

The Arabian Nights

Andrew Lang

1898

Literal Questions

- What did Sinbad and his men eat as they walked to the monster's castle? [Various herbs and fruits]
- What did Sinbad see when he first entered the castle? [Human bones and roasting spits] Draw your answer.
- Who did the monster kill? [The captain] Why? [He was the fattest to eat]

Deductive Questions

- How do we know this monster is evil? Make a list with your teacher. [How it looks, the actions it takes]
- Are Sinbad and his men scared? [Yes] How do you know? ['Frozen in horror', they tremble] On a scale of 1-10, how scared do you think they are? Why? [High – Adventurers, so they know true fear]
- How do we know that the monster eats people before it kills the captain? [The huge pile of human bones and nearby roasting spits]

Inferential Questions

- Why do you think Sinbad and his men first went to the monster's castle? [To seek help, food, shelter]
- Do you think the monster has lived in this castle a long time? [Yes – the fact that the pile of bones is huge suggests it has eaten many crew over a long period of time]
- Why do you think the monster put Sinbad down and did not eat him? [He was skinny, the monster hungered for a meal, not a snack]

Evaluative Questions

- Is this tale meant for younger or older children? [Older] How do you know? [Content scarier and the manner of the captain's death]
- Why do you think Andrew Lang sets this scene as the sun is setting? [A symbol of fading hope, darkness of the unknown] Do you think this was a good idea? Why? Why not?
- What do you think happened before this event takes place? Do you think Sinbad and his men will escape?

Essential Vocabulary

- Draw the monster's face. How many eyes does it have? [1] What name do we give this type of monster? [Cyclops]
- Highlight the words 'trembling' and 'shivering'. Both mean to shake, but how do they differ? [Tremble = to shake with fear, shiver = to shake because of the cold]
- Find the word 'weary'. Box it. On a scale of 1-10, how tired do you think this word is? Walk wearily back to your desk. How heavy are your steps? How exhausted are you? How else do you feel?
- Where in a house would you find a loft? Draw your answer. Now find the word 'lofty' in paragraph one. Write it onto your wipe board. Underline the word loft. Where do you think the castle has been built:
 - a) On a hill [A]
 - b) In a valley
 - c) At the foot of a mountainWhy? [To display its beauty of the castle and power of the Cyclops]
- The colour of the castle doors was ebony. What colour is this? [Black]
- Can you spot the word 'threshold' in paragraph one? Go and stand in the threshold of your classroom. Write your own definition as to what this word means.