A North African story

READING

6.1 Read and listen to Part 1 of a traditional story. Answer the questions.



1 Who are Hassan and Walid? Where do they live?
2 What kind of life do they have?
3 In what way are Hassan and Walid different?
4 What valuable thing does their mother have? Why doesn't she want to sell it?
5 Why does Hassan decide to leave home?

The Glass Bottle

PART 1

Hassan and Walid are brothers. They live in a small house in the desert, near the mountains, a long way from a town or village. They're very poor. They have no money and they have no animals. Their house only has two rooms. Every day is the same. They get up, and they have sweet black coffee for breakfast. Then Hassan works in the fields – but Walid just sits and looks at the hot, empty desert and the hot, empty sky. They live with their mother. She looks after them, but she's old and tired.

One day she says, 'We're poor and hungry. Why don't you leave here and find work? We need money for food and clothes.'

'If you want some money, you have your silver ring – you can sell that,' answers Walid.

'I can't sell it', she says. 'It's your father's. Every night I look at it and remember him.'

Hassan wants to help his mother, and he decides to leave home. His mother gives him bread, and water in a glass bottle. He kisses her, and he walks towards the mountains.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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b Match the words and pictures.

a desert | a field | mountains | the sky



c Read Part 1 again. Then look at the picture. What can you see?

4 READING & LISTENING

a 6.4 Read and listen to Part 2 of the story. Answer the questions.

1 Where does Hassan go?
2 What happens when he finds the palace?
3 Why is the palace unusual?
4 What does he give the prince?
5 Why is the prince surprised?
6 What does the prince give Hassan?
7 Why is Hassan's mother happy when he comes home?
8 What is Walid's plan?

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PART 2

Hassan walks for five days through the mountains. The sun shines. At night, it's very cold. Then, one evening, he arrives at a rich and beautiful palace. The prince in the palace welcomes [1]him. He gives him food and drink, and Hassan sleeps in a comfortable bed. There is one strange thing – the windows have no glass.

The next day, Hassan says goodbye. [2]He wants to thank the prince and give him something, but he only has [3]his empty water bottle. He gives [4]it to [5]him. The prince is very surprised.

'What's this?' he says. 'I can see through it! It's beautiful! It's wonderful!'

[6]He is very happy, and in return he gives Hassan a box.

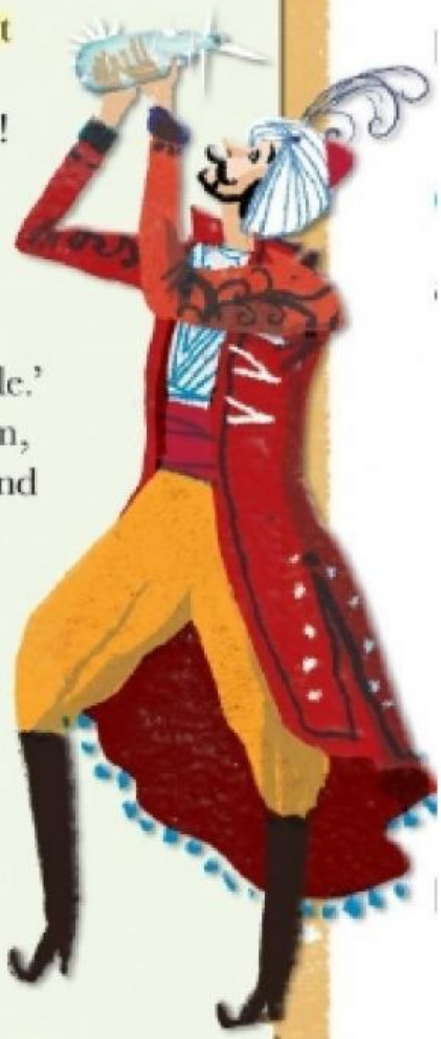
'Don't open [7]it until you get home,' he says. 'And be careful with it. It's very valuable.'

Hassan walks through the mountains again, and after five days he arrives home. Walid and [8]their mother watch [9]him open the box. He finds 100 gold coins inside. His mother is very happy! 'Hassan, you clever boy!' she says. 'Now [10]we can buy food and clothes!'

The next night, Walid makes a plan.

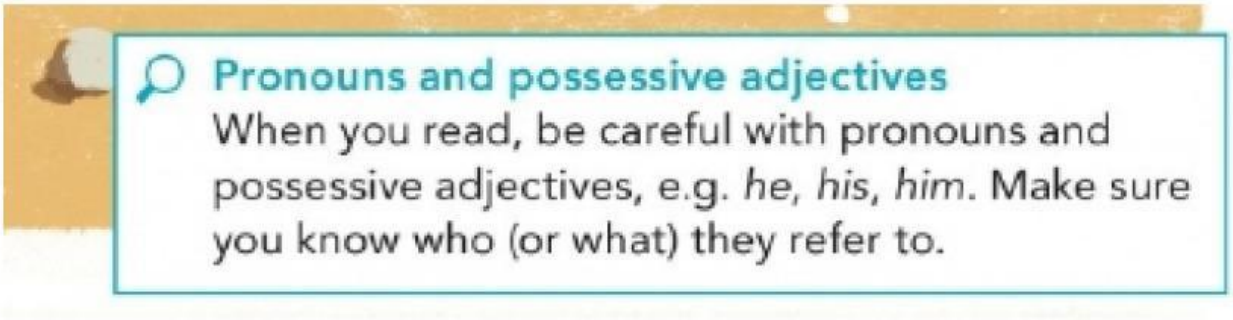
'100 gold coins in return for a glass bottle,' [11]he thinks. 'If I give the prince my mother's silver ring, perhaps I can get 1,000 gold coins!'

So Walid gets up, goes very quietly into his mother's room, and takes [12]her ring from a box under her bed. The next morning he asks his brother where the palace is, and he leaves.



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Pronouns and possessive adjectives
When you read, be careful with pronouns and possessive adjectives, e.g. *he, his, him*. Make sure you know who (or what) they refer to.

b Read Part 2 of the story again. With a partner, say who or what the highlighted pronouns and possessive adjectives refer to.

The prince in the palace welcomes [1]him.
him = *Hassan*

To check this, SELECT the best option from the 3 options you can see on top of each word.

6.5 What do you think happens in Part 3 of the story? Listen and check.

I think Walid goes to the palace and...

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