

Teachers' Notes

THE VALUE OF READING

Much research has been done on the importance of reading and all studies show the same results. Students who read fluently, frequently and with pleasure consistently gain higher test scores at school as well as in their further studies, not only in English, but across the whole curriculum. Reading and enjoying the stories on this website will help your students to learn to love reading, and this will benefit every aspect of their education.

Learning to read is important, but learning to love reading is even more important.

Here are ten reasons for encouraging your students to love reading:

- Reading improves language skills, vocabulary and grammar
- Reading strengthens brain connections
- Reading increases depth of knowledge
- Reading improves memory
- Reading helps develop a creative imagination
- Reading improves concentration
- Reading encourages self-discipline
- Reading increases confidence
- Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind
- Reading improves critical thinking

HOW TO USE THE EXERCISES

1. The pre-reading questions

Prediction is an important element in comprehension. Use the pre-reading questions to help the reader to grasp the theme of the story and understand its progression. The pre-reading questions will help the reader to guess correctly the meanings of words that they may not know.

- Before reading, make sure the students have any background information they may need.
- Encourage discussion around the topic of the story, presented in the pre-reading questions.
- Make sure they know key items of vocabulary.

2. Reading the story

Allow the students time to read the story themselves in silence. Be ready to help if they stumble over unfamiliar words.

3. The exercises

The exercises follow a progression. The first exercise, entitled **How much did you understand?**, encourages students to check their overall grasp of the story and its structure. This exercise may take the form of putting sentences in the correct order, or offering true/false choices, or filling in key words. Students may have to read the story through again quickly before they can complete this exercise.

The next exercise (or exercises) focuses in more detail. There are more specific questions about time, place, person, or types of sentence. Please note that the purpose of these questions is not to teach grammar or vocabulary. They are all aimed at helping students to increase their reading comprehension skills. Some concentrate on the comprehension of individual words. Some encourage open-ended replies.

In the **What were they feeling?** exercises, the reader focuses on the personal impact of the events in the story. These questions encourage empathy with the characters.

The next type of exercise (often entitled **What do you think?**) aims to help the student think more widely, to talk about their own ideas and responses to the story, and increase their confidence in expressing their own opinions.

Where it's appropriate, further activities are suggested, for example enacting the story as a play, thinking of a new title, looking at similar stories on this website, or retelling the story to friends.

One final word. We hope that you and the students will enjoy the stories.

Stories from Afar

[Small version of map with region highlighted]



Afar is a hot, dry region of Ethiopia. In the old days, all the people of Afar were nomads. They moved about with their cattle, their camels, their sheep and their goats, looking for grass and water for their animals. They took their houses with them.

Afar stories tell us much about the old culture of the Afar people. Their lives are changing now, but the old stories are not forgotten.

The Stories

1. The King of the Forest
2. The Best Dream
3. The Donkey and the Hyena
4. The Hunter's Wife
5. The Lion, the Fox and the Hyena
6. The Clever Fox
7. The Bull and his Calf
8. The Good Wife

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

These stories were originally told by: Mohammed Ahmed Algani, Ousman Mohammed Ahmed, Mohammed Ali Akitoy, Alo Yayo Barule, and Ibrahim M.I. Waytu

With thanks to the Afar Education and Culture Bureau and the translators Michael Ambatchew and Mohammed Algani

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The King of the Forest



Before you read the story

- Have you ever been in a strange and frightening place?
- Why did you go there?
- Who did you meet?
- How did you feel?

Now read the story

Near the country of the Afars, there was once a big forest. A tribe of hyenas lived in the forest. They had a strong and clever king. Nobody went near them. Everyone was afraid of the hyenas and their king.

Four Afar brothers lived near the forest. They were good hunters. Every day, they went to hunt for meat.

One day, one of the brothers said, "I want to go into the forest. I want to see what is there. I'm not afraid of the hyenas, or their king."

His brothers agreed.

"We want to see the forest too," they all said. "We'll all come with you."

The forest was dark and very big. The four brothers walked for a long time. They didn't meet anyone.

Then, suddenly, a hyena ran into the path in front of them.

"Stop!" he said. "Who are you? Where are you going?"

"We're four travellers, and we're walking through the forest," the first brother said. "We don't want to hurt you. Let us go on."

"No," the hyena said. "Our king doesn't like strangers. You must come with me and see him."

The brothers looked round. There were more hyenas now. They were angrily showing their teeth.

"Come on," they shouted. "Be quick! Come and see our king!"

The king of the hyenas was very big. He had long teeth and a red tongue.

"Why did you come into the forest?" he asked the first brother. "You know I don't like strangers. I want to eat you. Who do you think will save you?"

"God will save me," said the first brother. "God made me. He knows the day of my birth and the day of my death. I trust in God."

"And you?" the king of the hyenas said to the second brother. "Who will save you?"

"The men of my tribe will save me," the second brother said. "They will see my blood and they'll be angry. They'll come with their spears and kill all my enemies. I trust in the men of my tribe."

"What about you?" the king of the hyenas said to the third brother. "Who will save you?"

"My Mother, the Earth, will save me," said the third brother. "She gives me my food, and my water comes from her. I trust in Mother Earth."

The king of the hyenas turned to the fourth brother.

"And you?" he said. "Who will save you?"

The fourth brother fell down on his knees.

"Oh great king," he said. "You alone can save me. You're strong and good. I know you won't kill me. I trust you."

The hyena king looked at the first brother again.

"You trust in God," he said. "That's good. God made men, but he made us, the hyenas, also. We can't fight against God. We can't kill you. You can go."

He said to the second brother, "You trust the men of your tribe. You're right. They're strong and brave. We don't want a war with them. We can't kill you. You can go."

Then he turned to the third brother.

"And you trust in Mother Earth," he said. "She gives you your food, and the water you drink comes from her. But we hyenas also live on the earth. We need her too. We cannot hurt her. You are free to go."

"And me? What about me?" cried the fourth brother.

The hyena smiled. His big white teeth shone.

"You're a fool," he said. "You trusted us, the hyenas. We can't fight God. We can't fight your tribe and we can't fight against Mother Earth. But we hyenas can fight each other. It doesn't matter at all."

So the hyenas killed the fourth brother, and ate him.

[Click here to listen to the story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

Fill in the missing words. If it's too difficult, read the story again.

1. One of the brothers said, "I want to go to the forest. I'm not of the hyenas or their king."
2. The king of the hyenas said, "I want to you. Who do you think will save you?"
3. The first brother said, "..... will save me."
4. The second brother said, "The men of my will save me."
5. The third brother said, "My the Earth will save me."
6. The fourth brother said, "Oh great king, alone can save me."
7. The king of the hyenas said to the first three brothers, "You can"
8. The king of the hyenas said to the fourth brother, "You're a"
9. The hyenas the fourth brother and him.

B. WHY and BECAUSE

Choose the right ending to these sentences from the list below.

1. The first brother trusts in God because.....
 2. The second brother trusts in the men of his tribe because.....
 3. The third brother trusts in his Mother the Earth because.....
 4. The fourth brother trusts in the king of the hyenas because.....
 5. Why doesn't the king of the hyenas kill the first brother? Because.....
 6. Why doesn't the king of the hyenas kill the second brother? Because.....
 7. Why doesn't the king of the hyenas kill the third brother? Because.....
 8. Why does the king of the hyenas kill and eat the fourth brother?
Because.....
- a) his food and water come from her.
 - b) God made men, but he made the hyenas too.
 - c) God made him.
 - d) he doesn't want a war with the men of the tribe.
 - e) he doesn't want to hurt Mother Earth.
 - f) they will see his blood and be angry. They'll come with their spears and kill all his enemies.
 - g) hyenas like to fight for their food.
 - h) he thinks the hyena is strong and good.

C. What do you think?

When you are in trouble, who do you ask for help?
Do you ask your teachers?

Do you ask members of your family?

Do you ask your friends?

Do you ask the elders of your town or village?



[Click here for the answers to the exercises]

Answers to the Exercises

[Button: Click to return to the exercises]

[Button: Click to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

1. One of the brothers said, "I want to go to the forest. I'm not **afraid** of the hyenas or their king."
2. The king of the hyenas said, "I want to **eat** you. Who do you think will save you?"
3. The first brother said, "**God** will save me."
4. The second brother said, "The men of my **tribe** will save me."
5. The third brother said, "My **Mother** the Earth will save me."
6. The fourth brother said, "Oh great king, **you** alone can save me."
7. The king of the hyenas said to the first three brothers, "You can **go**."
8. The king of the hyenas said to the fourth brother, "You're a **fool**."
9. The hyenas **killed** the fourth brother, and **ate** him.

B. WHY and BECAUSE

- 1/c. The first brother trusts in God because **God made him**.
- 2/f. The second brother trusts in the men of his tribe because **they will see his blood and be angry. They'll come with their spears and kill all his enemies**.
- 3/a. The third brother trusts in his Mother the Earth because **his food and water come from her**.
- 4/h. The fourth brother trusts in the king of the hyenas because **he thinks he is strong and good**.
- 5/b. Why doesn't the king of the hyenas kill the first brother? Because **God made men, but he made the hyenas too**.
- 6/d. Why doesn't the king of the hyenas kill the second brother? Because **he doesn't want a war with the men of the tribe**.
- 7/e. Why doesn't the king of the hyenas kill the third brother? Because **he doesn't want to hurt Mother Earth**.
- 8/g. Why does the king of the hyenas kill and eat the fourth brother? Because **hyenas like to fight for their food**.

The Best Dream



Before you read the story

Sometimes people play tricks on each other. Tricks are sometimes funny, but sometimes they are cruel.

- Has anyone ever played a trick on you?
- Did it make you laugh, or were you angry?
- Have you played a trick on anyone?

Now read the story

Once upon a time, there were three men called Mogola, Gadeto and Orbis. Mogola and Gadeto were big men, but Orbis was very small.

The three men were walking together along the road. They were on a long, long journey. The sun was high in the sky and it was very hot.

"I'm tired," Mogola said.

"I am too," Gadeto said.

"And I'm hungry," said Orbis.

"Let's stop here, under these trees," Mogola said. "We can rest. It will be cooler later. We can go on then."

The three men stopped under the trees. They put up their tent and rested.

"There's no village here," Gadeto said. "We can't get any food. What are we going to eat?"

"We have a goat with us," said Orbis. "Let's kill it and eat it."

So Mogola killed the goat. He cut it up and put it into a pot. Gadeto and Orbis made a fire and began to cook the meat.

"We need more wood for the fire," Orbis said. "I'll go and look for some."

And he went to look for wood.

Gadeto looked into the pot. The goat smelled delicious. But there was not very much meat.

"Your goat was very small," Gadeto said to Mogola.

Mogola looked into the pot, too.

"You're right," he said. "There's not enough for all of us."

The two men looked at each other.

"Orbis is small," Gadeto said. "We're big. We need the meat. He doesn't."

"Let's trick him," Mogola said. "Then we can eat all the meat ourselves."

Soon Orbis came back with more wood for the fire.

"Is the meat ready yet?" he asked.

"Oh no," Gadeto said. "This goat was very old. It will take a long time to cook. Let's lie down and go to sleep. We'll wake up later and it will be ready."

"I've got an idea," Mogola said. "We'll go to sleep and then we'll dream. One of us will have the best dream. We'll let him eat all the meat."

"That's a good idea," Gadeto said. "I agree."

Orbis looked at Mogola and Gadeto.

"They're trying to trick me," he thought.

But he smiled, and said, "Yes, it's a good idea. I agree, too. I'm very hungry. God will send me a good dream."

The three men lay down. Soon Mogola and Gadeto were asleep. But Orbis didn't sleep. He waited and waited.

"Mogola!" he said quietly.

Mogola didn't answer. He didn't move.

"Gadeto!" Orbis said quietly.

Gadeto didn't answer. He didn't move.

Very quietly, Orbis went to the fire. He took the meat out of the pot and began to eat it. He ate and ate and ate. Soon, all the meat was finished. Now only the bones of the goat were in the pot.

Orbis wasn't hungry now. He was happy. He lay down and went to sleep.

At last, Mogola and Gadeto woke up. They woke Orbis, too.

"Oh!" Mogola said. "I had a wonderful dream! God took me to Paradise. He showed me beautiful gardens and rivers of water and gave me wonderful food to eat."

"You were lucky," said Orbis. "What was your dream, Gadeto?"

"Oh!" said Gadeto. "It was a beautiful dream! An angel carried me to Mecca. I met the Prophet Mohammed and we talked about many, many things."

"Ah," said Orbis. "That was a lovely dream."

"Well?" asked Mogola. "Tell us your dream, Orbis."

"Oh," Orbis said. "My dream wasn't beautiful at all. I was lying here, by the fire, and a big strong man came up to me. He put his foot on my neck. I'm

small. I couldn't move. He ate all the meat out of the pot. What could I do? I couldn't stop him."

"What?" said Mogola and Gadeto.

They ran to the pot and looked inside. Only the bones of the goat were there.

"But it wasn't a dream!" Mogola said. "Somebody did come. Somebody ate all our meat!"

Gadeto and Mogola were very angry.

"Why didn't you call out to us?" they said to Orbis. "Why didn't you wake us up?"

"What do you mean?" said Orbis. "I called and called, but you didn't hear me."

"You didn't call my name," said Mogola.

"Yes, I did," said Orbis, "but you were in Paradise with God. You couldn't hear me."

"You didn't call me," said Gadeto.

"I did," said Orbis, "but you were far away. You were in Mecca, with the Prophet Mohammed."

Gadeto and Mogola looked at each other.

"Orbis is small," they thought, "but he is not stupid at all."

[Click here to listen to the story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

In the story, there were three travellers called Mogola, Gatedo and Orbis, who stopped to rest, and killed a goat to eat. Orbis went to look for wood, and Mogola and Gadeto decided to trick him.

Put sentences 1, 2 and 3 in the right order.

1. "One of us will have the best dream. We'll let him eat all the meat," said Mogola.

2. Soon, Mogola and Gadeto were asleep. But Orbis didn't sleep.

3. "They're trying to trick me," Orbis thought.

While Mogola and Gadeto were asleep, Orbis ate all the meat. Then the men woke up. Sentences 4, 5 and 6 retell the next part of the story. Put them in the right order.

4. "In my dream," said Orbis, "a big man came and ate all the meat."

5. "I dreamed that I was in Mecca with the Prophet Mohammed," said Gadeto.

6. "I dreamed that I was in Paradise with God," said Mogola.

Mogola and Gadeto were angry because all the meat had gone.

Sentences 7, 8 and 9 retell the last part of the story. Put them in the right order.

7. "Why didn't you wake us up?" Mogola and Gadeto said to Orbis.

8. "Orbis is small," thought Mogola and Gadeto, "but he is not stupid at all."

9. "I couldn't wake you," said Orbis. "One of you was in Paradise, and the other was in Mecca.

B. Where, what and when

1. Where did the three men decide to rest?
2. What did Orbis go and look for?
3. Where did the men cook the meat?
4. When did Orbis go to sleep?
5. When Mogola and Gadeto woke up, what did they find in the pot?

C. Good dreams and bad dreams

Some people remember their dreams, and others forget them.

Do you remember your dreams?

Do you ever have good dreams?

Do you sometimes have bad dreams?

Talk with a friend. Tell each other about your dreams.



[Click here for the answers to exercises]

Answers to the Exercises

[Button: [Click here to return to the exercises](#)]

[Button: [Click here to return to the story](#)]

A. How much did you understand?

The right order of the sentences is 1,3,2.

"One of us will have the best dream. We'll let him eat all the meat," said Mogola.

"They're trying to trick me," he thought.

Soon, Mogola and Gadeto were asleep. But Orbis didn't sleep.

The right order of the sentences is 6,5,4.

"I dreamed that I was in Paradise with God," said Mogola.

"I dreamed that I was in Mecca with the Prophet Mohammed," said Gadeto.

"In my dream," said Orbis, "a big man came and ate all the meat."

The right order of the sentences is 7,9,8.

"Why didn't you wake us up?" Mogola and Gadeto said to Orbis.

"I couldn't wake you," said Orbis. "One of you was in Paradise, and the other was in Mecca."

"Orbis is small," thought Mogola and Gadeto, "but he is not stupid at all."

B. Where, what and when

1. Where did the three men decide to rest?

Under the trees.

2. What did Orbis go and look for?

Wood for the fire.

3. Where did the men cook the meat?

In the pot (or on the fire).

4. When did Orbis go to sleep?

After he had eaten the meat.

5. When Mogola and Gadeto woke up, what did they find in the pot?

Only the bones of the goat.

The Donkey and the Hyena



Before you read the story

This is a story about people that you cannot trust.

- Do you trust your friends?
- Do your friends trust you?
- Are you careful when you make new friends?
- Do you know anybody who wants to hurt you?

Now read the story

Long ago, the hyena lived in the sky. Every night she opened her mouth and began to sing. She sang very loudly. Everyone on the earth below could hear her.

The donkey heard the hyena too.

"Who is singing like that?" she thought. "What a beautiful voice! I want to meet her. I want to be her friend."

So the donkey prayed to God.

"Please," she prayed, "please bring the animal with the beautiful voice down to earth."

God heard the donkey's prayer. He sent the hyena down to live on earth.

The donkey ran up to the hyena at once.

"Hello," she said. "I'm the donkey. I want to be your friend."

"Aha," the hyena thought. "A nice, fat little donkey. She looks good to eat."

But then she saw the donkey's long ears and she was afraid.

"What long, sharp horns!" she thought. "I must be careful."

She said to the donkey, "Why don't we play a game together?"

The donkey was very happy.

"I like playing games," she said.

"I want to play football," said the hyena, "but there's just one problem. You're carrying weapons on your head. They're dangerous. Take those long, sharp horns off and we can begin the game."

The donkey laughed.

"Horns?" she said. "I haven't got any horns. These are my ears. And they're not sharp at all. They're quite soft. Come here, and see."

So the hyena came close to the donkey and she bit off both her ears.

"Stop! Stop! What are you doing?" cried the donkey. "I want to be your friend."

"You stupid animal," the hyena said. "I'm a hyena. Hyenas eat donkeys. I can't be your friend. Now come here and let me eat your tail, too."

But the donkey ran away into the forest. She was very unhappy. She was afraid, too. She didn't want to come out of the forest. She knew the hyena was waiting for her.

Evening came, and the donkey was thirsty.

"I must drink," she thought, "or I'll die."

Very quietly, she went to the river. She bent her head and began to drink. Then she heard the hyena's angry voice.

"Hey, you! Donkey!"

The donkey looked up.

"Why are you drinking from my river?" the hyena said. "You're making the water dirty with your feet."

"But you're above me," answered the donkey. "The water's coming from you to me. It's clean up there."

"No it isn't," said the hyena. "You're making it dirty up here, too."

"That's impossible," the donkey said.

"What do you mean, impossible?" said the hyena. "Are you trying to start a fight with me?"

Then the donkey understood.

"I know you want to eat me," she said sadly to the hyena. "I understand that now. But please don't try to make excuses."

So the hyena jumped up and began to chase the donkey.

"You were foolish, my little fat friend," she said. "I was your enemy, but you showed me your weakness."

[Button: Click here to listen to the story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

Which of these sentences are right and which are wrong?

1. The donkey had a beautiful voice and the hyena wanted to meet her.
2. When the donkey saw the hyena, she was afraid of her long teeth.
3. The hyena was afraid of the donkey's long ears.
4. "I want to be your friend," said the donkey.
5. The hyena didn't drink the water because the donkey was making it dirty.
6. The donkey tried to start a fight with the hyena.
7. The donkey understood that the hyena wanted to eat her.

B. Find the right word

Find the right words from the list below to finish these sentences.

1. A long time ago, the hyena lived in the
2. The donkey heard the hyena's beautiful and wanted to be her friend.
3. God heard the donkey's and sent the hyena to earth.
4. The donkey wanted to be the hyena's
5. The hyena bit off the donkey's
6. The donkey ran away into the
7. The donkey was thirsty and went to drink in the
8. "You're making the water dirty with your, " said the hyena.
9. "I know you want to eat me," said the donkey. "Don't try to make"
10. "I was your enemy but you showed me your, " said the hyena.

friend, forest, voice, river, sky, prayer, excuses, feet, weakness, ears

C. Who wanted what?

The donkey and the hyena wanted different things.

Choose the right ending to these sentences from the list below.

1. The donkey heard the hyena's singing and she.....
 2. The donkey saw the hyena and she
 3. The hyena saw the donkey and she
 4. The donkey and the hyena decided to play a game, and the hyena
 5. The donkey ran into the forest and she
- a)wanted to be her friend.
 - b)wanted to meet the animal with the beautiful voice.
 - c)wanted to play football.
 - d)didn't want to come out.
 - e)wanted to eat her.

D. What do *you* think?

Which of these sentences best describes the moral of the story?

Don't go near hyenas. They are dangerous animals.

Don't trust people too easily.

Never make new friends.

Can you think of a better title for the story?

[Click here for the answers to the exercises]

Answers to the Exercises

[Click here to return to the exercises]

[Click here to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

1. The donkey had a beautiful voice and the hyena wanted to meet her.

False. The hyena had a beautiful voice and donkey wanted to meet her.

2. When the donkey saw the hyena, she was afraid of her long teeth.

False. The donkey wasn't afraid of the hyena.

3. The hyena was afraid of the donkey's long ears.

True

4. "I want to be your friend," said the donkey.

True

5. The hyena didn't drink the water because the donkey was making it dirty.

False. The hyena was drinking from higher up where the water was clean.

6. The donkey tried to start a fight with the hyena.

False. The hyena tried to start a fight with the donkey.

7. The donkey understood that the hyena wanted to eat her.

True

B. Find the right word

1. A long time ago, the hyena lived in the **sky**.

2. The donkey heard the hyena's beautiful **voice** and wanted to be her friend.

3. God heard the donkey's **prayer** and sent the hyena to earth.

4. The donkey wanted to be the hyena's **friend**.

5. The hyena bit off the donkey's **ears**.

6. The donkey ran away into the **forest**.

7. The donkey was thirsty and went to drink in the **river**.

8. "You're making the water dirty with your **feet**," said the hyena.

9. "I know you want to eat me," said the donkey. "Don't try to make **excuses**."

10. "I was your enemy but you showed me your **weakness**," said the hyena.

C. Who wanted what?

1/b The donkey heard the hyena's singing and she **wanted to meet the animal with the beautiful voice**.

2/a The donkey saw the hyena and she **wanted to be her friend**.

3/e The hyena saw the donkey and she **wanted to eat her**.

4/c The donkey and the hyena decided to play a game, and the hyena **wanted to play football**.

5/d The donkey ran into the forest and she **didn't want to come out**.

The Hunter's Wife



Before you read the story

- What do you do when a guest comes to your house?
- Do you cook a meal for them?
- Do you offer them a drink?
- Are you happy when someone comes to visit you?

Now read the story

Once there was a beautiful Afari girl called Kirdali. She lived with her mother and father. The family was poor. They had no camels or donkeys. All they had was a few sheep and goats. One day, Kirdali went to the river to fetch water. But on the way home, she fell, and spilled her water.

"Oh, my water! My water!" she cried.

Boreto, a rich man, was walking along the road. He heard Kirdali and went up to her.

"What's the matter?" he said.

Then he saw Kirdali's beautiful face. At once, he fell in love with her.

"She's beautiful! She's lovely!" he thought. "I want to marry her."

The next day, Boreto sent his uncle to Kirdali's father's house.

"My nephew wants to marry your daughter," Boreto's uncle said.

"What will he give me for her?" asked Kirdali's father.

"He'll give you everything he has," said the young man's uncle.

"And how much is that?"

"A hundred cows, fifty camels, and many, many sheep and goats."

Kirdali's father was very happy.

"He'll give me all this for my daughter?" he asked.

"Yes," answered Boreto's uncle. "All of it."

"Then he can take her," the old man said.

So Boreto gave Kirdali's father all his cows, his camels, his sheep and his goats. He married Kirdali and took her to his house.

But now Boreto was a poor man.

"What are we going to eat?" Kirdali said.

"Don't worry," her husband answered. "I'm a good hunter. I'll bring home something for the cooking pot every day."

So Boreto became a hunter. Every day, he went out and killed an animal. Every evening, he brought it home and Kirdali cooked it for their supper. They were very happy.

One day, Kirdali's father came to visit her.

"Well, daughter, how are you?" he said.

"I'm very well, father," said Kirdali. "Please, come and sit down."

She ran to her cooking pot.

"I must give my father something to eat," she thought.

But the cooking pot was empty.

"Boreto will soon come home," Kirdali said to herself. "He'll bring some meat. I'll get everything ready now."

She lit the fire and filled the cooking pot with water. Then she put the pot on the fire. Soon, the water was boiling. It was ready for the meat. But Boreto didn't come.

Kirdali waited. The fire began to go out. The water in the pot boiled away. Kirdali fetched more wood and filled the pot with water again. But still Boreto didn't come. Again, the fire began to go out and again the water in the pot boiled away. Kirdali put more wood on the fire and more water into the pot.

At last, she heard a noise outside. She ran out of the hut. A hunter was walking past. He had a dead bushbuck over his shoulder. But the man wasn't Boreto. It was a neighbour.

"Oh please," Kirdali said. "Can you help me? I have a guest in my house, but I haven't got any food. My husband is a hunter. He'll come home soon. Please give me a leg of your bushbuck. My husband will give you some of his meat later."

The man looked at Kirdali. He thought she was very beautiful.

"Yes," he said. "I'll give you a leg of my bushbuck. But you must come and meet me at the well tonight."

"What can I do?" Kirdali thought. "I must give my father some food."

"All right," she said. "I'll meet you at the well. But please, give me some of your meat now."

So the man cut a leg off his bushbuck and gave it to Kirdali. She ran back to her hut and put it into the cooking pot.

Soon, her husband came home. He had killed a zebra. Now there was plenty of meat. The three of them sat and ate happily together inside Boreto's hut.

It was dark now. Suddenly, Kirdali heard a noise. The stranger was outside. He was throwing a small stone on to the roof of the hut. He wanted her to come out. She looked at Boreto and at her father.

"Did you hear something?" she asked them.

"It was nothing," Boreto said.

"It was the wind," said her father.

The hunter outside threw another stone on to the roof of the hut. Kirdali didn't say anything this time. She only smiled, and gave her father another piece of meat.

The hunter threw a third stone on to the roof of the hut. Kirdali began to laugh.

"What are you laughing at?" her father and her husband asked her.

"I'm laughing at three fools," said Kirdali.

"Three fools? What do you mean?" said her father.

"The first fool is my husband," Kirdali answered. "He gave away all his cows and camels, his sheep and goats for the love of one woman. The second fool is my father. He took everything away from his daughter's husband. Then he came to visit me. How did he expect me to feed him? The third fool is the man outside. He thinks I will meet him at the well because he gave me a leg of his bushbuck."

The hunter outside the hut heard Kirdali's words. He was afraid of her husband and he ran away. Kirdali's father was ashamed.

"You're right, my dear daughter," he said. "I made your husband a poor man. I will give him back half his animals."

Only Boreto was happy.

"My wife is beautiful," he said, "but she is clever, too. I am a very lucky man!"

[Button: Click here to listen the story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

In this story, everyone has a different reason for his or her actions.

Find the best ending to these sentences from the list below, to show everyone's reasons for their actions.

1. Boreto sent his uncle to Kirdali's father because.....
2. Kirdali's father gave her to Boreto because.....
3. Kirdali couldn't give her father any food because.....
4. Kirdali's neighbour gave her some meat because.....
5. The neighbour threw stones on to the roof of Kirdali's house because.....

6. "The first fool is my husband," said Kirdali, "because....."
7. "The second fool is my father," said Kirdali, "because....."
8. "The third fool is the man outside," said Kirdali, "because....."
9. "I am a very lucky man," said Boreto, "because....."

- a)he wanted Kirdali to come out of the hut.
- b)he wanted to marry Kirdali.
- c)Boreto gave him all his camels, cows, sheep and goats.
- d)my wife is beautiful, but she is clever too."
- e)there was nothing in the pot.
- f)he thinks I'm going to meet him at the well."
- g).....he took everything from his daughter's husband."
- h)he gave my father everything he had."
- i)she agreed to meet him at the well.

B. Find the right words

Fill in the gaps in these sentences from the list of words below.

1. Kirdali's family was
2. Boreto was because he had many camels, cows, sheep and goats.
3. Kirdali filled her with water ready for the meat.
4. A neighbour passed Kirdali's hut with a on his shoulder.
5. Kirdali's husband came home with a
6. Kirdali cooked the and gave it to the two men.
7. The man outside threw a on to the roof of the hut.
8. "It's the,," said Kirdali's father.
9. Kirdali's father was

pot, bushbuck, ashamed, rich, stone, poor, zebra, wind, meat

C. What do you think?

Did you think this story was funny? Did you expect it to end like this?

Was Kirdali right to take the neighbour's bushbuck?

Was she right to agree to meet him at the well?

Some people are surprised when women are both beautiful and clever . Why?

D. Acting

This story can make a good play.

If you act it well, you can make your friends laugh.

[Button: Click here for the answers to the exercises]



Answers to the Exercises

[Button: Click to return to the exercises]

[Button: Click to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

1/b. Boreto sent his uncle to Kirdali's father because **he wanted to marry Kirdali.**

2/c. Kirdali's father gave her to Boreto because **Boreto gave him all his camels, cows, sheep and goats.**

3/e. Kirdali couldn't give her father any food because **there was nothing in the pot.**

4/i. Kirdali's neighbour gave her some meat because **she agreed to meet him at the well.**

5/a. The neighbour threw stones on to the roof of Kirdali's house because **he wanted Kirdali to come out of the hut.**

6/h. "The first fool is my husband," said Kirdali, "because **he gave my father everything he had.**"

7/g. "The second fool is my father," said Kirdali, "because **he took everything from his daughter's husband.**"

8/f. "The third fool is the man outside," said Kirdali, "because **he thinks I'm going to meet him at the well.**"

9/d. "I am a very lucky man," said Boreto, "because **my wife is beautiful, but she is clever too.**"

B. Find the right words

1. Kirdali's family was **poor.**
2. Boreto was **rich** because he had many camels, cows, sheep and goats.
3. Kirdali filled her **pot** with water ready for the meat.
4. A neighbour passed Kirdali's hut with a **bushbuck** on his shoulder.
5. Kirdali's husband came home with a **zebra.**
6. Kirdali cooked the **meat** and gave it to the two men.
7. The man outside threw a **stone** on to the roof of the hut.
8. "It's the **wind**," said Kirdali's father.
9. Kirdali's father was **ashamed.**

The Lion, the Fox and the Hyena



Before you read the story

Students go to school to learn. But we learn many things outside school too.

- What lessons have your relatives taught you?
- What have you learned from watching other people?
- What have you learned from reading stories?

Now read the story

One day, the lion, the fox and the hyena went hunting together. They hunted from sunrise until sunset and they met again in the evening.

"What did you catch?" the fox asked the hyena.

"I caught a cow," said the hyena. "And you? What did you catch?"

"I killed a goat," the fox answered.

"And I," said the lion, "I caught a camel. And now I'm very tired, and I'm going to sleep."

So the lion lay down and went to sleep.

The hyena was tired. He wanted to sleep too.

But the fox said, "Listen, my friend. You know the lion. He's big and strong. He always takes all the food. I'll go hunting again. I'll try to catch another animal. You and I can share it. But don't tell the lion."

So the fox went away to hunt again.

Soon, the lion woke up.

"I'm hungry," he said. "I want to eat. Hey, you, hyena, what are you going to eat?"

"Well," said the hyena. "You killed the camel, so the camel is yours. I caught the cow, so I can eat the cow. And the fox killed the goat, so the goat is his."

The lion was very angry.

"What?" he said. "You stupid animal! You're going to keep the cow and the goat for yourself and the fox?"

"Why, yes," said the hyena. "I..."

"But you only killed the cow because you had my help," the lion said. "She heard my voice, and she was frightened. Without me, you couldn't kill the cow. She's mine."

"That's not fair," the hyena said. "The cow belongs to"

"Don't try to argue with me!" roared the lion. "The cow is mine!"

And he hit the hyena with his great paw.

The hyena's head came off and flew up into a tree. The lion made a hole in the ground and buried the hyena's body.

The fox was hunting for a long time, but he didn't catch anything. At last, he came back to find the lion and the hyena. On the way, he saw the hyena's head up in the tree.

"Oho," thought the fox. "I must be very careful."

He ran up to the lion.

"Aren't you hungry?" he said. "When are you going to start eating?"

"I'm waiting for you," said the lion. "We hunted well today. Look at all this meat. Tell me, fox, which of it is for you, and which is for me?"

"Oh thank you! Thank you!" said the fox. "It's very kind of you to ask my advice. You are the lion, the king of the forest! I'm only a poor, small fox. Of course, you can eat anything you like. But you asked my advice, and here it is. Why don't you eat the camel for your breakfast and the cow for your lunch? Then you can have the goat for your supper."

The lion was surprised.

"What about you?" he said. "What are you going to eat?"

"Oh," said the fox. "Don't worry about me. You eat first. Perhaps you'll leave a little bit. Perhaps there are some bits you don't like. I'll eat those."

"Hm," said the lion. "Yesterday, I thought you were a stupid animal, fox. Why are you suddenly clever today?"

"Well," the fox said, "yesterday I was only using my own head. But just now I saw the head of the hyena. It helped me to think too!"

[Button: Click here to listen to the story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

This story has only three characters, the lion, the hyena and the fox.

Fill the gaps in these sentences to show which animal said each of these things, and who he was speaking to.

1. "I caught a cow," the said to the
2. "I killed a goat," the said to the
3. The said to the "I'll go hunting again. I'll try to catch another animal."
4. "I caught the cow, so I can eat the cow," the said to the
5. "Don't try to argue with me!" the said to the
6. "Look at all this meat," the said to the "Tell me, which of it is for you, and which is for me?"
7. "Why don't you eat the camel for your breakfast, and the cow for your lunch? Then you can have the goat for your supper." the said to the
8. "What about you?" the said to the "What are you going to eat?"
9. "Perhaps you'll leave a little bit," the said to the
10. "I saw the head of the hyena," said the to the "It helped me to think clearly too!"

B. What were the animals feeling?

Fill in the gaps in these sentences from the list below to show what the animals were feeling.

1. The lion hunted all day, and in the evening he was
2. When the lion woke up, he was
3. The hyena wanted to eat the cow, and the lion became
4. When the cow heard the lion's voice, she was feeling
5. When the fox saw the hyena's head in the tree, he was
6. When the fox said the lion should have all the meat the lion was

angry, surprised, careful, tired, hungry, frightened

C. Proverbs

Proverbs are wise sayings. There are many proverbs in English. Here is one:

Two heads are better than one.

This means that two people are better at finding answers to a problem than one person.

Do you have a proverb with the same meaning in your language?

D. What do *you* think?

Which of these sentences best describes the moral of the story?

1. Don't go near hyenas.
2. Be careful when you are dealing with powerful people.
3. Always let powerful people have what they want.

[\[Click here for the answers to the exercises\]](#)

Answers to the Exercises

[Click here to return to the exercises]

[Click here to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

1. "I caught a cow," the **hyena** said to the **fox**.
2. "I killed a goat," the **fox** said to the **hyena**.
3. The **fox** said to the **hyena**, "I'll go hunting again. I'll try to catch another animal."
4. "I caught the cow, so I can eat the cow," the **hyena** said to the **lion**.
5. "Don't try to argue with me!" the **lion** said to the **hyena**.
6. "Look at all this meat," the **lion** said to the **fox**. "Which of it is for you, and which is for me?"
7. "Why don't you eat the camel for your breakfast, the cow for your lunch and the goat for your supper?" the **fox** said to the **lion**.
8. "What about you?" the **lion** said to the **fox**. "What are you going to eat?"
9. "Perhaps you'll leave a little bit," the **fox** said to the **lion**.
10. "I saw the head of the hyena," said the **fox** to the **lion**. "It helped me think more clearly too!"

B. What were the animals feeling?

1. The lion hunted all day, and in the evening he was **tired**.
2. When the lion woke up, he was **hungry**.
3. The hyena wanted to eat the cow, and the lion became **angry**.
4. When the cow heard the lion's voice, she was feeling **frightened**.
5. When the fox saw the hyena's head in the tree, he was **careful**.
6. When the fox said the lion should have all the meat the lion was **surprised**.

C. What do *you* think?

We think that the best moral of this story is sentence 2: *Always be careful when you are dealing with powerful people.*

The Clever Fox



Before you read the story

- What makes you angry?
- What do you do when you are angry?
- When you are angry, do you do things that you regret later?
- How do you stop being angry?

Now read the story

Many big, strong animals lived in the forest. There was the leopard, the hyena, the warthog, the lion and the snake. And there was also the fox.

Now the fox was not big and strong. He didn't have long teeth like the lion or the leopard. He didn't have poison like the snake. But the fox didn't need to be big and strong. He was clever. That was enough for him.

One day, all the animals went hunting together. They hunted well, and killed some camels. Then they sat down, ready to eat the meat.

But the fox said, "Wait, my brothers. We're all good friends now. But friends sometimes begin to fight over their food. Tell me, lion, and you, leopard, and you, snake. What makes you angry? We need to know. Then we can be careful. We won't make each other angry."

"That's a good idea," the lion said.

"Yes, it is," agreed the leopard.

"We agree, we agree," said the snake, the hyena and the warthog.

"Please, lion," said the fox. "You begin."

"All right," said the lion. "Well, I'm a quiet, friendly animal. I don't get angry very often. But I don't sleep well at night. I like to sleep early in the morning. Don't wake me in the morning! Do you hear me, everyone? Never, *never* wake me in the morning!"

And the lion opened his big red mouth and roared.

"I'll remember that," the fox said. "Now, hyena, it's your turn. What makes you angry?"

The hyena smiled.

"Oh," he said. "You know me. I'm a nice, kind animal. I never fight with my friends. And I'm very strong. My head's strong, my back's strong and my legs are strong. But I have one weak place. My stomach is weak. So don't kick me in my stomach. Do you understand, all of you? Never, *never* kick me in the stomach!"

And the hyena showed the animals his long white teeth.

"Thank you, hyena," said the fox. "I'll remember that. What about you, leopard? What makes you angry?"

"Me?" said the leopard. "Well, you think I'm a brave, fierce animal, but I'm not. I don't like angry faces. Sometimes people frown at me and shout at me and then I'm very frightened and I start to fight. So don't frown at me and don't shout at me. Please, *please* don't frown or shout!"

"That's very interesting," said the fox. "Thank you, leopard. Now, warthog, it's your turn."

"Oh," said the warthog, "nothing frightens me. And I'm never angry."

"Never?" said the fox.

"Never," answered the warthog. "But..."

"Yes?" asked the fox.

"Sometimes I start running," the warthog said. "I run and run. I can't stop! Yesterday, I was running very fast. Someone ran after me and spoke in my ear. I didn't like it. I hated it! It made me very frightened."

"Ah," said the fox. "I see. Now, where's the snake?"

"Sss, here I am," the snake said. "Look, down here. On the ground."

All the animals moved back. They didn't want to tread on the snake.

"That's good," the snake said. "Don't come near me. I don't like it. And *don't* tread on my tail, or I'll bite you. And my poison is..."

"Yes, yes," the fox said quickly. "We know your poison's very strong, snake. Thank you, everyone. Now, let's eat."

"Wait a minute," the lion said. "What about you, fox? What makes you angry?"

"Well," the fox answered. "I'm small and I'm not very strong, but I'm not a child, and I'm not a servant. Be friendly to me. Be fair to me. Then I'll be friendly and fair to you."

"Fine," the lion said. "And now, I'm *hungry*."

All the animals ran to the camels and began to eat. But the lion, the leopard, the hyena, the warthog and the snake were quick and strong. They pushed the fox out of their way. They all ate and ate, but the fox couldn't reach the camels. He was still hungry.

The lion stopped eating first.

He said, "I'm tired. I'm going to sleep. Remember, everyone, don't wake me up."

He lay down and went to sleep.

"I'm tired, too," the hyena said. "Goodnight."

And he shut his eyes and went to sleep.

The fox ran up to the leopard.

"Look," he said. "The hyena's asleep. Why don't you kick him in the stomach?"

"What?" said the leopard. "Are you crazy? He hates it! Don't you remember? 'Never kick me in the stomach,' he said."

"You're a big, strong leopard," said the fox. "Are you frightened of the hyena? You're not brave at all! You're a coward! A stupid, weak coward! But I'm not frightened. Watch me."

And the fox ran up to the hyena and kicked him in the stomach. Then he ran behind the leopard.

The hyena woke up at once. He jumped up and saw the leopard.

"Why did you do that?" he shouted, and he frowned into the leopard's face.

The leopard didn't like that, so he hit the hyena. The hyena hit him back. They began to fight.

"I'll kill you for this!" the hyena shouted.

He jumped towards the leopard, but the leopard moved out of his way.

The lion was sleeping behind the leopard and the hyena jumped on top of him. The lion woke up.

"Who woke me?" he shouted.

He saw the hyena and the leopard. At once he jumped up and killed them both.

"Aahhrrr!" he roared. "Now let me sleep!"

He started to lie down again, but he put his foot on the snake. At once, the snake bit him.

"I'm dying!" shouted the lion, "but I'll kill you first!"

And he bit off the head of the snake.

"Oh, oh, oh!" said the warthog. "All the animals are dead. I must run away!"

And he began to run and run.

The fox chased after him.

"I'm chasing you! I'm chasing you!" he said in the warthog's ear.

The warthog was very frightened. He ran up a big mountain and fell off it and died.

So the fox went back to the meat. He was very hungry now. He ate, and ate, and ate.

"The other animals were strong," he thought, "but I'm clever. I'm very, very clever."

And he smiled, and lay down, and went to sleep.

[Click here to listen to the story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

In the first part of the story, the animals say what makes them angry.

Fill the gaps in the sentences.

1. The doesn't like to be woken when he is sleeping.
2. The doesn't like being kicked in the stomach.
3. The doesn't like someone frowning or shouting at him.
4. The doesn't like someone speaking in his ear when he runs.
5. The doesn't like someone treading on his tail.
6. The doesn't like people being unfair to him.

In the second part of the story, the animals kill camels and begin to eat, but they push the fox out of the way.

Put these sentences in the right order.

1. The hyena frowned at the leopard.
2. The fox chased the warthog and talked in his ear.
3. The lion put his foot on the snake.
4. The leopard hit the hyena.
5. The fox kicked the hyena.
6. The hyena jumped on the lion and woke him.

B. Action words

*There are many words about violent actions in this story. Here are some of them: **kick, bite, hit, kill, chase, shout***

Read these sentences, and fill the gaps using the words in the list above.

1. If you run away, I willyou.
2. When snakes, their poison kills.
3. If you a pot hard, it will break.
4. Please don't at me. It makes my ears hurt.
5. If you a stone, you will hurt your foot.
6. When men fight with knives, they can easily each other.

C. What do *you* think?

The other animals were greedy and pushed the fox away from the meal. Was he right to punish them?

Did he punish them too much?

What is the best way of keeping powerful people under control?

[Click here for the answers to the exercises]

Answers to the Exercises

[Click here to return to the exercises]

[Click here to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

1. The **lion** doesn't like to be woken when he is sleeping.
2. The **hyena** doesn't like being kicked in the stomach.
3. The **leopard** doesn't like someone frowning or shouting at him.
4. The **warthog** doesn't like someone speaking in his ear when he runs.
5. The **snake** doesn't like someone treading on his tail.
6. The **fox** doesn't like people being unfair to him.

The right order for these sentences is: 5,1,4,6,3,2.

The fox kicked the hyena.

The hyena frowned at the leopard.

The leopard hit the hyena.

The hyena jumped on the lion and woke him.

The lion put his foot on the snake.

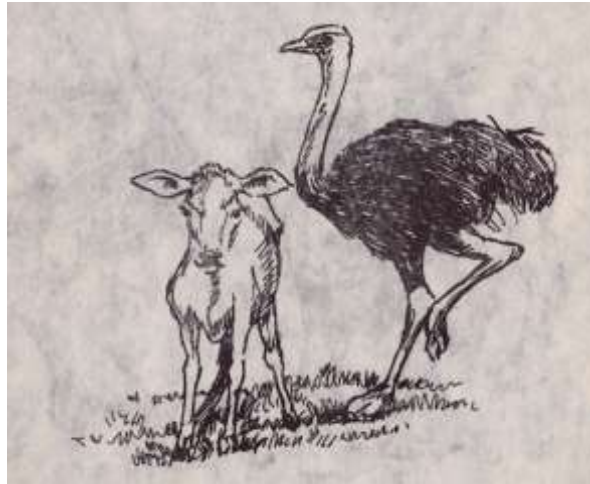
The fox chased the warthog and talked in his ear.

B. Action words

1. If you run away, I will **chase** you.
2. When snakes **bite**, their poison kills.
3. If you **hit** a pot hard, it will break.
4. Please don't **shout** at me. It makes my ears hurt.
5. If you **kick** a stone, you will hurt your foot.
6. When men fight with knives, they can easily **kill** each other.



The Bull and his Calf



Before you read the story

- Talk about the title of this story
- What is strange about it?
- Can you imagine what might happen in the story ?

Now read the story

The ostrich and the lion were friends. They lived in one house and were happy together.

The ostrich had a cow, and the lion had a bull. Every day, they went out with the cow and the bull and looked after them.

One day, the lion said to the ostrich, "I don't want to go out today. Please can you take the bull and the cow and go alone? Tomorrow, I'll take them out, and you can stay at home."

The ostrich agreed.

At the end of the second day, the lion said, "This is a good idea. Let's take turns every day. One day you'll stay at home, and the next day I will."

They lived happily in this way for a long time.

Then, one day, the lion noticed something.

"The cow's getting fat," he thought. "She's going to have a calf."

He was angry.

"It's not fair," he said to himself. "My bull can't have a calf. Now the ostrich will have two animals but I'll only have one."

Day after day, he watched the cow carefully.

One morning, he said to himself, "The calf will be born today."

So he said to the ostrich, "You look tired, ostrich. It's your turn to go out with the animals today, but let me go. You can stay at home and rest."

The ostrich was very pleased.

"Oh, how kind you are, dear lion," he said. "Yes, I am a little tired today. Thank you very much. I'll stay at home today. I'll just rest and sleep. Then I'll feel better in the evening."

So the lion went out with the bull and the cow. In the afternoon, the cow's calf was born. When the evening came, the lion began to walk home with his bull, the cow and the calf. On the way, he found a nice new grindstone.

"That's lucky," he thought, and he picked it up.

The ostrich was waiting for him.

"Oh!" he said. "How wonderful! My cow has given birth to a calf!"

"No, dear ostrich," the lion said. "My bull gave birth to this calf. Your cow gave birth to a grindstone. Look, here it is."

And he gave the grindstone to the ostrich. The ostrich was very angry.

"That's impossible!" he said. "A bull can't give birth to a calf! Only a cow can do that. I don't want this grindstone. I want my calf. Give it to me."

They argued for a long time. At last, the lion said, "We'll never agree. Let's call all the animals together. We'll ask them to decide. One of us is right and the other is wrong. Let them choose."

So the lion called all the animals together.

"Listen," he said. "Something wonderful happened today. My bull gave birth to a calf."

"It's not true!" shouted the ostrich. "The calf is mine! My cow gave birth to it!"

The animals looked at the lion, and they looked at the ostrich. The lion was big and strong. His teeth were long and sharp. They were all frightened of him. But they weren't frightened of the ostrich.

"The lion's right," they all said. "The calf belongs to him."

And they began to go home.

"Stop! Wait!" the ostrich said. "Where's the fox? He's a very clever animal. We must ask him."

He ran away, and found the fox. The fox listened to the ostrich's story.

"I won't come to the meeting," he said. "I don't want to fight the lion but I'll run past. Call out to me. I'll help you. Don't worry."

So the ostrich went back to the other animals.

"Wait," he said. "The fox is coming. He's in a hurry. Look, there he is. Fox! Fox! Please stop and listen! Does the calf belong to the lion, or does it belong to me?"

"I'm sorry," the fox called out. "I can't stop. I'm going to see my father. He needs me. He's giving birth to a baby fox. I must go and help him!"

All the animals began to laugh.

"That's impossible!" the lion said. "Your father can't give birth. Only your mother can do that."

"It's impossible, is it?" the fox said. "Why? Your bull gave birth to a calf. Why can't my father give birth to a baby fox?"

The lion was angry because the animals were all laughing at him. He ran after the fox and he didn't come back. The ostrich was happy. He took his cow and his calf and went home.

"Thank you, fox," he thought. "You're not only clever. You're brave, too."

[Click here to listen to the story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

*This story is about **truth** and **lies**.*

In the story some animals tell the truth, and some tell lies.

Here are some of the true statements in the story. Who is speaking?

1. "Oh, how wonderful! My cow has given birth to a calf!"
2. "A bull can't give birth to a calf!"
3. "Your father can't give birth. Only your mother can do that."

Here are some lies. Who is speaking?

1. "My bull gave birth to this calf."
2. "The lion's right. The calf belongs to him."
3. "He's giving birth to a baby fox."

B. Power and weakness

*The story is also about **power** and **weakness**.*

Match the right endings from the list below to these sentences.

1. The lion was the strongest animal, so.....
 2. The ostrich was weaker than the lion, so.....
 3. The animals were weaker than the lion, so.....
 4. The fox was clever, so.....
- a) he defeated the powerful lion.
 - b) he needed the fox to help him.
 - c) they agreed with him.
 - d)the other animals were afraid of him.

C. Which words?

Which words describe the animals in the story? Match the animal from the list on the left with the word that describes him from the list on the right.

the lion	clever
the ostrich	angry
all the other animals	strong
the fox	frightened

D. What do you think?

Are these stories really about animals, or are they about people?
What do they teach us about human beings?

E. More stories to enjoy

If you liked reading this story, you might enjoy some others about the clever fox.

Click on the links below.

[[The Crane, the Fox and the Vulture](#)]

[[The Farmer and the Leopard](#)]

[[Click here for the answers to the exercises](#)]

Answers to the exercises

[Click here to return to the exercises]

[Click here to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

1. "Oh, how wonderful! My cow has given birth to a calf!"

The ostrich

2. "A bull can't give birth to a calf!"

The ostrich

3. "Your father can't give birth. Only your mother can do that."

The lion

1. "My bull gave birth to this calf."

The lion

2. "The lion's right. The calf belongs to him."

The other animals

3. "My father is giving birth to a baby fox."

The fox

B. Power and weakness

1/d The lion was the strongest animal, so **the other animals were afraid of him.**

2/b The ostrich was weaker than the lion, so **he needed the fox to help him.**

3/c The animals were weaker than the lion, so **they agreed with him.**

4/a The fox was clever, so **he defeated the powerful lion.**

C. Which words?

the lion/strong

the ostrich/angry

all the other animals/frightened

the fox/clever

The Good Wife

The story of The Good Wife is a long and beautiful one. There are four chapters in the story, and there are questions at the end of each chapter. Answer the questions at the end of each chapter before you read the next one.



Before you read Chapter One, think about these questions:

- What makes a good wife?
- Must she be beautiful? Clever? Rich?
- Are there any other qualities that make a good wife?
- What makes a good husband?
- Must he have the same qualities or different ones?

Now read Chapter One

Chapter One

Once upon a time, there was a wise and good king. He had only one son, a boy named Delibis. Prince Delibis was a clever young man and the king loved him very much.

One day, the king called the prince to him and said, "Listen, my son. You will be king after I have died. I want you to be a wise ruler. But you will only be wise if you are happy. And you will only be happy if you marry a good and clever woman. So I want you to travel around my kingdom. Look for the best woman you can find and marry her. Then I am sure you will become a good ruler of our kingdom."

So Delibis left his father's house, and he began to travel around the kingdom. He went to every town and every village. He met the daughters of rich men and the daughters of poor men, the daughters of nomads and the daughters of hunters. Some of them were beautiful, but they were stupid. Some were wise, but they were ugly. He couldn't find the perfect girl.

He spent many years travelling. He didn't look like a prince any more. His clothes were old and torn, his shoes were broken.

One day, the tired prince lay down to rest under a tree. It was the middle of the day, and the sun was high in the sky. His food was finished and he was very hungry. He fell asleep.

When he woke up, he saw a girl. She was looking after her father's sheep. Delibis looked at her. She was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. He wanted to speak to her, but he couldn't.

"What's the matter?" the girl said. "You look hungry. I have only a little bread with me here, and you can have it if you like." She took out some bread and gave it to Delibis. He ate it hungrily.

"Thank you," he said.

The girl started to walk away. Delibis wanted her to stay.

"Have you seen my camel?" he said.

"No," the girl said. "I haven't seen a camel, but a blind one has passed this way."

"Really?" said the prince.

"And this camel had no tail."

"How do you know?" asked the prince.

"And there is a wound on its right side," the girl said.

The prince was very surprised.

"You haven't seen this camel," he said, "but you have described it perfectly. How did you do it?"

"Oh, it was easy," the girl said. "Look at this bush. A camel has been eating the leaves. But it has only eaten from one side of it. This probably means that it's blind in one eye. And do you see this camel dung? It's all together, in one pile. But camels move their tails when they drop their dung. When a camel has a tail, the dung falls in different places."

"But what about the wound on the camel's right side?" asked Delibis.

"How did you know about that?"

"Look here, in the sand," said the girl. "A camel has been rolling here. But it has only rolled on its left side. This means that its right side must be wounded."

"I've found the girl I'm looking for at last," the prince said to himself.



"Please," he said to the girl, "tell me your name."

"My name is Hariri," she said.

"And what is your father's name?"

"Nakrusa."

"Where does your family live? Where can I find them?"

"Down there," said Hariri, and she pointed to the village in the distance.

"I'll come back very soon," the prince said, "and speak to your family, but first I must go home. I must tell my father! I've found the girl I want to marry!"

Delibis hurried back to his father's house.

"Father!" he said. "I've found her! She's the wisest and most beautiful girl in your kingdom!"

His father smiled.

"That's good, my son. But don't be in a hurry. Find out more about the girl. Meet her family. Talk to them."

So Delibis began the journey back to Hariri's village. On the way, he met Nakrusa, Hariri's father.

"Let's walk together," he said to the old man.

"Very well," Nakrusa said.

It was a long way to the village. The path was rough and stony and the sun was hot. Nakrusa and Delibis walked together but they didn't speak.

At last, Delibis said, "The journey is too long and we are both tired. Let's make it easier. Why don't you carry me? Or, if you like, I will carry you. Then the time will pass more quickly."

Nakrusa looked at Delibis but he didn't say anything.

"What a crazy idea!" he thought. "What a stupid young man!"

They walked on and on, but they still didn't speak. After a while, they passed some young men. They were looking after a herd of a hundred cows.

"Old man," said the prince. "Who do these cows belong to?"

"They belong to my cousin," said Nakrusa. "He's a very rich man."

"Rich?" the prince laughed. "No! He must be poor. I'm sure he's a poor man. I'm sorry for him."

Nakrusa shook his head.

What a strange young man! he thought. He's sorry for a man who has a hundred cows!

A little later, they passed another herd of cattle. There were ten cows and one bull.

"Whose cattle are these?" Delibis asked.

"Oh, they belong to my neighbour," said Nakrusa. "He's only a poor man."

"Poor?" said the prince. "I don't think so. I think he's rich. Yes, he's certainly a rich man."

"This young man is crazy," Nakrusa thought.

They walked on and on, over the hills, until they came to a valley. There was a field of wheat in the valley. It was already yellow and ready for the harvest.

"Is this wheat free, so that travellers can eat it?" asked Delibis.

"Free?" said Nakrusa. "What do you mean, free? Of course it isn't free! It belongs to the farmer."

"I don't understand this boy at all," he said to himself.

The sun was going down now. It was nearly evening. At last they could see the village in the distance. Some people were coming out of the village. They were carrying the body of a dead man. They were taking him to the cemetery.

"Who has died?" Delibis asked Nakrusa. "Who was this man?"

"He was a good old man," Nakrusa answered. "I knew him well."

"And will his name be buried with him?" asked Delibis. "Or will his name live on?"

"How stupid!" Nakrusa thought. "The poor man is dead. Of course his name dies with him! It won't be used again."

He said nothing. He walked on towards his house and Delibis followed him.

Exercises for Chapter One

A. How much did you understand?

What did the king say to his son? Put these sentences in the right order.

1. "And you will only be happy if you marry a good and clever woman."
2. "So I want you to travel around my kingdom."
3. "You will be king after I have died."
4. "But you will only be wise if you are happy."

Delibis met Hariri. Put these sentences in the right order.

5. "Have you seen my camel?" he said.
6. "I've found the girl I'm looking for at last," the prince said to himself.
7. She took out some bread and gave it to Delibis.

8. "You haven't seen this camel, but you have described it perfectly."

Delibis met Nakrusa, Hariri's father, and they walked to the village together. Put these sentences in the right order.

9. "Free?" said Nakrusa. "What do you mean, free?"
10. "Let's walk together," Delibis said to the old man.
11. "And will his name be buried with him?" asked Delibis.
12. "They belong to my cousin," said Nakrusa.

B. Choose the right answer

When Delibis met Hariri, she was:

- a) looking for a camel
- b) eating bread
- c) looking after her father's sheep

Hariri knew that a half-blind camel had passed that way because:

- a) its dung was in a pile
- b) it had eaten leaves from one side of a bush
- c) it had a wound in its side.

What did Hariri's father and Delibis see on the road?

- a) a rich man with a hundred cows
- b) a herd of cattle with ten cows and a bull
- c) a field of wheat that was not ready for the harvest

C. What do you think?

Which do you think is the best title for this chapter?

- 1) The Poor Woman
- 2) The Stupid Young Man
- 3) Looking for a Good Wife
- 4) Going on a Journey

[Click here for the answers to the exercises]



[Click here to read Chapter Two]

Answers to the Exercises for Chapter One

[Click here to return to the exercises]

[Click here to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

The correct order of the sentences is 3, 4, 1, 2

"You will be king after I have died."

"But you will only be wise if you are happy."

"And you will only be happy if you marry a good and clever woman."

"So I want you to travel around my kingdom."

The correct order of the sentences is 7, 5, 8, 6

She took out some bread and gave it to Delibis.

"Have you seen my camel?" he said.

"You haven't seen this camel, but you have described it perfectly."

"I've found the girl I'm looking for at last," the prince said to himself.

The correct order of the sentences is 10, 12, 9, 11

"Let's walk together," Delibis said to the old man.

"They belong to my cousin," said Nakrusa.

"Free?" said Nakrusa. "What do you mean, free?"

"And will his name be buried with him?" asked Delibis.

B. Choose the right answers from A, B, C, and D

When Delibis met Hariri, she was:

c) looking after her father's sheep

Hariri knew that a half-blind camel had passed that way because:

b) it had eaten leaves from one side of a bush

What did Hariri's father and Delibis see on the road?

b) a herd of cattle with ten cows and a bull

C. What do you think?

Which is the best title for this chapter?

We think that *Looking for a Good Wife* is the best title for this story. Do you agree?

Chapter Two



Before you read the chapter

- Did you think that the prince's questions in Chapter One were crazy?
- Do you think they will be explained in Chapter Two?
- Will Nakrusa change his mind about the prince?
- What do you think will happen next?

Now read the chapter

Chapter Two

The prince and Nakrusa came to Nakrusa's hut. The old man turned round to Delibis. He wanted to say goodbye. But the prince had already followed him into his compound.

Nakrusa was tired of Delibis. He wanted him to go away. But now the young man was his guest. He had to welcome him. So he went into his hut and brought out a mat. He put it on the ground and Delibis sat down on it.

Hariri was inside the hut. She was cooking the evening meal.

"Listen, daughter," Nakrusa said to her. "We have a very strange guest. A crazy young man has followed me all day. He's come to the village with me and now he's here in my compound. Take him some water so that he can wash his feet."

So Hariri took some water and went out to wash Delibis's feet. He was very happy when he saw her. She smiled at him, and his heart jumped. She was even more beautiful than before.

"Why don't you put your feet on the mat?" she asked him. "Look. They're on the dirty ground."

"But my feet are still dirty," Delibis answered. "You haven't washed them yet. If I put them on the mat now, the mat will get dirty too."

So Hariri washed his feet. When they were clean, he put them on the mat.

Hariri went back into the hut to find her father.

"This young man isn't crazy at all," she said.

"Oh yes, he is," said Nakrusa. "Do you know what he said to me on the road? 'Let's make the journey easier,' he said. 'Why don't you carry me? Or, if you like, I'll carry you.' Wasn't that stupid? How can I, an old man, carry a big young man like him?"

"But father," Hariri said. "You don't understand. He meant that the journey was long and boring. He wanted to make it interesting. When he said, 'Why don't you carry me?' he meant, 'Why don't you tell me a story?' And when he said, 'Or if you like, I'll carry you,' he meant, 'Or, if you like, I'll tell you a story.' In that way, you could help each other along the road."

"Well, anyway," said Nakrusa. "That wasn't the only thing. We passed a big herd of a hundred cows. 'Who do these cows belong to?' he asked me. 'He must be a poor man.' Poor? A man with a hundred cows is rich! Then later, we passed a small herd of ten cows and one bull. 'Who do these belong to?' he said. 'Oh, he must be a rich man.' Now, isn't that crazy?"

"No, father," Hariri said. "He's right. The man with a hundred cows is rich now, but he won't be rich for long. If he doesn't have a bull, his cows will never give birth to calves. After a while they will all die and he'll be poor again. But the man who has a bull as well as ten cows will soon be rich. His cows will all have calves. He'll have more and more cattle every year."

"You haven't heard it all," Nakrusa said. "We passed a field of wheat. 'Is this wheat free, so that travellers can eat it?' this stupid boy asked me."

'Free?' I said. 'Of course it isn't free. It belongs to the farmer. Only he can eat it.'"

"But father," said Hariri. "Who is the farmer? Is he a generous man? Does he give food to the guests and travellers who come to his hut?"

"Yes," said Nakrusa. "I know the man. He's a good man. He's always kind to guests and travellers."

"And does he ask them to pay for their food?" asked Hariri.

"Of course he doesn't!" Nakrusa answered. "What kind of man asks his guests to pay for their food?"

"Then the young man was right," Hariri said. "The wheat is free. Travellers can eat it without paying."

"Well, perhaps," Nakrusa said. "But listen to this. While we were coming into the village, we passed a funeral. A crowd of people were taking a dead man to the cemetery. And do you know what this poor fool said? 'Will his name be buried with him, or will it be used again?'"

"Oh," said Hariri, "that's easy to understand. He was asking you if the man had a son. The father's name lives on in his son. It's not buried with him. It's used again and again."

Nakrusa was tired of talking to his daughter. He went to talk to her uncles.



"My daughter's crazy," he said. "You have seen that strange young man sitting outside my hut. He asks all kinds of stupid questions. But my daughter likes him!"

"Does she?" said Hariri's uncles. "That's good. Your daughter isn't a child now. She must get married soon. Why don't you let her marry him? He looks like a good man to us."

"Oh, very well," said Nakrusa. "But it's all so strange. I can't understand it at all! They're both crazy!"

Hariri heard her uncles and her father. She was very happy.

"He's so handsome," she said to herself, "and so clever. He's the best young man I've ever seen."

Delibis was still sitting outside the hut on the mat. He heard Hariri's words. He was very, very happy.

Exercises for Chapter Two

A. How much did you understand?

There are some puzzles in this story. Can you find the answers?

Answer these questions in your own words.

1. Nakrusa was tired of Delibis, so why did he welcome him into his house?
2. Why didn't Delibis put his feet on the mat?
3. When they were walking along the road, why did Delibis ask Nakrusa to carry him?
4. Why did Delibis say that the man with a hundred cows was poor?
5. Why did Delibis say that the man with ten cows and a bull was rich?
6. Why did Delibis ask Nakrusa if the wheat was free?

7. Delibis asked, "Will the dead man's name be buried with him?" What did he mean?
8. Why did Hariri's uncles agree to the marriage?
9. Why was Hariri happy when she heard her father's and uncles' words?

B. Who is talking?

There are many different characters in the chapter: Hariri, Delibis, Nakrusa and Hariri's uncles. They all talk to each other.

Fill in the gaps to show who is speaking and who is listening.

1. "We have a very strange guest." said to
2. "Why don't you put your feet on the mat?" said to
3. "This young man isn't crazy at all," said to
4. "That wasn't the only thing," said to
5. "The man with a hundred cows is rich now but he won't be rich for long," said to
6. "What kind of man asks his guests to pay for their food?" said to
7. "You have seen that strange young man sitting outside my hut," said to
8. "Your daughter isn't a child now," said to
9. "But it's all so strange. I can't understand it at all!" said to
10. "He's the best young man I've ever seen," said to

C. Which is the best title for this chapter ?

1. Hariri Goes Crazy
2. Hariri Shows That She Is Clever
3. Hariri Washes Delibis's Feet
4. Hariri And Delibis Get Married

D. What do you think?

Does Nakrusa understand his daughter? Do her uncles understand her?

Why do they agree to her marriage with Delibis?

What does Hariri like about Delibis?

[Click here for the answers to the exercises]

[Click here to read Chapter Three]



Answers to the Exercises for Chapter Two

[Click here to return to the exercises]

[Click here to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

Here are some possible answers.

1. Nakrusa welcomed Delibis because he was now his guest.
2. Delibis didn't want to make the mat dirty.
3. He wanted Nakrusa to tell him a story.
4. The man didn't have a bull, so his cows couldn't have calves.
5. The man had a bull, so his cows could have calves.
6. He wanted to know if the man was generous.
7. He wanted to know if the man had a son.
8. Hariri wasn't a child. She needed to get married soon. They liked the look of Delibis.
9. She wanted to marry Delibis.

B. Who is talking?

1. "We have a very strange guest. Take him some water so that he can wash his feet," said **Nakrusa** to **Hariri**.
2. "Why don't you put your feet on the mat?" said **Hariri** to **Delibis**.
3. "This young man isn't crazy at all," said **Hariri** to **Nakrusa**.
4. "That wasn't the only thing," said **Nakrusa** to **Hariri**.
5. "The man with a hundred cows is rich now but he won't be rich for long," said **Hariri** to **Nakrusa**.
6. "What kind of man asks his guests to pay for their food?" said **Hariri** to **Nakrusa**.
7. "You have seen that strange young man sitting outside my hut," said **Nakrusa** to **Hariri's uncles**.
8. "Your daughter isn't a child now," said **Hariri's uncles** to **Nakrusa**.
9. "But it's all so strange. I can't understand it at all!" said **Nakrusa** to **Hariri's uncles**.
10. "He's the best young man I've ever seen," said **Hariri** to **herself**.

C. Which is the best title for this chapter ?

We think that *Hariri Shows That She Is Clever* is the best answer. Do you agree?

Chapter Three



Before you read the chapter

- Will Hariri be happy to marry the king's son?
- Would you like to marry a famous person? Or a rich person?

Now read the chapter

Chapter Three

The wedding was soon arranged. Delibis hurried back to his father, the king.

"Hariri is a wonderful girl!" he said. "The best girl in all Afar!"

"I am very happy for you, my son," the king said. "Send camels and cattle for the feast. Take some servants and all my armed men. Go to her house and marry her. Then bring her back to the palace."

"Oh no, father," said the prince. "She doesn't know that I'm the king's son. I don't want to tell her yet. I won't take any armed men with me. When I go to her house, I'll take only one servant. She'll think I'm a poor man. If she marries me, I'll know she really loves me."

The king smiled.

"Very well, my son," he said. "Go, but come back soon. I want to meet my new daughter."

It was a long way from the king's house to Nakrusa's village. The prince and his servant started their journey early in the morning. But they walked all day. The sun rose higher and higher in the sky. It became hotter and hotter.

"I'm very hot, and very, very thirsty," Delibis said. "I must have a drink."

"That's all right, sir," the servant said. "Look, we're coming to a water hole. You'll find some water there."

They came to the water hole and Delibis looked down into it. The hole was deep. The water was a long way down.

"Climb down and fill my water bottle," Delibis said to his servant.

"Oh no, sir, I can't do that," the servant said. "I don't want to fall and break my neck."

So Delibis climbed into the water hole himself. He drank the cool clean water and filled his bottle. Then he looked up at his servant.

"Pull me up!" he shouted.

But the servant laughed at him.

"Pull you up?" he said. "Why? You fool, I'm going to be the master now!"

He picked up a big stone and lifted it above his head.

"He's going to throw it down and kill me!" thought Delibis.

"Wait a minute!" he shouted. "Don't kill me! You'll never escape. Someone will soon find my body. They'll tell my father, and he'll send his men to kill you. I've got a better idea."

The servant put the stone down.

"What do you mean, a better idea?" he said.

"We'll change our clothes," said Delibis. "You take my clothes and I'll take yours. You can be the master, and I'll be the servant."

The servant laughed.

"That's a stupid idea," he said. "If I pull you out of the water hole, you'll kill me. I know you will."

"I won't kill you, I promise," said the prince. "And I won't tell anyone that you're my servant."

The servant picked up the stone again.

"I don't believe you," he said. "Get ready to die."

"Very well," the prince said, "but don't you want to marry the most beautiful girl in Afar? How will you find her father's house? Only I know the way."

The servant thought for a moment.

"Do you really promise?" he said. "You won't kill me? You'll be my servant and I'll be your master?"

"Yes," answered Delibis. "You know me. I always keep my promises."

"All right," the servant said, and he pulled Delibis out of the water hole.

They changed their clothes. The prince took the servant's, and the servant took the prince's. Then they walked on along the road.

At last they came to Nakrusa's village. Everything was ready for the wedding. The women were cooking a wonderful feast. Guests were arriving. People were singing and dancing.

Hariri couldn't wait to see the face of her dear Delibis. She looked out of her hut, but there was the servant, dressed in Delibis's clothes.

"This man isn't my husband," she said. "I've never seen him before."

"Don't be a fool," her father said. "Look at his clothes, his dagger and his shoes. He was wearing them when he came here before."

"But my husband is a clever man," said Hariri. "This man looks like a fool. Let me ask him some questions."

"Oh very well," Nakrusa said. "But be quick. The guests are waiting. The wedding must begin."

So Hariri came out of her hut and spoke to the servant.

"Tell me," she said, "what is the heaviest thing a man can carry?"

The servant frowned.

"The heaviest thing?" he said. "Um - let me think. A camel's heavy. No, a fallen tree is heavy. Ah! I know! A grinding stone! Yes, a grinding stone is the heaviest thing."

Hariri looked behind the servant.

"Who is that man, standing under the tree?" she wondered.

"Here's my next question," she said. "What is the sweetest food in the world?"

"The sweetest food," the servant said. "The sweetest food... Yes! I know the answer! The sweetest food is honey!"

Hariri was watching the man under the tree. He was coming towards her now.

"I have one more question," she said to the servant. "What is the most beautiful smell in the world?"

The servant shook his head.

"What a stupid question!" he said. "Flowers have the sweetest smell! Everyone knows that."

Delibis was standing behind his servant now. He smiled at Hariri.

"This man says he's my husband," said Hariri, "but he's a fool. His answers are stupid!"

Nakrusa was very angry.

"Daughter!" he said. "What are you saying? Look, the wedding guests are here. The feast is ready. Take this man. He is your husband!"

"Please, father," Hariri said. "I can't marry a fool. Let me talk to his servant."

She looked at Delibis. "Did you hear my questions?" she asked him.

"Yes," said Delibis, "and here are my answers. Your first question was, 'What is the heaviest thing a man can carry?' My answer is 'A promise.' A promise is a very, very heavy thing. For me, just now, it's the heaviest thing in the world. Next, you asked, 'What is the sweetest food?' I know the answer to that question. I was alone once in the desert. I had no food. I nearly died of hunger. Then I met a girl. She gave me a piece of dry bread. It was the sweetest food in the world, because I was so hungry.

Your third question was this: 'What is the most beautiful smell?' I can answer that one, too. It is the smell of the skin on the neck of your baby son. I don't have a son yet. But one day, God willing, He will give me a wife. And one day, God willing, she will give me a son."

Hariri laughed and clapped her hands.

"Did you hear that, Father?" she said. "This man is my husband!"



"But he's only a servant," Nakrusa said. "I'm tired of all this nonsense, Hariri. I'm your father. You must obey me. Marry the master, not the servant." Hariri went and stood beside Delibis.

"Master or servant, this is the man I will marry," she said.

The servant was frightened when he heard this. He fell down on his knees.

"Oh please, please forgive me," he said to Delibis. "I was a fool. Don't tell the king, your father."

"The king? Your father is the king?" Nakrusa said to Delibis. "My dear boy, this is wonderful! Hariri, my child, you are right, of course. This is the right man for you. I always knew you were a clever girl. You're going to marry a prince! Where are the singers? Is the food ready? Let the marriage begin!"

Exercises for Chapter Three

A. How much did you understand?

The characters in the story do things for different reasons.

Choose the reason for each action from the list below.

1. Why does Delibis take only one servant with him to the wedding?
 2. Why does Delibis's servant refuse to climb down the water hole?
 3. Why doesn't the servant kill Delibis?
 4. Why does Hariri want to ask the servant some questions?
 5. Why doesn't Delibis tell Hariri who he is?
 6. Why does Hariri laugh and clap her hands?
 7. Why does Nakrusa accept Delibis as his son-in-law?
- a) Because she recognises Delibis by his clever answers.
 - b) Because he learns that Delibis is a prince.
 - c) Because he doesn't want to fall and break his neck.

- d) Because he made a promise to his servant.
- e) Because he wants Hariri to think that he is a poor man.
- f) Because he wants to marry a beautiful girl.
- g) Because she wants to show that the servant is a fool.

B. Who is speaking?

Who says these sentences?

1. "I'm very hot, and very, very thirsty."
2. "The wedding must begin."
3. "Yes, a grinding stone is the heaviest thing."
4. "I always keep my promises."
5. "I've got a better idea."
6. "But he's a fool. His answers are stupid."
7. "What is the sweetest food in the world?"
8. "Send camels and cattle for the feast."
9. "You fool, I'm going to be the master now!"
10. "A promise is a very, very heavy thing."

C. Where did it happen?

Choose the right ending for each sentence from the list below.

1. Nakrusa's village was.....
 2. When the servant picked up the stone, Delibis was
 3. When Delibis arrived at the village, Hariri was
 4. When Hariri talked to the servant, Delibis was
 5. When Delibis smiled at Hariri, he was
- a) in the water hole.
 - b) in the hut.
 - c) a long way from the king's house.
 - d) under a tree.
 - e) standing behind the servant.

D. Which is the best title for this chapter?

1. The Wicked Servant
2. The Foolish Prince
3. A Girl's Crazy Questions

E. What do *you* think?

Was the prince right to keep his promise to his servant?

Was Nakrusa right to hurry the wedding?

Imagine that Hariri asks *you* her questions. Will you give the same answers, or different ones?



[\[Click here to read Chapter Four\]](#)

[\[Click here for the answers to the exercises\]](#)

Answers to the Exercises for Chapter Three

[Click to return to the exercises]

[Click to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

1/e. Why does Delibis take only one servant with him to the wedding?

Because he wants Hariri to think that he is a poor man.

2/c. Why does Delibis's servant refuse to climb down the water hole?

Because he doesn't want to fall and break his neck.

3/f. Why doesn't the servant kill Delibis?

Because he wants to marry a beautiful girl.

4/g. Why does Hariri want to ask the servant some questions?

Because she wants to show that the servant is a fool.

5/d. Why doesn't Delibis tell Hariri who he is?

Because he made a promise to his servant.

6/a. Why does Hariri laugh and clap her hands?

Because she recognises Delibis by his clever answers.

7/b. Why does Nakrusa accept Delibis as his son-in-law?

Because he learns that Delibis is a prince.

B. Who is speaking?

1. "I'm very hot, and very, very thirsty." **Delibis**
2. "The wedding must begin." **Nakrusa**
3. "Yes, a grinding stone is the heaviest thing." **The servant**
4. "I always keep my promises." **Delibis**
5. "I've got a better idea." **Delibis**
6. "But he's a fool. His answers are stupid." **Hariri**
7. "What is the sweetest food?" **Hariri**
8. "Send camels and cattle for the feast." **The king**
9. "You fool, I'm going to be the master now!" **The servant**
10. "A promise is a very, very heavy thing." **Delibis**

C. Where did it happen?

- 1/c. Nakrusa's village was **a long way from the king's house.**
 - 2/a. When the servant picked up the stone, Delibis was **in the water hole.**
 - 4/b. When Delibis arrived at the village, Hariri was **in the hut.**
 - 5/d. When Hariri talked to the servant, Delibis was **under a tree.**
 - 6/e. When Delibis smiled at Hariri, he was **standing behind the servant.**
- a) in the water hole.
 - b) in the hut.
 - c) a long way from the king's house.
 - d) under a tree.

e) standing behind the servant.

D. Which is the best title for this chapter?

We think that *The Wicked Servant* is the best title for the chapter. Do you agree?

Chapter Four



Before you read the chapter, what do you think will happen next?

- Will the king, Delibis's father, like Hariri?
- Will Hariri and Delibis be happy together?
- How do you think the story will end?

Now read the chapter

Chapter Four

The wedding was a happy one. Everyone ate and sang and danced. Only Delibis's servant wasn't happy. He went out of Nakrusa's compound and ran away. They never saw him again.

The next day, Delibis and Hariri began the journey back to the king's house. Everyone there was very happy to see them. The king liked his daughter-in-law at once.

"My son, you have chosen well," he said to Delibis. "Now I know that one day you will be a wise and happy ruler."

After a year, Hariri had a son. Delibis was very happy. He took his son in his arms. He smelled the skin on the baby's neck. It was the sweetest smell in the world for him.

Hariri smiled at him.

"I have given you a son," she said. "Now I want you to give me a promise."

"Yes, of course," said Delibis. "What is it?"

"I'm always frightened when you go out at night," Hariri said. "There are bad men in the town and the wadi is the most dangerous place. Please don't go to the wadi in the evening, when the people and the animals have returned to the town. Promise me."

"I promise," said Delibis.

And so Delibis and Hariri lived happily for many years. They had seven sons and seven daughters. The old king died, and Delibis became king. He was a wise and good ruler.

The years passed. One day, when Delibis and Hariri were old, a servant came to Delibis.

"The camels have returned from the wadi," he said, "but one of them is lost."

Delibis forgot his promise to Hariri.

"I'll go myself and look for it," he said.

It was dark outside. There was only a half moon in the sky. Everything was quiet. There was nobody at the wadi now. Everyone was at home in their own houses.

Suddenly, four men jumped out from behind a tree.

"Give us your money!" shouted one.

"Give us your clothes!" shouted another.



The third man came close to Delibis and looked at his face.

"Let him go," he said to the others. "It is the king!"

"What?" the fourth man said. "Yes, quick, let him go."

But the first two robbers laughed.

"Let him go?" they said. "Are you crazy? He'll send his soldiers after us. They'll catch us and kill us. No, we must kill him now."

They began to argue with each other.

"Kill him!" the first two robbers said.

"Let him go!" said the others.

The first two robbers were the strongest.

"We must kill you," they said to the king. "We want to save our own lives."

"Give me one last wish before I die," the king said.

"Very well," said the robbers. "What is it?"

"Go to my house," Delibis asked them. "Tell my wife that you saw me near the wadi. Say to her, 'There's a black cow in my herd of cattle. Its horns are too long. It will put out the eyes of the other cows. Take it out of the herd.'"

"Is that all?" asked the third robber.

"No," answered the king. "Tell her this: 'There's a black mat on the roof of my house. Take it away. Put a white mat there in its place.'"

"Is there anything else?" said the fourth robber.

"Yes," Delibis answered. "I have four camels. Tell my wife to keep two of them. But tell her to let two of them go."

"Have you finished now?" the first robber said.

"Yes," said Delibis.

"Then you must die," the first robber said.

And so the robbers killed Delibis. They took his body and threw it under a tree.

"Come on," the first two robbers said. "We must run away."

"No," said the third and fourth robbers. "We must take the king's message to his wife. We promised."

"Are you crazy?" the first robber said. "She'll know that we killed him. Her sons will kill us."

"But she doesn't know that he's dead," the third robber said. "Nobody knows that he's dead."

So the four robbers went to Delibis's house. They asked to see the queen. She was talking with her seven sons. They were all carrying spears.

The first robber walked boldly up to the queen.

"I have a message for you," he said, "from your husband, the king."

"Where did you meet him?" Hariri asked.

"At the wadi," the robber answered.

The queen put her hand over her mouth. Her eyes opened wide and she looked at the robbers. Her sons moved towards her.

"Is my husband well?" she asked.

"He's fine," laughed the robber. "We left him under a tree. He'll be home soon."

"And what was his message?" Hariri asked.

The first robber told her the words of the king.

When he finished, Hariri said to her sons, "Catch these men!"

"Why?" her eldest son asked. "They have only brought some messages from our father."

The robbers were already running out of the compound.

"Quick! Quick! Don't let them escape!" shouted Hariri.

Her seven sons ran after the robbers and caught them. They brought them back to the queen. She was crying.

"What's the matter, Mother?" her eldest son asked.

"Didn't you understand your father's message?" said Hariri. "Listen, this is what it means. 'Take the black cow out of the herd of cattle,' he said. 'It will put out the eyes of the other cows.' This means that your father doesn't want the crows to eat his eyes. He wants us to bury his body."

"You mean our father's dead?" her sons asked.

"Yes," said Hariri. "This is his second message. 'Take away the black mat on the roof. Put a white one there.' He is dead and he wants me to put white clothes on for him."

"It was these men who killed my father!" shouted one of the sons, and all of them lifted their spears.

"Wait!" said Hariri. "There was one more message. 'Keep two of my camels,' your father said, 'but let two of them go.' This means that two of these men killed him, but two tried to save his life."

The robbers fell down on to the ground.

"You know everything!" the first robber said. "You're right. It was my friend and I who killed the king. These two men tried to save him."

"Kill the murderers!" shouted the brothers, and they killed the first two robbers with their spears and daggers.

Then the third and fourth robbers took Hariri and her sons to the wadi. They found the body of Delibis and brought him home. Hariri put on white clothes and her sons buried their father.

"He was a great king," all the people said. "Why? Because he was married to a good and clever woman."

[Click here to listen to the whole story]

Exercises

A. How much did you understand?

Delibis and Hariri got married, and they were very happy.

Put these sentences in the right order.

1. "Now I want you to give me a promise."
2. The old king died, and Delibis became king.
3. After a year Hariri had a son.

After many years, Delibis forgot his promise to Hariri, and went to the wadi at night.

Put these sentences in the right order.

4. "Give me one last wish before I die."
5. Suddenly, four men jumped out from behind a tree.
6. "Let him go. It's the king!"

The king asks the robbers to give a message to his wife.

Put these sentences in the right order.

7. "I have four camels. Tell my wife to keep two of them."
8. "There's a black mat on the roof of my house."
9. "There's a black cow in my herd of cattle."

Hariri talks to the robbers. Put these sentences in the right order.

10. "This means that two of these men killed him, but two tried to save his life."
11. "Where did you meet him?"
12. "You know everything!"

B. Who?

Who said these sentences?

1. "There are bad men in the town."
2. "The camels have returned from the wadi."
3. "We want to save our own lives."
4. "We must take the king's message to his wife."
5. "Where did you meet him?"
6. "We left him under a tree."
7. "Catch these men!"
8. "You know everything!"
9. "Kill the murderers!"
10. "He was a great king."

C. What, where, when?

Find the answers to these questions in the story.

1. When did Hariri have a son?
2. Where was the most dangerous place?
3. Where was everyone, when Delibis went to the wadi?
4. What did Delibis go out to look for?
5. Where did the robbers put Delibis's body?
6. Where did the robbers go when they had killed Delibis?
7. What were Hariri's seven sons carrying?
8. What did Hariri put on, when Delibis died?

D. What do you think is the best title for this chapter?

The Four Robbers

The Last Promise

The King's Sons

The Clever Queen

E. What do *you* think?

Did you like the end of this story?

Which is your favourite part of this story? Why do you like it?
Who is your favourite character in the story?

F. Riddles and Proverbs

There are many "riddles" in the story of The Good Wife. A "riddle" is a word game. In a riddle, there are two meanings, one surface meaning, and one deeper meaning.

Do you know any riddles?

A "proverb" is a wise saying that people like to repeat. In English there is a proverb that says: *Behind every great man there is a great woman.* Do you have this proverb in your language? What does it mean? Do you agree with it?

Many languages in Ethiopia have a wonderful tradition of riddles and sayings. Ask your parents, grandparents or an elder in your community to tell you some riddles. Write them down in a notebook to make a collection



[Click here for the answers to the exercises]
Answers to the Exercises for Chapter Four

[Click here to return to the exercises]
[Click here to return to the story]

A. How much did you understand?

The right order of these sentences is 3, 1, 2
After a year Hariri had a son.
"Now I want you to give me a promise."
The old king died, and Delibis became king.

The right order of these sentences is 5,6,4
Suddenly, four men jumped out from behind a tree.
"Let him go. It's the king!"
"Give me one last wish before I die."

The right order of these sentences is 9,8,7

"There's a black cow in my herd of cattle."
 "There's a black mat on the roof of my house."
 "I have four camels. Tell my wife to keep two of them."

The right order of these sentences is 11,10,12

"Where did you meet him?"
 "You know everything!"
 "This means that two of these men killed him, but two tried to save his life."

B. Who?

1. "There are bad men in the town."
Hariri
2. "The camels have returned from the wadi."
A servant
3. "We want to save our own lives."
The first two robbers
4. "We must take the king's message to his wife."
The third and fourth robbers.
5. "Where did you meet him?"
Hariri
6. "We left him under a tree."
The first robber
7. "Catch these men!"
Hariri
8. "You know everything!"
The first robber
9. "Kill the murderers!"
The brothers
10. "He was a great king."
All the people

C. What, where, when?

Find the answers to these questions in the story.

1. When did Hariri have a son?
After a year
2. Where was the most dangerous place?
The wadi
3. Where was everyone, when Delibis went to the wadi?
At home in their own houses
4. What did Delibis go out to look for?
A camel
5. Where did the robbers put Delibis's body?
Under a tree
6. Where did the robbers go when they had killed Delibis?

Delibis's house

7. What were Hariri's seven sons carrying?

Spears

8. What did Hariri put on, when Delibis died?

White clothes