



ALI BABABA

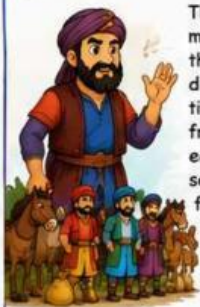
Reading Comprehension



Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

THE STORY

One day when Ali Baba was in the forest and had just cut enough wood to load his donkeys, he saw at a distance a great cloud of dust which seemed to approach him. He observed it with attention and soon distinguished a body of horsemen, whom he suspected might be robbers. To save himself, he determined to leave his donkeys and after driving them into a thicket out of sight, he climbed a large tree, growing on a high rock. Its branches were thick enough to conceal him and yet enabled him to see all that passed.



The horsemen numbered forty and were all well mounted and armed. They came to the foot of the rock on which the tree stood and there dismounted. Every man unbridled his horse, tied it to a shrub and gave it a feed of corn from a bag he had brought behind him. Then each of them removed his saddlebag, which seemed to Ali Baba to be full of gold and silver, from its weight. One, whom he took to be the captain, came under the tree in which Ali Baba was hidden and making his way through some bushes, pronounced the words, "Open Simsim!"

As soon as the captain of the robbers had thus spoken, a door opened in the rock; and after he had made all his troops enter before him, he followed them, when the door shut of itself.



The robbers stayed some time within the rock, during which time Ali Baba, fearful of being caught, remained in the tree.

At last the door opened again and he came out first and stood to see the troops all pass by him, when Ali Baba heard him make the door close by pronouncing these words, "Shut, Simsim!"



Every man at once bridled his horse and mounted. When the captain saw them all ready, he put himself at their head and they returned the way they had come.



Ali Baba followed them with his eyes as far as he could see them and afterwards stayed a considerable time before he descended. Remembering the words the captain of the robbers used to cause the door to open and shut, he had the curiosity to try if his pronouncing them would have the same effect.



Open Simsim!



QUESTIONS

1 From the story complete the following statements:



- The main character is _____
- The story took place _____

2 marks

2 Give two examples of imagery from paragraph one:



- _____
- _____

2 marks

3 Write a phrase which appeals to the sense of hearing from the story.



1 mark

4 What is the meaning of the phrase "all that passed" (line 6) as used in the story?



2 marks

5 How would you describe Ali Baba? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.



2 marks

6 Do you think the captain was a good leader? Give an example from the story to support your answer.



2 marks

7 What do you think caused the "cloud of dust" (line 2) mentioned in the story?



2 marks



Remember!

- ✓ Read carefully.
- ✓ Answer in complete sentences.
- ✓ Use evidence from the story.

