke resolved itself into a jinnee¹ of such prodigious stature that his head reached the clouds, while his feet were planted on the sand. His head was a huge dome and his mouth as wide as a cavern, with teeth ragged like broken rocks. His legs towered like the masts of a ship, his nostrils were two inverted bowls, and his eyes, blazing like torches, made his aspect fierce and menacing.

The sight of this jinnee struck terror to the fisherman's heart; his limbs quivered, his teeth chattered together, and he stood rooted to the ground with parched tongue and staring eyes.

"There is no god but Allah and Solomon is His Prophet!"² cried the jinnee. Then, addressing himself to the fisherman, he said: "I pray you, mighty Prophet, do not kill me! I swear never again to defy your will or violate your laws!"

"Blasphemous giant," cried the fisherman, "do you presume to call Solomon the Prophet of Allah? Solomon has been dead these eighteen hundred years, and we are now approaching the end of Time. But what is your history, pray, and how came you to be imprisoned in this bottle?"

On hearing these words the jinnee replied

1. **jinnee** *n.*: evil supernatural being in Arabic mythology; commonly spelled genie in English.
2. **There is . . . Allah and Solomon is His Prophet:** Allah is the Arabic name for God. Solomon was the king of Israel (c. 960 B.C.), who was known for his matchless wisdom.

sarcastically: "Well, then; there is no god but Allah! Fisherman, I bring you good news."

"What news?" asked the old man.

"News of your death, horrible and prompt!" replied the jinnee.

"Then may heaven's wrath be upon you, ungrateful wretch!" cried the fisherman. "Why do you wish my death, and what have I done to deserve it? Have I not brought you up from the depths of the sea and released you from your imprisonment?"

But the jinnee answered: "Choose the manner of your death and the way that I shall kill you. Come, waste no time!"

"But what crime have I committed?" cried the fisherman.

"Listen to my story, and you shall know," replied the jinnee.

"Be brief, then, I pray you," said the fisherman, "for you have wrung my soul with terror."

"Know," began the giant, "that I am one of the rebel jinn who, together with Sakhr the Jinnee, mutinied against Solomon son of David. Solomon sent against me his Vizier,³ Asaf ben Berakhya, who vanquished me despite my supernatural power and led me captive before his master. Invoking the name of Allah, Solomon adjured me to embrace his faith and pledge him absolute

obedience. I refused, and he imprisoned me in this bottle, upon which he set a seal of lead bearing the Name of the Most High. Then he sent for several of his faithful jinn, who carried me away and cast me into the middle of the sea. In the ocean depths I vowed: 'I will bestow eternal riches on him who sets me free!' But a hundred years passed away and no one freed me. In the second hundred years of my imprisonment I said: 'For him who frees me I will open up the buried treasures of the

3. **Vizier** *n.*: high-ranking official in Muslim countries; originally a Muslim ruler's chief representative, who interacted with the ruler's subjects.

Vocabulary

prodigious (prō·dij'əs) *adj.*: very large; huge.

inverted (in·vurt'əd) *v.* used as *adj.*: turned upside down.

adjured (ə·joord') *v.*: commanded as under oath.



Fisherman and the jinnie from *Arabian Nights* (detail) (1907) by Edmund Dulac.

earth!’ And yet no one freed me. Whereupon I flew into a rage and swore: ‘I will kill the man who sets me free, allowing him only to choose the manner of his death!’ Now it was you who set me free; therefore prepare to die and choose the way that I shall kill you.”

“O wretched luck, that it should have fallen to my lot to free you!” exclaimed the fisherman. “Spare me, mighty jinn, and Allah will spare you; kill me, and so shall Allah destroy you!”

“You have freed me,” repeated the jinn. “Therefore you must die.”

“Chief of the jinn,” cried the fisherman, “will you thus requite⁴ good with evil?”

“Enough of this talk!” roared the jinn. “Kill you I must.”

At this point the fisherman thought to himself: “Though I am but a man and he is a jinn, my cunning may yet overreach his malice.”

Then, turning to his adversary, he said: “Before you kill me, I beg you in the Name of the Most High engraved on Solomon’s seal to answer me one question truthfully.”

The jinn trembled at the mention of the

4. requite (ri-kwīt’) *v.*: repay.

Name, and, when he had promised to answer truthfully, the fisherman asked: “How could this bottle, which is scarcely large enough to hold your hand or foot, ever contain your entire body?”

“Do you dare doubt that?” roared the jinn indignantly.

“I will never believe it,” replied the fisherman, “until I see you enter this bottle with my own eyes!”

Upon this the jinn trembled from head to foot and dissolved into a column of smoke, which gradually wound itself into the bottle and disappeared inside. At once the fisherman snatched up the leaden stopper and thrust it into the mouth of the bottle. Then he called out to the jinn: “Choose the manner of your death and the way that I shall kill you! By Allah, I will throw you back into the sea, and keep watch on this shore to warn all men of your treachery!”

When he heard the fisherman’s words, the jinn struggled desperately to escape from the bottle, but was prevented by the magic seal. He now altered his tone and, assuming a submissive air, assured the fisherman that he had been jesting with him and implored him to let him out. But the fisherman paid no heed to the jinn’s entreaties,⁵ and resolutely carried the bottle down to the sea.

“What are you doing with me?” whimpered the jinn helplessly.

“I am going to throw you back into the sea!” replied the fisherman. “You have lain in the depths eighteen hundred years, and there you shall remain till the Last Judgement! Did I not beg you to spare me so that Allah might spare you? But you took no pity on me, and He has now delivered you into my hands.”

“Let me out,” cried the jinn in despair, “and I will give you fabulous riches!”

“Perfidious jinn,” retorted the fisherman, “you justly deserve the fate of the King in the tale of ‘Yunan and the Doctor.’”

“What tale is that?” asked the jinn.

5. entreaties (en-trēt’ēz) *n. pl.*: requests.

Vocabulary

resolutely (rez’ə-lōt’lē) *adv.*: firmly; determinedly.

perfidious (pər-fid’ē-əs) *adj.*: wicked; unfaithful.

SOAPSTone Analysis

Name _____ Class: _____ Date _____

Title/Author _____

Speaker

Who is it?

How do you know this? Why is it important?

What biases or prejudices may/does the speaker possess?

Occasion

What is it?

How do you know this? Why is it important?

Audience

Who is it? When is it?

How do you know this? Why is it important?

Purpose

What is it?

How do you know this? Why is it important?

D-I-D-L-S (Examples are needed for EACH category)

DICTION

The author's choice of words and their connotations

What words appear to have been chosen specifically for their effects?

What effect do these words have on your mood as the reader?

What do they seem to indicate about the author's tone?

IMAGERY

The use of descriptions that appeal to sensory experience

What images are especially vivid? To what sense do these appeal?

What effect do these images have on your mood as a reader?

What do they seem to indicate about the author's tone?

DETAILS

Facts included or those omitted

What details has the author specifically included?

What details has the author apparently left out? (NOTE: This is only for analysis.

Do not write about these omitted details in an essay.)

What effect do these included and excluded details have on your mood as a reader?

What do these included and excluded details seem to indicate about the author's tone?

LANGUAGE

Characteristics of the body of words use (slang, jargon, scholarly language, etc.)

How could the language be described?

How does the language affect your mood as a reader?

What does the language seem to indicate about the author's tone?

SYNTAX

The way the sentences are constructed

Are the sentences simple, compound, declarative, varied, etc.?

How do these structures affect your mood as a reader?

What do these structures seem to indicate about the author's tone?

Title of the piece of literature under analysis: _____

D	
I	
D	
L	
S	

Your Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

LANG 10

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Week 6

Directions: Use complete sentences to answer the following items.

Accuracy 34% Completeness 33% Neatness 33%

1. What does the fisherman draw from the sea the fourth time he casts his net? What does the fisherman do with his catch?

2. How does the fisherman try to persuade the jinnee not to kill him?

3. How does the fisherman finally manage to trick the jinnee?

4. What is the jinnee's last offer to the fisherman? Why do you think he makes such a promise?

5. Were you able to infer any message or moral in this story...Explain. Think about the character of the fisherman, how the jinnee comes to him, and how he ultimately outsmarts the jinnee. How does he do it?...Explain.

6. Which details in this story obviously come from Islamic culture? Do you think it is necessary to know something about Islam in order to enjoy this story?... Explain.

7. At what point do you think Scheherazade would have ended her recital of "The Fisherman and the Jinnee" in order to hold the sultan's interest?

8. The fisherman is the best in the land. T F

9. The jinnee is afraid of the fisherman at first. T F

10. The jinnee has sworn to kill the person who releases him. T F

11. After capturing the jinnee, the fisherman throws him back into the sea. T F

12. Write the "moral to the story" in your own terms:

13. What does the fisherman mean when he asks whether the jinnee will "requite good with evil"?

14. Write a sentence using "prodigious" correctly.

15. Write a sentence using "adjured" correctly.

16. Write a sentence using "perfidious" correctly.
