

# **UKS2 Topic: Early Islamic Civilisation**

Block F:  
Scheherazade

Session 6  
Resource pack

## Letter from Caliph Shahryar

The Palace  
Palm Square  
Baghdad  
7<sup>th</sup> April 954

My dear children

A thousand thanks for your wonderful letters requesting permission to see my wife Scheherazade. Though it is the first time I have received such a request, the charm and persuasion you demonstrated have convinced me to open my palace doors to you.

I do not know when you would like to make your visit, but I extend you every courtesy the palace can offer. I will be honoured by your company and I am sending my Grand Vizier to make the arrangements for your journey.

May peace be with you until we meet!

Yours faithfully,

Shahryar  
Caliph Shahryar

## Teacher checklist for oral storytelling

- **Basic Story Structure**  
Story has a clear and engaging opening.  
Story's sequence of events is easy for the listener to follow.  
Story's ending has a sense of closure.
- **Words**  
Teller's choice of language is descriptive and articulate.  
If dialogue is used, the teller's character text is clearly differentiated from the narrator's text so that the listener understands who is talking.
- **Voice Mechanics**  
Speak with an appropriate volume for the audience to hear.  
Use clear enunciation.  
Use non-monotonous vocal expression to clarify the meaning of the text.
- **Face/Body/Gesture**  
Expressively use non-verbal communication to clarify the meaning of the text.
- **Focus**  
Concentration is clear.
- **Eye contact with audience is engaging**  
Maintain a charismatic presence in space (stage presence).
- **Characterisation**  
If dialogue is used, characters are believable to the listeners.  
The storyteller's natural voice is differentiated from character voices.
- **Use of Space**  
The storyteller seems comfortable, relaxed and confident in front of listeners.  
The storyteller maintains clear spatial relationships for characters and narrator.
- **Pacing**  
The story is presented efficiently and keeps listeners' interest throughout.
- **Innovation**  
Teller employs a unique or creative use of language, sound, or body language.  
Teller creatively presents the sequence of events.  
Teller's perception of the meaning of the story is artfully expressed or suggested through the telling.

[adapted from <https://www.storyarts.org/classroom/usestories/storyrubric.html>]