

earlyreads

Level
5

Nasreddin Ten Stories

Retold by **Jennifer Gascoigne**

Illustrated by **Tullia Masinari**



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1

Nasreddin and the coat

It was 8 o'clock in the morning. Nasreddin was upstairs. His wife was downstairs in the kitchen.

'Your breakfast's ready!' she called. Two minutes later she heard a loud noise in the hall.

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

'Oh my goodness! What's that noise?' she said.

She dropped the plates and ran into the hall. Nasreddin was there. He was on the floor at the bottom of the stairs.

'What was that loud noise?' she asked. 'Are you alright, Nasreddin?'

'Yes, I'm fine, my dear,' he replied. 'It was my coat. It fell down the stairs.'

'But coats don't make a noise!' said his wife. 'I heard a loud THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!'

'Well... you see, my dear,' said Nasreddin, 'I was inside it at the time.'



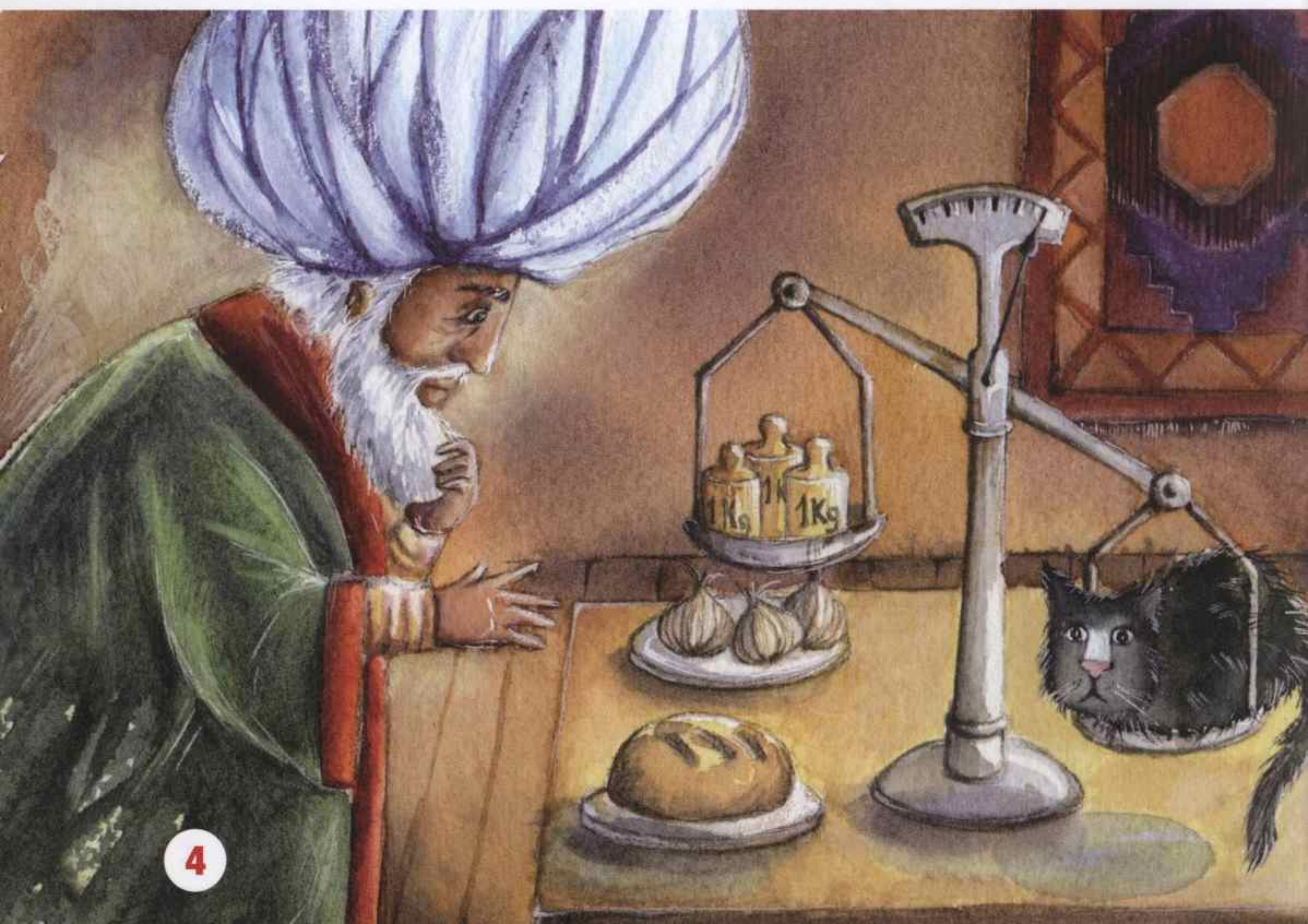
2

Nasreddin and the meat

Nasreddin bought three kilos of meat at the butcher's.

He took it home and gave it to his wife. Then he went to work.

His wife immediately went out and called her friends. 'Come and have lunch with me today!' she said. When Nasreddin arrived home that evening, his wife put a plate of bread and onions on the table.





‘But where’s the meat that I gave you this morning?’ asked Nasreddin.

‘The cat ate it,’ replied his wife.

Nasreddin immediately went and got the scales. He picked up the cat and put it on the scales. It weighed exactly three kilos!

‘This is very strange!’ he said. ‘If the cat weighs exactly three kilos, where’s the meat? And if this is the meat, where’s the cat?’



3

Nasreddin and the beggar

One day Nasreddin saw some water on his bedroom floor. He looked up. 'Oh dear!' he said.

'There's a hole in the roof. I must repair it.'

He took his ladder, climbed up it and started work.

Then a beggar arrived.

'Nasreddin!' he called.

'What do you want?' asked Nasreddin.

'Come down here and I'll tell you!'

Nasreddin wasn't very happy, but he climbed down the ladder to listen to the beggar.

'Well?' said Nasreddin. 'What do you want?'

'I'm a poor man. Can you give me some money?'

'Come with me!' said Nasreddin.

He started to climb up the ladder and the beggar followed him. When they were both on the roof, Nasreddin turned to him and said, 'No!'



4 Nasreddin and the professor

A professor made an appointment with Nasreddin to talk about a difficult problem.

‘I’ll come to your house at 12 o’clock tomorrow,’ he said.

When he arrived at Nasreddin’s house, he knocked on the door. Nobody answered. He knocked again but there was still no reply. He looked through the windows but he couldn’t see anybody.

The professor was angry. He took a piece of chalk and wrote the word IDIOT on the door in big letters.

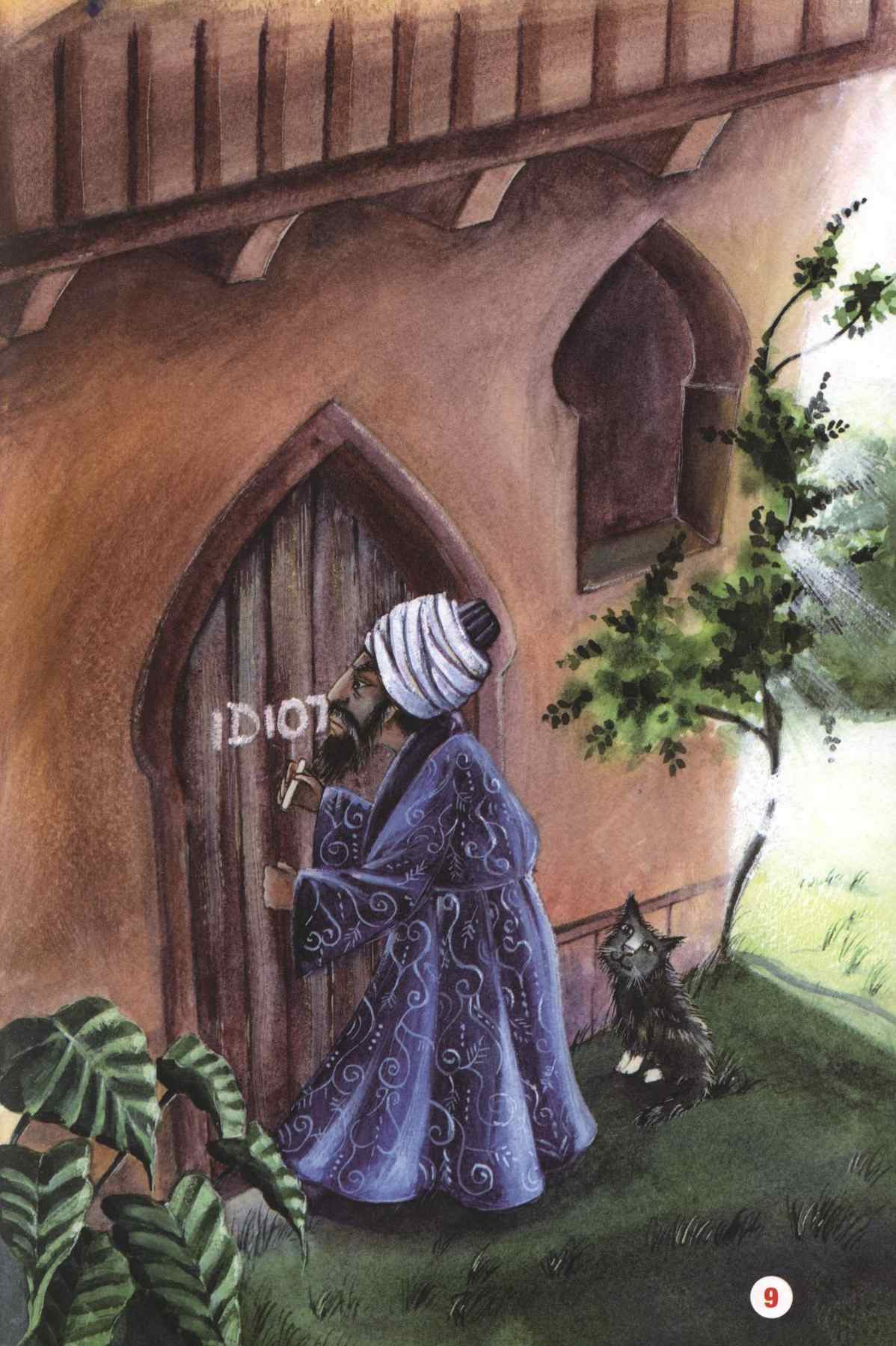
Nasreddin returned home later and he saw it.

‘Oh dear!’ he said. ‘My appointment with the professor!’

He immediately ran to the professor’s house.

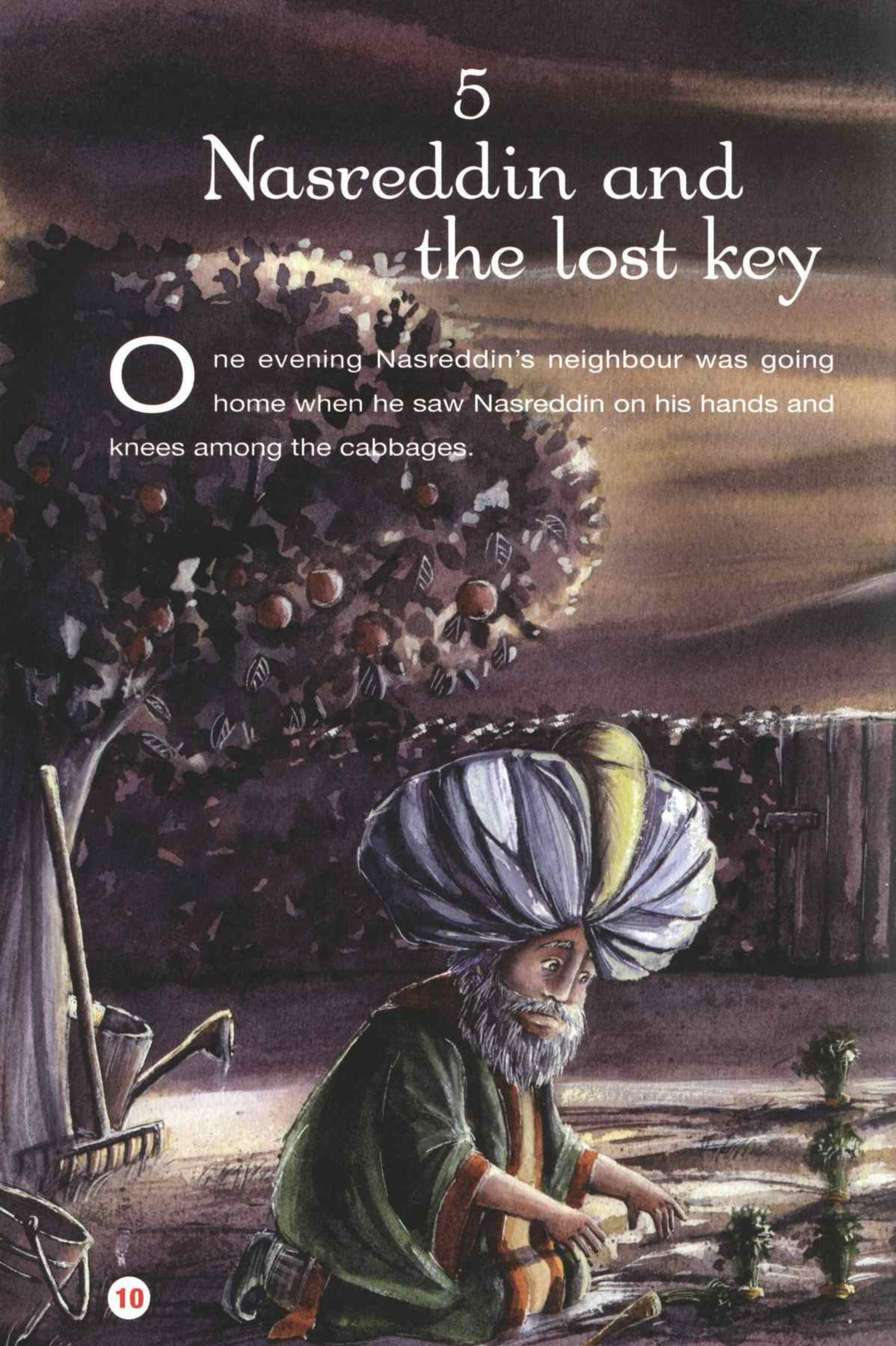
‘I’m very sorry,’ he said. ‘I completely forgot our appointment. Please forgive me. I remembered it only when I saw your name on my door!’





5 Nasreddin and the lost key

One evening Nasreddin's neighbour was going home when he saw Nasreddin on his hands and knees among the cabbages.



‘What are you doing, neighbour?’ he asked.

‘I’m looking for my key,’ replied Nasreddin.

‘I’ll help you,’ said the man, and he started looking for the key too. There was a full moon that night, so they could see very well. They looked among the cabbages and among the onions. They looked among the carrots, too, but they didn’t find the key.

‘Where exactly did you lose your key?’ the man asked.

‘In my house,’ replied Nasreddin.

‘Then why are we looking for it out here in the garden?’

‘Because there is more light out here than in my house,’ said Nasreddin.



6 Nasreddin and the bear hunt

One day the Sultan invited Nasreddin to go on a bear hunt with him.

Nasreddin was very afraid of bears but he couldn't say 'no' to the Sultan.

'Thank you,' he replied politely. 'I'll be at the palace early tomorrow morning.'



Nasreddin was away for five days. When he returned to his village, his neighbour asked him, 'So, what was the bear hunt like?'

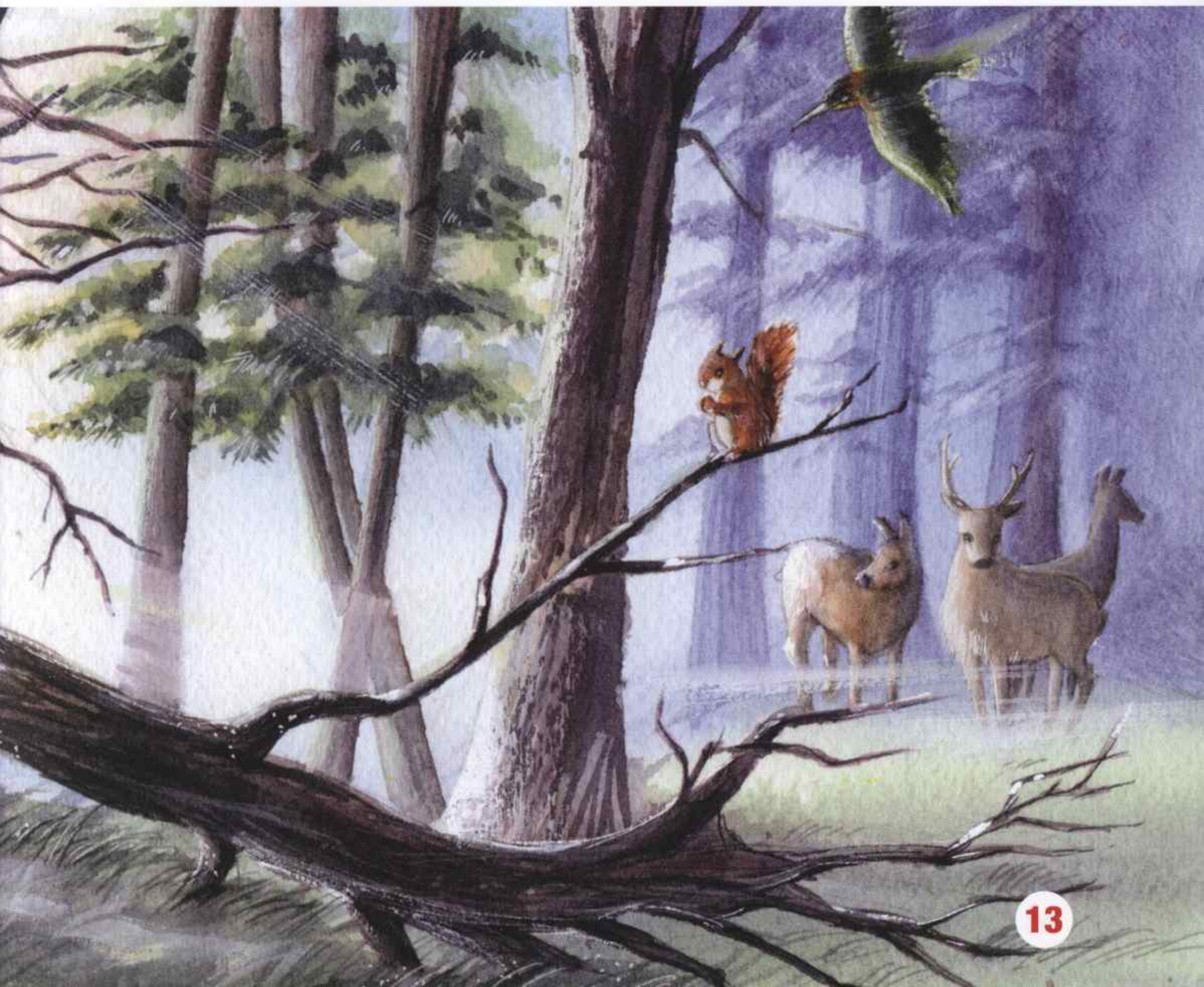
'It was fantastic!' replied Nasreddin.

'How many bears did you see?' asked the neighbour.

'None!' replied Nasreddin.

'Then why did you say the bear hunt was fantastic?'

Nasreddin smiled at him and said, 'Because when the Sultan invites you to go on a bear hunt and you're afraid of bears, *not* seeing any bears *is* fantastic!'



7

Nasreddin and the crow

Nasreddin brought home a piece of soap one day and gave it to his wife.

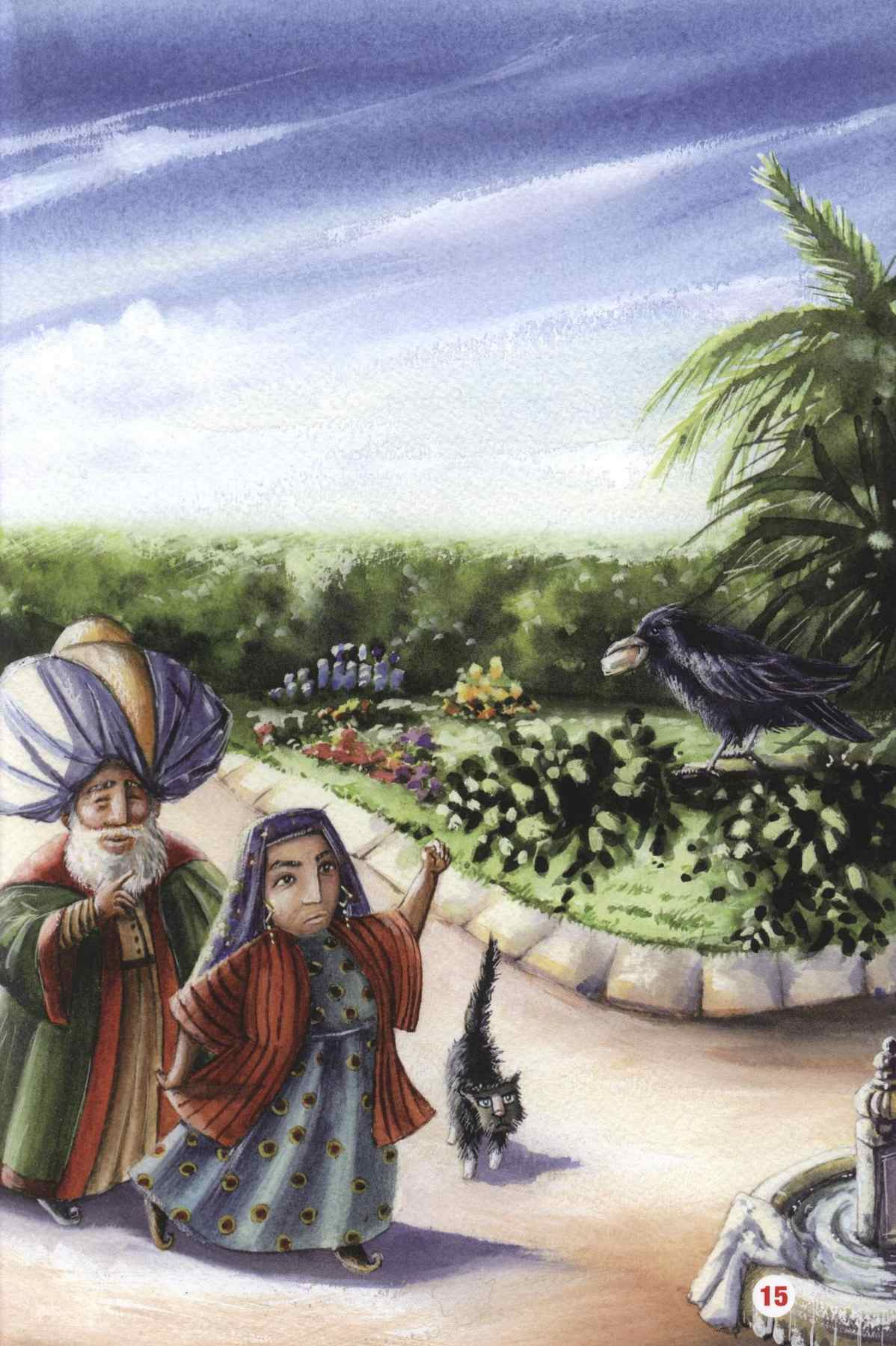
‘Here’s some soap, my dear. Can you wash my shirt, please?’

His wife went into the garden and started to wash the shirt. Suddenly, a big black crow flew down, took the soap and flew away. Nasreddin’s wife looked up and saw the bird in a tree. She shouted at it angrily. Nasreddin heard her and ran out of the house.

‘Are you alright, my dear?’ he asked.

‘That crow took my soap!’ she said.

Nasreddin looked at the bird and smiled. ‘Look at the colour of my shirt, and look at the colour of that bird!’ he said to his wife. ‘He obviously needs the soap more than I do!’



8

Nasreddin and the museum guide

One day Nasreddin was in a museum with some tourists. The museum guide showed them a pot and said, 'This pot is five thousand years old.'

'Excuse me,' said Nasreddin politely, 'but I think it's five thousand and four years old.'

The tourists were surprised but the guide was a little angry. He took them to another room and showed them some gold coins.

'These coins are three thousand years old,' he told them.

'Three thousand and four years old,' said Nasreddin.

Now the guide was very angry. 'How can you know the exact date?' he asked.

Nasreddin smiled and replied, 'It's very easy. You said the coins were three thousand years old when I was here four years ago!'



9

Nasreddin and the woodcutter

One day Nasreddin went to a friend who worked in a forest and said 'I want to be a woodcutter.'

'But woodcutters must be young and strong,' said his friend.

'Try me!' said Nasreddin.

'Alright,' said his friend. 'There are five hundred trees in that field over there. Go and cut them down.'

Three days later, Nasreddin came back.

'How many trees did you cut down?' his friend asked.

'All of them,' replied Nasreddin.

And it was true. There weren't any trees in the field. His friend was surprised.

'Where did you learn to cut down trees so fast?' he asked.

'In the Sahara desert,' said Nasreddin.

'But there aren't any trees in the Sahara desert,' said his friend.

'There aren't any *now*!' replied Nasreddin.



10 Nasreddin and the rock

Nasreddin had a lot of friends. Some of them were old and some of them were young. One day he said to them, 'Old men are more intelligent than young men.'

'That's true,' his old friends replied. 'But young men are



stronger than old men,' said one of his young friends.

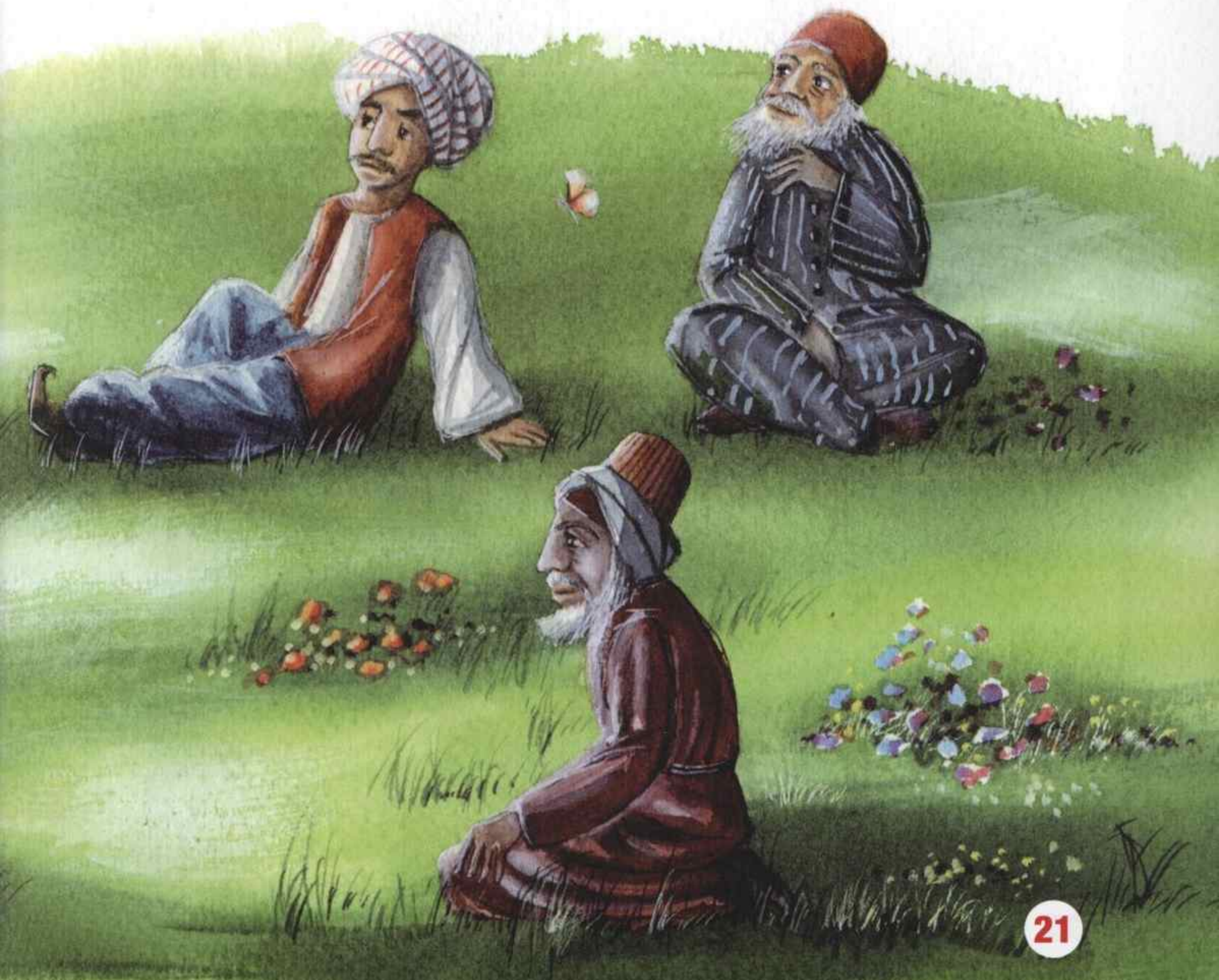
'I don't agree,' said Nasreddin. 'I am still as strong as when I was a young man.'

'How is that possible?' his friends asked. 'Explain that, please, Nasreddin!'

'Well,' he said. 'Can you see that big rock over there?'

They all looked at the rock.

'When I was a young man, I tried to move it but I couldn't,' explained Nasreddin. 'I am an old man now and when I try to move it, I *still* can't!'



Who did what?

1 Complete the questions with these verbs.

showed sat asked wrote fell worked
invited weighed helped washed

- 1 Who down the stairs?
- 2 Who three kilos?
- 3 Who Nasreddin look for his key?
- 4 Who for some money?
- 5 Who 'IDIOT' on Nasreddin's door?
- 6 Who Nasreddin to go bear hunting?
- 7 Who a shirt?
- 8 Who in a tree?
- 9 Who some tourists an old pot?
- 10 Who in a forest?

2 Answer the questions. Write the number of the question next to the picture.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



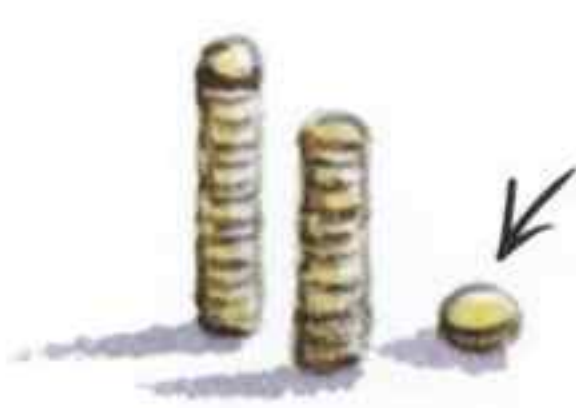
J

Word square

3 The names of the people and things in the pictures are all in the word square. Find the names! They can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. They can be from left to right or from right to left.



L	W	Q	S	U	L	T	A	N	W
C	A	B	B	A	G	E	F	O	O
K	D	R	H	A	O	B	O	T	R
E	T	E	V	S	M	D	X	H	C
Y	R	A	F	Y	C	O	I	N	W
V	A	D	C	U	X	A	Z	R	S
S	G	L	T	J	B	N	L	D	C
U	G	T	A	O	R	E	T	E	Y
M	E	S	O	A	P	T	A	U	S
R	B	E	C	I	O	V	N	R	C



Rhyming pairs

4 Match the 2 words that rhyme.

bears

knees

bird

go

climb

date

word

door

front

flew

said

hunt

please

crow

four

bread

plate

time

true

stairs

Find the differences

5 Find the 10 differences between the two pictures.

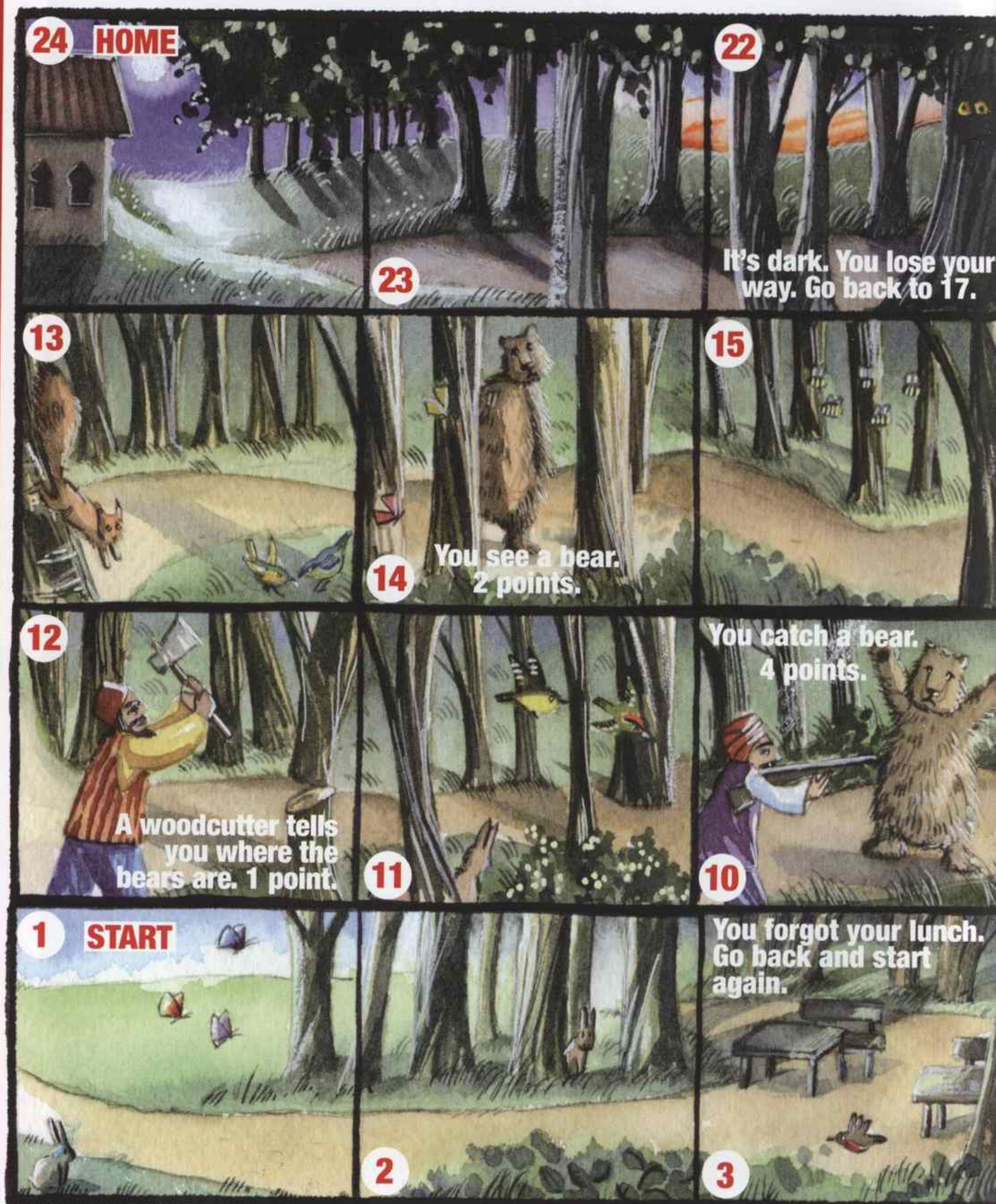


Talk about your answers like this:

In picture 1 Nasreddin's shirt is blue but in picture 2 it's green.

Board game

6 Play this board game with a friend or friends. You are going on a bear hunt. You need a dice and



counters. You must throw a 6 to start and the exact number to get home. The winner is the person who comes home with the most points.



History quiz

7 How old are these buildings?

- 1 The Great Mosque of Cordoba, Spain



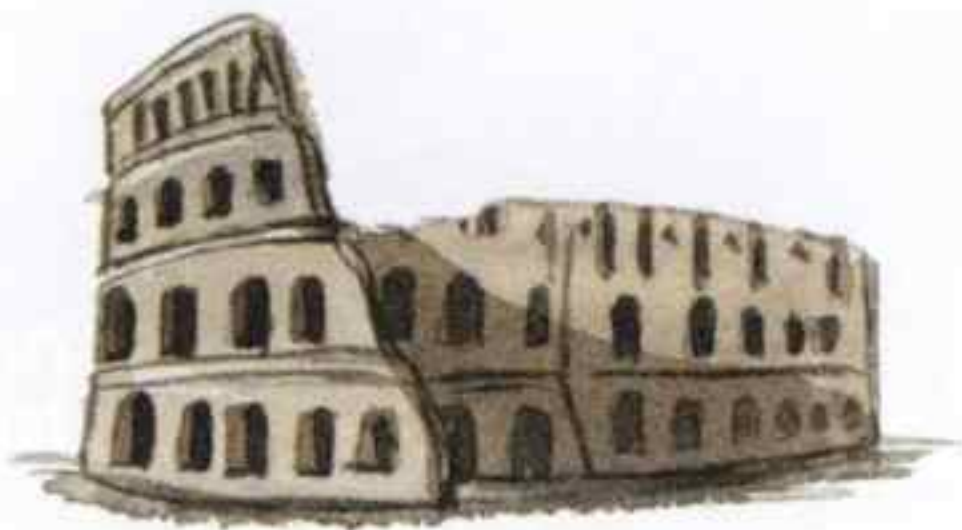
- A 1,220 years old
- B 2,220 years old
- C 3,220 years old

- 4 Stonehenge, England



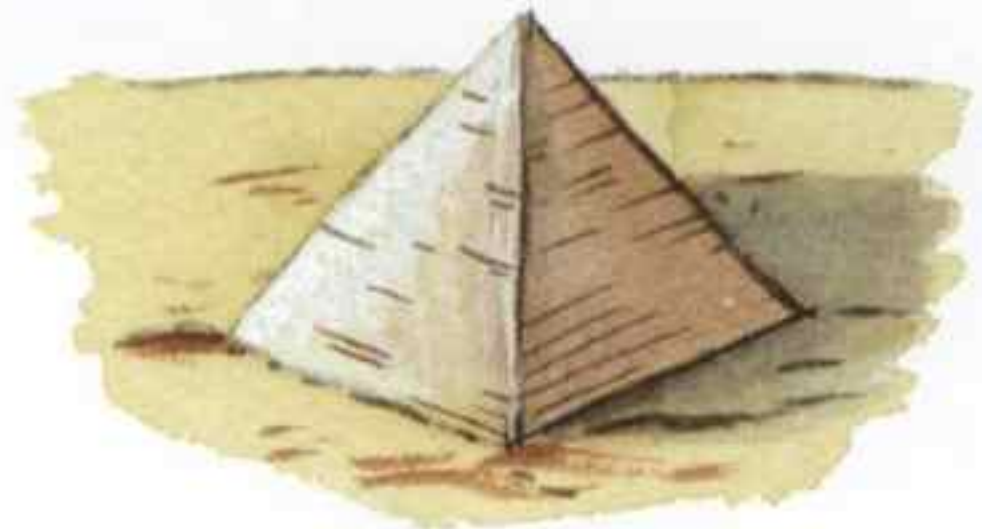
- A 2,000 years old
- B 3,000 years old
- C 4,000 years old

- 2 The Colosseum, Rome



- A 940 years old
- B 1,940 years old
- C 2,940 years old

- 5 The Pyramid of Khufu, Egypt



- A 4,500 years old
- B 6,500 years old
- C 8,500 years old

- 3 The Great Wall of China



- A 1,220 years old
- B 2,220 years old
- C 3,220 years old

- 6 The Taj Mahal, India



- A 160 years old
- B 360 years old
- C 560 years old

Picture Dictionary

meat : 

bread : 

onions : 

cabbages : 

carrots : 

scales : 

pot : 

plate : 

soap : 

bedroom : 

hall : 

kitchen : 

stairs : 

upstairs : 

downstairs : 

roof : 

floor : 

key : 

ladder : 

beggar : 

woodcutter : 

professor : 

neighbour : 

tourist : 

guide : 

butcher : 

hands :



knees :



field :



desert :



forest :



rock :



young :



old :



strong :



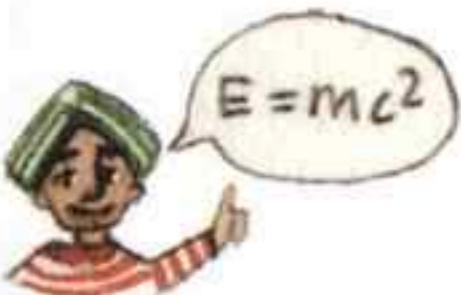
angry :



happy :



intelligent :



poor :



bear :



crow :



coat :



shirt :



repair (repaired) :



climb (climbed) :



weigh (weighed) :



fall (fell) :



fly (flew) :



among :



inside :



through :



over there :



Key

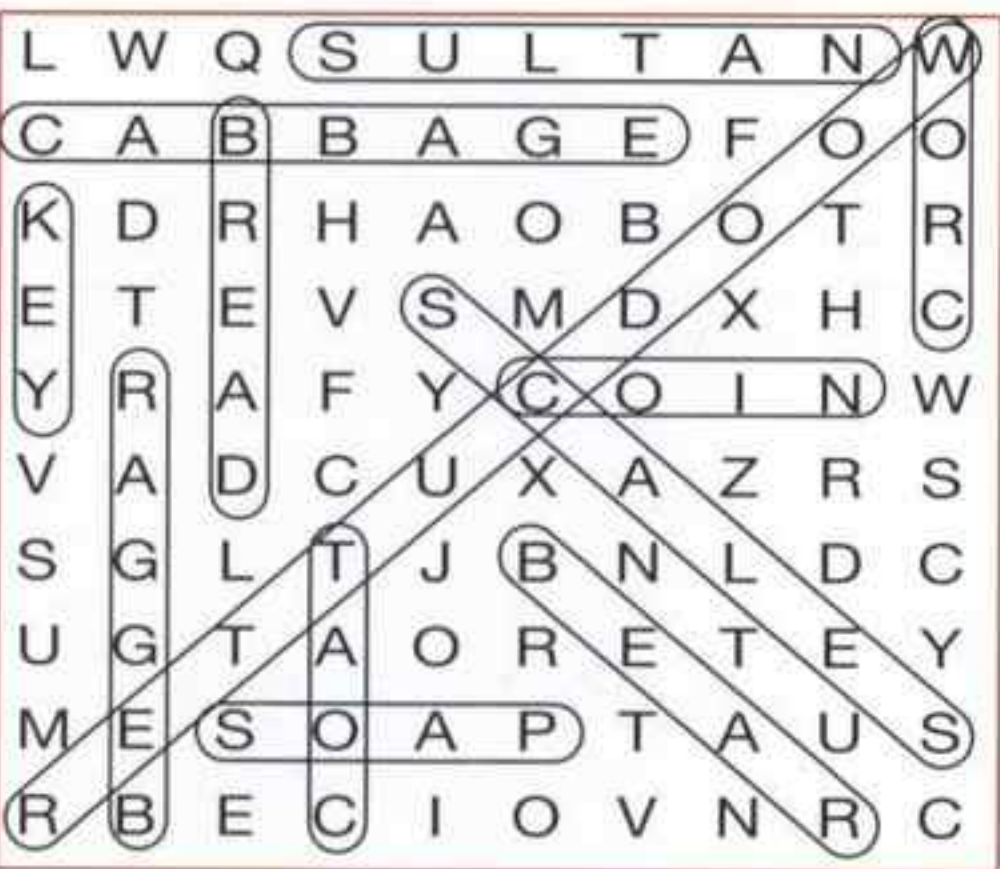
Activity 1:

1 fell 2 weighed 3 helped 4 asked
5 wrote 6 invited 7 washed 8 sat
9 showed 10 worked

Activity 2:

A2, B1, C7, D4, E8, F9, G5, H6, I3, J10

Activity 3:



Activity 4:

bears/stairs, climb/time, door/four,
hunt/front, bread/said, plate/date,
word/bird, flew/true, go/crow,
knees/please

Activity 5:



- In picture 1 Nasreddin's shirt is blue but in picture 2 it's green.
- In picture 1 there are 6 crows in the trees but in picture 2 there are 7.
- In picture 1 the woodcutter is wearing a long brown coat, but in picture 2 he's wearing a short red jacket.
- In picture 1 Nasreddin's house has got 5 windows but in picture 2 it's got 4.
- In picture 1 Nasreddin's wife is washing carrots but in picture 2 Nasreddin's wife is washing a shirt.

- In picture 1 a cat is sitting near Nasreddin's wife but in picture 2 there isn't a cat.
- In picture 1 there are cabbages in the garden but in picture 2 there are onions.
- In picture 1 there's a ladder near the house but in picture 2 there isn't.
- In picture 1 there aren't any flowers in the field but in picture 2 there are.
- In picture 1 there isn't a cat near the woodcutter but in picture 2 there is.

Activity 7:

1A, 2B, 3B, 4C, 5A, 6B

The name of our character has different spellings in different countries: you can find Nasreddin, Nasrettin, Nasrudin and Nasruddin.



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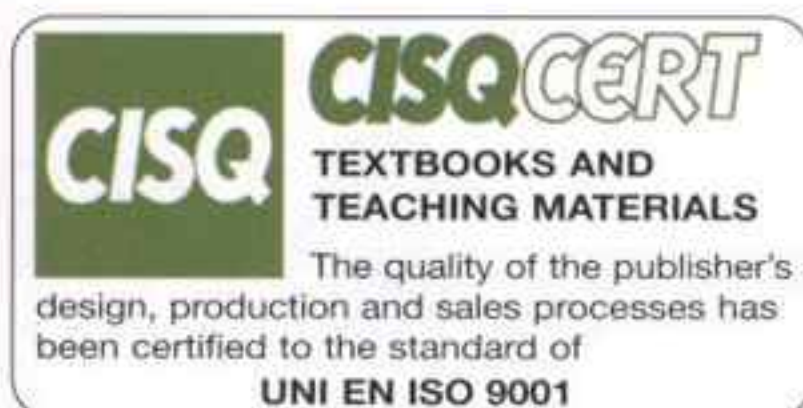
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Nasreddin does and says some very strange things. Why does he look for his key in the garden when he lost it in the house? Why does he want to weigh his cat? Why does he invite a beggar onto his roof? But perhaps Nasreddin is more clever than he seems! Read this collection of ten amusing stories and decide!

- Beautiful illustrations captivate the imagination and make understanding easy
- Games and language activities after the stories make practising English fun
- A picture dictionary at the end of the book encourages vocabulary acquisition
- An audio recording of the stories in full is downloadable free of charge from the Black Cat website: www.blackcat-cideb.com
- Playscripts of the stories are available on the website

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