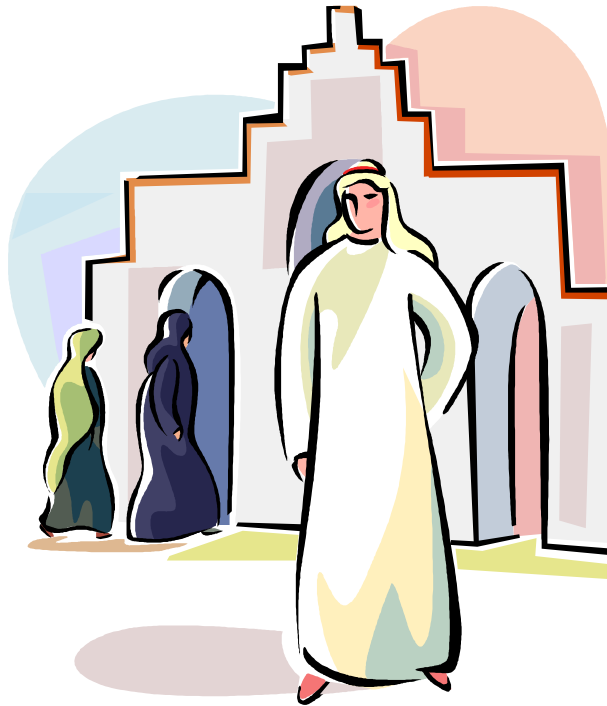


Persian and Arabian Folktale Presentation Teacher's Guide for Grades 4-6, 7-8 With Student Activity Sheets

Written and Performed by:
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About Rukhsana Khan

Rukhsana has been writing since 1989. At this point she has eleven books published, several of which have been nominated and/or won various awards. Along the way she also became a storyteller and has performed at numerous festivals. For more information on Rukhsana and her books please see her website:

www.rukhsanakhan.com



Rukhsana was born in Lahore, Pakistan and immigrated to Canada, with her family, at the age of three. She began by writing for community magazines and went on to write songs and stories for the Adam's World children's videos. Rukhsana is a member of SCBWI, The Writers Union of Canada, CANSCAIP, and the Storytelling Toronto. She lives in Toronto with her husband and family. Rukhsana has four children, three girls and a boy.

Books by Rukhsana:

Big Red Lollipop

Wanting Mor

A New Life

Many Windows

Silly Chicken

Ruler of the Courtyard

The Roses in My Carpets

Muslim Child

King of the Skies

Bedtime Ba-a-a-lk

Dahling if You Luv Me Would You Please Please Smile











Persian and Arabian Folktale Presentation




This presentation deals with character issues of honesty, perseverance, and following one's dreams and will include a variety of folktales.

For grades 4-6: Go To Baghdad Badur; The Courage of Dajan Tigh; Simpletons; The Little Rooster.

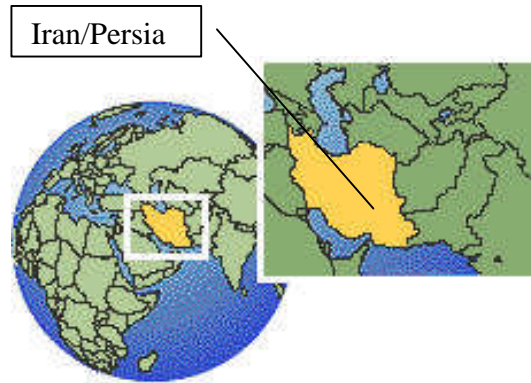
For grades 7-8: Go to Baghdad Badur, The Courage of Dajan Tigh; Simpletons; and The Clever Wife.

Legend	
 writing applications	 character applications
 visual art applications	 Social Studies applications
 drama applications	 Music applications
 History applications	 Math applications

Themes in the Performance

- Poverty and living conditions in Arab culture and the third world
- Gaining insight into other cultural ways of thinking
- Sticking to one's principles 
- Patience and perseverance
- Taking risks to follow your dreams
- Courage 
- Honesty
- Pursuing a goal
- Perseverance
- Resisting temptation 
- Staying focused
- Appreciating family (even when you think they're silly)
- Pursuing justice

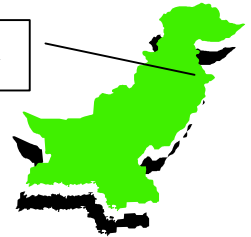
Pre-performance Discussion Topics and Activities



All grades (4 – 8)

Research the author/storyteller:

Lahore, Pakistan



As a class read some of Rukhsana's picture books: *Silly Chicken*, *Ruler of the Courtyard*, *Big Red Lollipop* or *The Roses in My Carpets*. All these stories are set in Pakistan. *The Roses in My Carpets* was set in a refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Rukhsana was born in Lahore, Pakistan. Find Pakistan on a map. Find the cities of Lahore and Peshawar.



Visit Rukhsana's website: www.rukhsanakhan.com.

Watch a video of her reading *The Roses in My Carpets* to an audience.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXSZdb9pezs>

Research the setting of the Folktales:

The story 'Go to Baghdad Badur' comes from a collection from Arabia that is 1200 years old called The 1001 Arabian Nights. What do you know about this ancient story collection? Have you heard of any other stories that may be from that collection? (Ali Baba and the 40 thieves, The Adventures of Sindbad, Aladdin)

As a class, brainstorm what you already know about the countries Iran/Persia, Egypt, Iraq. (Grade 7-8 include Kirgizstan.) What do you know about the cities of Cairo and Baghdad?



Is anybody in the class from the countries mentioned? (Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Egypt or Kirgizstan)

If so, do they have any memories of those countries they can share with the class?

How would you describe the people who live there?

Find these countries on a map. Find the cities of Cairo and Baghdad. How far are they apart? (approximately 1300 km) How many days might it take to walk the distance between them? (Divide the distance by how many kilometres a person could reasonably



walk in a day) What dangers might you encounter if you were walking from Cairo to Baghdad? What challenges? (some of the area is a desert and it might be hard to find water)



Find two cities in Canada that are approximately 1300 km apart. How long would it take to walk the distance between them? Do you think it would be more easy or more difficult to walk in Canada as opposed to walking from Cairo to Baghdad?

What news stories have you heard or read regarding what's happening in that part of the world?



In recent times there may have been wars and conflicts in the area. Do you think life over there was always that tumultuous?

Close your eyes while you listen to some Arabian or Persian music. Here are some links to Arabic music that might be suitable:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqhNPY882kE&feature=related>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ons2x5DK4tY&feature=related>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cq1Ab9uopEg&feature=related>

Spread out in the room. Close your eyes and let your bodies move to the music.



What images does the music conjure up in your imagination?

Some music feels like it's telling a story. What kind of story can you imagine from this music?

Write a poem expressing how the music makes you feel or create a found poem from words you may remember in some of the music you heard.



Draw a picture of how the music made you feel.



Post-performance Discussion Topics and Activities:

All Grades (4 – 8)

In groups, create a play from one of the stories you just heard.



Go to Baghdad Badur

Draw a picture of one of the scenes you liked most from the story.



This is one of the Rukhsana's favourite stories. Why do you think she chose to share this story? (answer: Rukhsana felt her dream of being an author/storyteller was as crazy as Badur's)

What kind of dreams do you have that may seem impossible or foolhardy?

The difference between a dream and a goal are taking steps to fulfill the dream and a timeline.

What steps would you need to fulfill your goal? Right them in point form.

Calculate a reasonable timeline to complete each of the steps.



Get feedback on your dream/goal by exchanging with a partner.



Without judging how appropriate the dream/goal is, determine whether the timeline is practical. Have they left enough time for accomplishing each step? Have they left out any steps?

The Courage of Dajan Tigh



Draw a picture of one of the scenes you liked most from the story.

Did this story remind you of any stories you've heard? (answer: It's a little like Cinderella only opposite in that the poor boy marries the princess)

Would you have settled for marrying the other girls?

Why do you think Princess Mahmancer played that trick on all her suitors? Was it a smart thing for her to do?

Why do you think the plants were on sale in the marketplace?

Do you think most people would have bought a plant and said they'd grown it in place of the seeds? Would that be honest?



Why do you think the story is called the 'courage' of Dajan Tigh?

Do you think it took more courage for Dajan Tigh to face the princess with an empty pot of dirt or to fight the monster serpents or dragon?

Draw a picture of the scene when Dajan Tigh brings Princess Mahmancer home to meet his aged parents.



Simpletons

Draw a picture of one of the scenes you liked most from the story.



What is a simpleton?

Why does Gobad decide to leave his family?

Would you leave under these circumstances?

There is a British version of this folktale called *The Three Sillies*. You can find the story here: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/eng/efft/efft71.htm>

As a class compare and contrast *The Three Sillies* to *Simpletons*.

In what ways are the stories the same? In what ways are they different?

Why does Gobad decide to go back home after the last group of simpletons he meets?

Is this a universal story? Do you think most people feel at some time or another, that their families, or people around them are simpletons?

The Little Rooster (grades 4-6)

Draw a picture of one of the scenes you liked most from the story.



The origins of this story actually come from Hungary in eastern Europe which was once under Turkish/Ottoman rule. How does that affect the feel of the story?



Knowing that, could the story be construed as a little racist? Why? Or Why not?

Could this story be changed so it's told in other cultures?

What is a Turkish sultan? (answer: sultans are a king of ruler or king and they ruled



Turkey from the 1300's to 1922)

So this is a classic 'underdog' story, even though the 'underdog' is actually a little rooster.

What qualities does the little rooster display? (answer: perseverance, courage, strength)



What flaws does the Turkish sultan have? (answer: greed, tyranny)

Do you think the little rooster was right to take all the sultan's treasure?

How do you think the sultan felt after he saw his empty treasure room?

Do you think he would ever take someone's property again?



The Clever Wife (grades 7-8)

Draw a picture of one of the scenes you liked most from the story.



What do you think of Daanishman's answers to Bolotbek's riddles?

Could there be other answers?

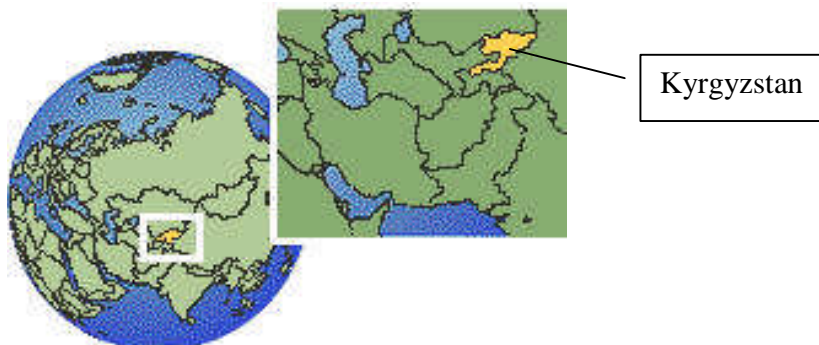
Does this story remind you slightly of another archetypal folktale where the poor girl marries the prince/khan? (answer: it is a form of a Cinderella story except it can be argued that both Bolotbek and Daanishman are 'cinderellas'.)

Compose a riddle you might use to determine if the person you want to marry is wise enough?



What similarities, if any, does this story have with Dajan Tigh? What differences?

Write a found poem from some of the words you remembered in the story.



Student Activity Sheet:
Grades 4 - 8
Retell *Go to Baghdad Badur*
or *Simpletons!*

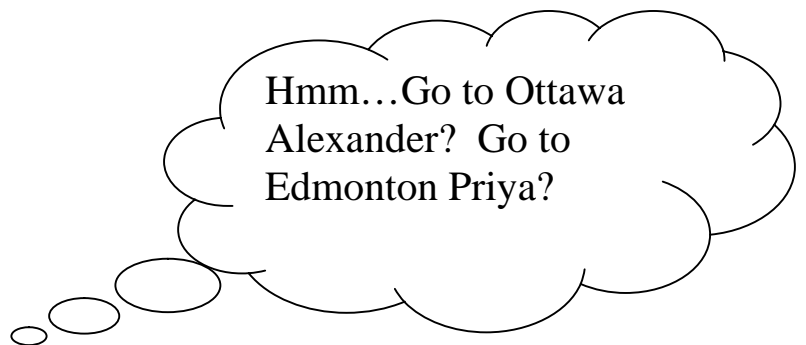


Write a modern day retelling of “Go To Baghdad Badur”

Or “Simpletons”.

**Adjust the folktale so it makes sense for where you live,
including local geographical names.**

Draw a map of where your characters travel.





Student Activity Sheet: Grades 4 - 8

WANTED: WISE MAN (or WISE WOMAN)!

Make a Poster Advertisement!

Whether your village needs a new bowl widener or a watertower doctor or just a plain old wise man (or woman), create an enticing poster that would encourage a person with the skills you need to stay!

Include: fees, perks and privileges!



Teacher Resource Material

Related Reading:

The Little Rooster and the Diamond Button by Celia Lottridge

A website about the Arabian Nights: <http://www.arabiannights.org/index2.html> and

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Thousand_and_One_Nights

References:

Picture of wise man: <http://reachmarketing.ca/page6.html>