

Arabian Nights

<u>Cast (10):</u>	
- Persuader	- Guard (non-speaking)
- Narrator	- Sheherazade
- The Sultan	- Sheherazade's father
- Sultan's wife	- Genie
- The 'other man'	- Aladdin

First, the persuader introduces the book, using persuasive language to convince the audience to read it. Then, on with the play...

Narrator: Once upon a time there lived a hugely rich and powerful Sultan. He ruled his country with kindness because he was in love. He and his wife were the happiest couple alive. Until one day...

[ENTER SULTAN AND WIFE]

Sultan: Goodbye my darling, I'm off to ride on my horse. **[EXIT SULTAN]**

The other man: **[SNEAKING ON]** Has he gone?

Wife: Yes, come on handsome! Let's go for a romantic walk...

[THEY GO TO LEAVE, BUT THE SULTAN RETURNS]

Sultan: Sorry dear, I forgot my... **[SEES THEM GOING OFF TOGETHER]**

Wife: It's not what it looks like!

Sultan: Nooooo! How dare you? Guard! Take them away and kill them!

[ENTER GUARD WHO CARRIES AWAY WIFE AND 'OTHER MAN' SCREAMING]

Narrator: The sultan's heart was broken. Instead of being sad, he was furious and had his wife and her lover killed on the spot.

Sultan: If this woman can fail me, I will never love again!

Narrator: What the heartbroken Sultan did next was so horrifying it went down in history. Every afternoon he married a different woman, only to put her to death the following morning.

[SULTAN MIMES PROPOSING, MARRYING SOMEONE, THEN SENDING THEM AWAY]

Doncaster Book Award 2015-16

Sultan: Will you marry me? ... I do! ... Off with her head!
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Will you marry me? ... I do! ... Off with her head!

[ENTER SHERHERAZADE AND HER FATHER]

Narrator: Then one morning, a beautiful woman named Sheherazade was talking to her father

Sherherazade: I'm going to volunteer to marry the Sultan next.

Father: [SHOCKED] Why would you do that? You're far too beautiful and clever to throw your life away!

Sherherazade: Trust me father... I have a plan that might save me and anyone else from having to die.

[ENTER SHERHERAZADE GOES TO THE SULTAN]

Sultan: You're very pretty. Will you marry me?

Sherherazade: Yes.

Sultan: Oh good! ... I do!

Sherherazade: I do too! Now, I am not sure if I can sleep knowing I will die tomorrow. Can I tell you a story?

Sultan: Very well.

Narrator: So, Sherherazade told him a story and it was so good that he let her live another day. The next night she told him another and again and again and again... Her stories included some that are now very famous indeed...

[ENTER ALADDIN AND GENIE]

Aladdin: Ooh, a lamp! [MIMES RUBBING IT]

Genie: I am a genie. What are your wishes?

Aladdin: Big Mac, Fries and a strawberry shake please!

Genie: OK, lets get drive-through! [EXIT ALADDIN AND GENIE]

Narrator: But will Sherherazade know enough stories to keep her alive forever? Find out by reading 'Arabian Nights'!