



Chardae's Thousand and One Nights— A Story from Iraq

CURRICULUM IDEAS for parents and teachers

Math

- If each story took 10 minutes to tell, how many minutes/hours/days did Chardae speak? What if each took 15 minutes? 30 minutes?
- How many weeks is 1001 nights? How many months? Years? How many times could Chardae have told all her stories in your lifetime?

Reading

- Read some of Chardae's 1001 stories. See www.mercycorps.org/pdfs/1063133775.pdf for related curriculum ideas.
- Read other stories about love/creative thinking/kindness at www.storiestogrowby.com.

Writing

- Did Chardae know that her plan would work? Do you think she had a backup plan? What backup plan would you have had if you were her?
- Write about who you would like to be/not like to be in this story. Tell why.
- If you were Chardae, would you have volunteered to marry the Sultan? Why/why not?

Science

- Study the "Hanging Gardens" found in Iraq. See www.mercycorps.org/pdfs/1063133622.pdf for more information. How do these plants grow? See if you can grow plants that way.

Geography

- Where in Iraq could this story have taken place?
- What countries are near Iraq? Where might Chardae have travelled to learn her tales?

Music

- Listen and move or draw to Iraqi music. Visit www.iraqiart.com.
- Listen to a recording of "Sheherazade" by Nikkolai Rimsky-Korsakov. It can be found online at www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/classical/listen/proms_rimsky.shtml. Can you identify parts of the story? Sheherazade (Chardae)'s voice is played by a solo violin.

Art

- Make paper mosaic pictures in the "Kashee Karbala'ee" (Karbala tile) style and colors.
- Visit www.SadradeenAmeen.com to see art by an Iraqi artist.

Culture

- Make and taste "Dates Halva" (Iraq has 22 million date trees!), or Kubbeh, kebabs, baklava, or samoons. *The Cooking of the Eastern Mediterranean* by Wolfert can help!
- Visit www.al-iraq.org/culture.htm for quick facts and cultural links.
- Visit www.geocities.com/iraqinfo for basic information about different aspects of Iraq.
- Visit www.mercycorps.org/items/1615/ to find information and lesson plans on Iraq.

Treasure Bearer

- Make a card and/or write a letter for someone you love, telling them so and why.
- Plan a "Just because I love you" surprise for someone on a day other than Valentine's Day.