



All about Genies!

For most people, the best part of the story of Aladdin is the magical genie. There can't be many of us who haven't at one time or another wished that we too could find a genie that would make our wishes come true. Unfortunately for us, genies are just imaginary creatures that don't really exist. Or are they? Although modern science does not accept the existence of genies, in the same way as it doesn't believe in ghosts, there are many people who do believe in them and even some who say they have come into contact with them!

What is a genie?

The word genie is derived from the Arabic word *jinn*. Our idea of a genie is usually that of a magical servant in stories, a fictitious character. According to the Islamic religion, however, the *jinn* are actually a very real race of invisible, spirit-like beings who exist all over the world, living their own lives and very rarely coming into contact with humans.



Some things you should know about genies!

According to legend:

- Genies are made of 'smokeless fire' (usually translated in modern terms as 'energy'), unlike humans who are made from organic matter, or angels who are made of light.
- Genies can be good or evil, just like people. The good ones usually mind their own business and don't affect humans much, except to help them occasionally. The bad ones, however, can get up to all manner of mischief, including possessing people or making them ill!
- Genies are very like humans in some ways. They have their own nations and tribes and even families and often live in houses, although they also live in the wild. They also eat and drink and fall in love just like us!

In fact sometimes genies are said to fall in love with humans, in which case they usually appear before their beloved in human form and ask them out! Whether they tell their new partners that they are genies or not probably depends on how they think they'll react. A child of a human and a genie is said to have magical abilities.





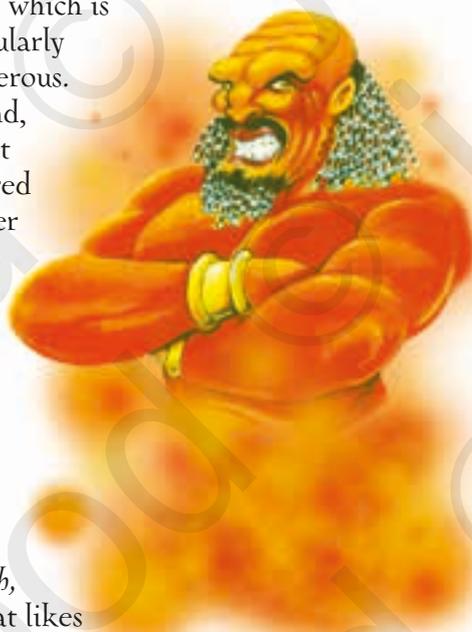
- In other ways, however, genies are very different from humans. They have magical powers, which allow them to change their appearance and travel great distances in a very short time. Many genies take the form of animals.
- In ancient times, King Solomon is said to have been able to control genies and tradition has it that even today, people with special wisdom can capture genies and force them to do their bidding, hence the idea of the genie and its power to grant wishes.



Beware the ifreet and the arwaah!

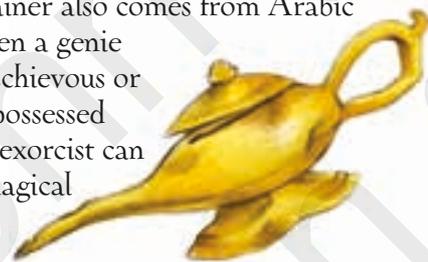
In some versions of the Aladdin story we come across the *ifreet*, which is described as particularly powerful and dangerous.

According to legend, an *ifreet* is the most dangerous and feared type of genie. Other types of genie have special names as well: a lesser evil genie is called a *shaitan*, and one that lives amongst people is called an *aamar*. One to particularly watch out for is an *arwaah*, which is a genie that likes most of all to pick upon children and young people!



The genie of the lamp

The idea that a genie can be found living in a lamp or other small container also comes from Arabic legend. It is said that when a genie has been particularly mischievous or harmful, or when it has possessed someone, a wise man or exorcist can use trickery or certain magical spells to capture the genie and imprison it in a lamp or bottle. The container is then buried or thrown out to sea so that no one can accidentally open it and let the genie escape. Of course, occasionally they get found...



And finally, do genies really exist? Whether genies really exist is, of course, as hard to answer as the question of whether ghosts really exist. Some people believe in them, and others don't. Over one billion Muslims in the world do believe in them, and many westerners with an interest in the supernatural suggest that eastern legends about genies are very similar to European myths about fairies, goblins and other spirits. There are even some people who think that people who claim to see UFOs and aliens are actually seeing genies!

Whatever the truth, they certainly make interesting characters in the story of Aladdin!

Listening in on heaven

According to another tradition, some genies try to make their way up to heaven to listen in on conversations between angels. If they get close enough they can hear about what is going to happen in the future and use their knowledge for mischief. If they are seen they are attacked with meteors. When we see shooting stars it is said to be heaven chasing away nosy genies!

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Aladdin...

...the lad with the lamp!



The story of *Aladdin* and his wonderful lamp is one of the most popular tales of all time. Here we find out where the story came from and how it has grown into the famous pantomime show.

Where does Aladdin come from?

Although most modern pantomime versions of *Aladdin* are set in a Chinese background, the story originated in another part of the world, the Middle East. The basic tale is many hundreds of years old, although much of the modern version has been added in more recent times.

Like the adventures of *Sinbad the Sailor* and *Ali Baba*, the story of *Aladdin* can be found in the famous collection of old Arabian and Eastern tales, the *One Thousand and One Nights*, also known as the *Arabian Nights*.

About the Arabian Nights

Most people are familiar with the structure of the *Arabian Nights*. It features a powerful, but terrible king called *Shahriyar* who discovers that his wife has been unfaithful to him and, in his rage, vows to marry a new wife every day and kill her at dawn the next day.



However, things change when he marries a clever young girl called *Sheherazade*. On their wedding night, knowing that she only has hours left to live, *Sheherazade* begins to tell her husband a story. When dawn comes, she still has not finished and, so keen is the King to hear more, that he decides not to kill her until the next day. But the following night the same thing happens and, night after night, the inventive young girl keeps the King entertained with exciting tales. Finally, after a thousand and one nights have passed, the King realises that he loves *Sheherazade* too much to ever consider killing her and they live happily ever after.



No one knows exactly when the *Arabian Nights* was written or who the authors were. It is most likely that the linking story of *Sheherazade* and the King was created by one author and then hundreds of stories and folk tales from many different countries were added over the years. The complete book is said to date back to as early as 850AD. The first European translations were not made until 1704.





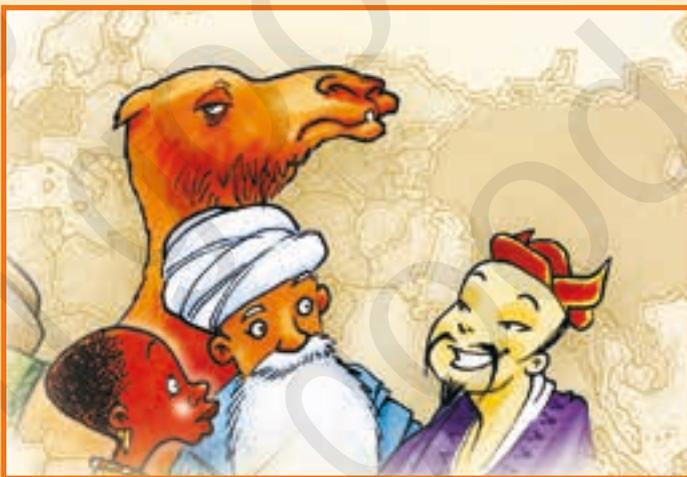
Were there really a thousand and one stories?



It is doubtful that the *Arabian Nights* ever contained a thousand and one stories – the best estimate is around two hundred and sixty. In fact, the phrase ‘a thousand and one’ was probably just a fancy way of saying ‘lots and lots’ in the same way that we say ‘hundreds and thousands’.

Chinese Nights!

It might seem unusual that a story written in Arabic over a thousand years ago should be set in China, but in fact many of the tales in the *Arabian Nights* come from, or are set in other countries, including India, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and Greece, as well as China and Arabia. This is because the stories were collected together during the height of the Islamic Empire, which stretched from Spain and Portugal in the west, right across Africa and much of Asia. Traders from the Empire visited most of the known world (and may even have reached the Americas, according to some historians), bringing back tales and legends as well as goods and treasures.



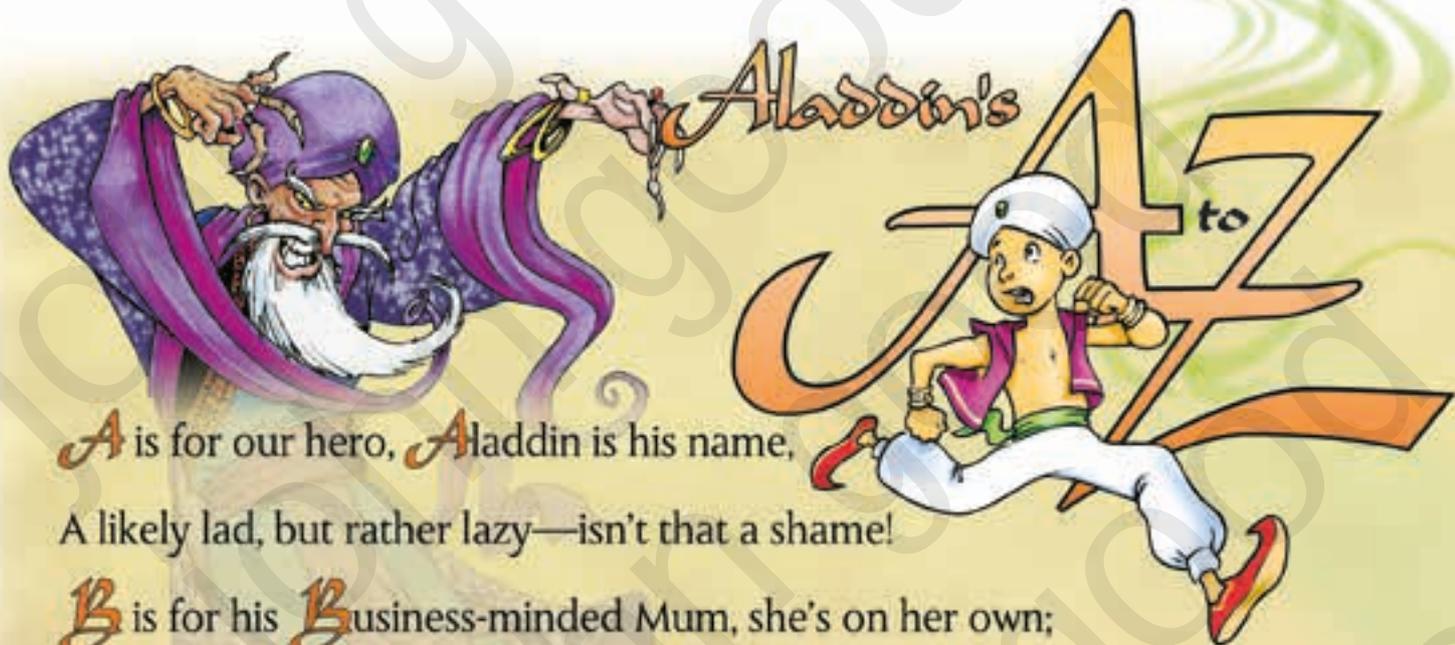
The Pantomime

The first stage version of *Aladdin* was seen in London’s Covent Garden Theatre, in 1788. This was followed by a comedy musical version of the tale in 1813 starring the famous English clown Joseph Grimaldi (who was like a film star back then). At the time, people in Britain were fascinated by China and the Orient; willow pattern plates were introduced, and ships such as the clipper *Cutty Sark* were doing a brisk trade importing tea and other merchandise. As a result, the story of *Aladdin* developed into a far more Chinese tale than the original, and has remained that way ever since.

Changing Names

As the pantomime of *Aladdin* changed over the years, so many of the characters we know today were added or had their names changed. *Aladdin’s* mother, for example, was known for years as *Widow Ching Mustapha* (a name that was part Chinese, part Arabic). In 1861, however, this was changed to *Widow Twankey*, named after a popular brand of Chinese tea. Similarly, the evil magician *Abanazar* was simply known as the ‘*African Magician*’ until 1813. And as for *Aladdin’s* brothers *Wishee* and *Washee*, they didn’t even exist in the original story! Along with the laundry, they were added relatively recently.





A is for our hero, **A**laddin is his name,
A likely lad, but rather lazy—isn't that a shame!

B is for his **B**usiness-minded Mum, she's on her own;
And **C** the **C**lean and lovely **C**lothes—her laundry is well known!

D is the **D**ilemma when a stranger calls one day:
Is he Aladdin's uncle from a country far away?

E is for his **E**agerness to claim the family tie,
Widow Twankey isn't sure at first and wonders why!

F is for the **F**east they make for Abanazar's visit,
He has a plan to get rich quick, Aladdin says 'What is it?'

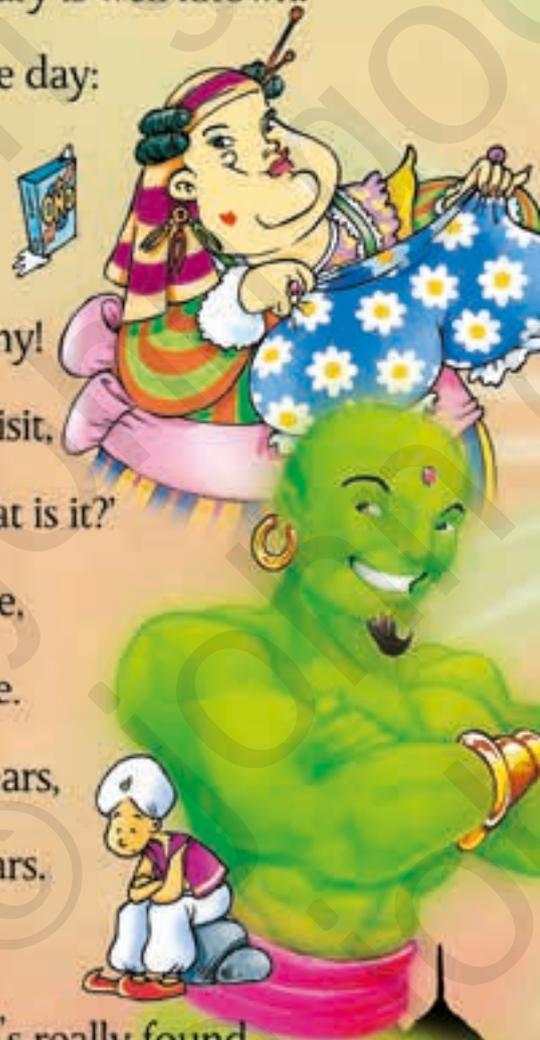
When wicked Abanazar leaves Aladdin in the cave,

G is for the **G**enie who appears to help and save.

H is for the **H**elplessness, Aladdin full of fears,
Thinks his **I**ncarceration will go on for many years.

J is for the **J**ewels that sparkle all around

And **K** is the **K**ing's Ransom, which is what he's really found.





L is for the **L**amp where the Genie waits to serve,

M is for the **M**aster from whose will he cannot swerve.

N is for the **N**ew-found wealth Aladdin has acquired,

O the **O**pportunities his heart has long desired.

P is for the **P**rincess who he wins to be his bride,

Q her **Q**ueenly beauty as she takes her place with pride.

R is for the **R**iches they're enjoying day by day,

But **S** is for their **S**orrows when the lamp gets thrown away.

T is for the **T**roubles that fall on Aladdin's head,

And he must **U**ndergo a fearful trial full of dread.

V is for the **V**ictory, against evil he wins out,

W the **W**iles that he outwits without a doubt.

X the e**X** magician Abanazar soon becomes,

Y the **Y**ears of good life for Aladdin and his chums!

And now at last we come to **Z** and, after all this strife,

Aladdin's finally 'in the **Z**one' and stays there all his life!

Elaine Peake
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Aladdin's Amazing Adventure!

Can you help Aladdin complete his amazing adventure and get home safely? You will need some counters and a die. Roll the die, and the person who scores highest goes first!

START!

Welcome to Old Baghdad!



HI, ALADDIN, I'M YOUR LONG-LOST UNCLE ABANAZAR!

LOVE
at first sight!

HAVE ANOTHER GO!

ROAR!

Chased by a cave monster! ROLL AGAIN - ODD. MISS A GO and ROLL AGAIN EVEN. GO TO THAT NUMBER to see if you leave the cave!

You get totally lost! MISS A GO and ROLL AGAIN to see if you leave the cave!

A hoard of precious gems! Not the way out, though... MISS A GO and ROLL AGAIN to see if you leave the cave!

Trapped in the cave by Abanazar! Roll the die to see what happens next...

Sounds a bit fishy... GO BACK 2!

Abanazar plans a fiendish plot! GO BACK 3!

Abanazar opens the cave...

WATCH THIS, ALADDIN. OPEN SESAME!



It's... WASH DAY!

MISS A GO!



You find a way out! Shame it's so far away...



YIKES! BOTTOMLESS PIT! Where will you come out?



10

12

14

15

13

11

Abanazar plans a fiendish plot!

GO BACK 3!

1

2

3

7

8

9

6

5

4

16

31 **32** **HANG ON!?**
...who's this?

SHHHH!

39

40



30 **33**



38

You get rid of Abanazar with the lamp!
GO ON 1!

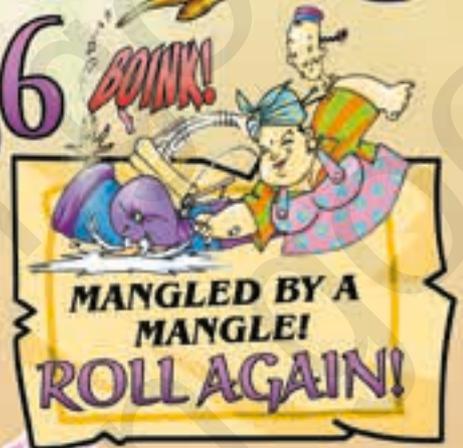


29 Aladdin is captured by the genie (who's Abanazar's slave)!
MISS A GO!

ROLL AGAIN!
ODD: GO ON 1!
EVEN: GO ON 2!

37

36



28

MISS A GO!

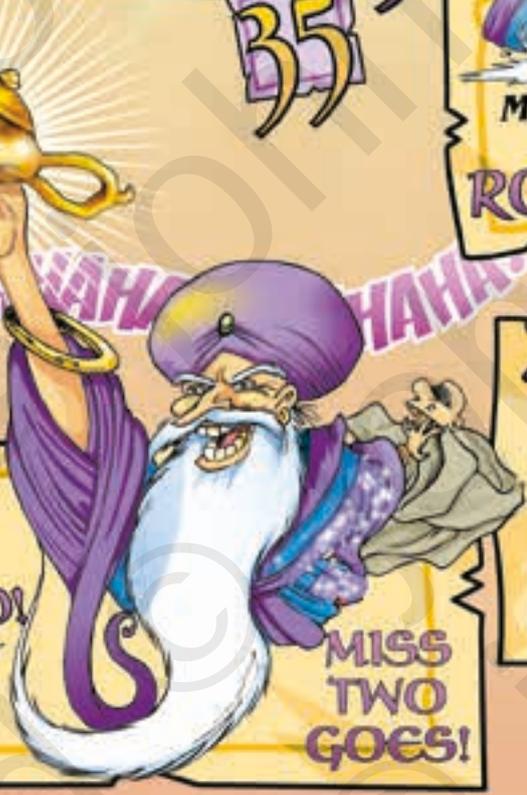


27 Jasmine is locked up! Stay here until you roll a 6 to free her!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

25

OH NO!
Abanazar has the lamp!



MISS TWO GOES!



24

GO ON 1!

26



19

Here's the bottom of the Bottomless Pit!
MISS A GO
(to recover...)



23

Abanazar has a cunning disguise...
GO BACK 2!



21

20

6 You find a particular lamp and rub it... YOU'RE OUT! ROLL AGAIN!

18

17



Double Trouble!

Here are some of Aladdin's friends. Two of them are twins, and dress exactly alike. Can you tell which two they are?

Hassan

Abdul

Jamil

Abu

Khalil

Omar

Mustapha





Dune Maze!



Aladdin is lost in the desert, and is looking for an oasis, so he can have a nice cool drink. Can you help him find the oasis, and avoid all the dangers?





Aladdin's Hidden Message

Cross out all the words from the list below when you find them in the grid. The letters you are left with will spell out Aladdin's message to you.

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

ABANAZAR
 CARPET
 DIAMONDS
 HIDE
 LAUNDRY
 OLD PEKING
 POLICEMEN
 RUB THE LAMP
 SPELL
 WISH

ALADDIN
 CAVE
 EMPEROR
 JEWELS
 LOVE
 OPEN SESAME
 PRINCESS
 SAPPHIRES
 THIEF

ARABIA
 CHINA
 GEMS
 KIND
 MAGIC
 PALACE
 RING
 SLAVE
 WIDOW TWANKEY

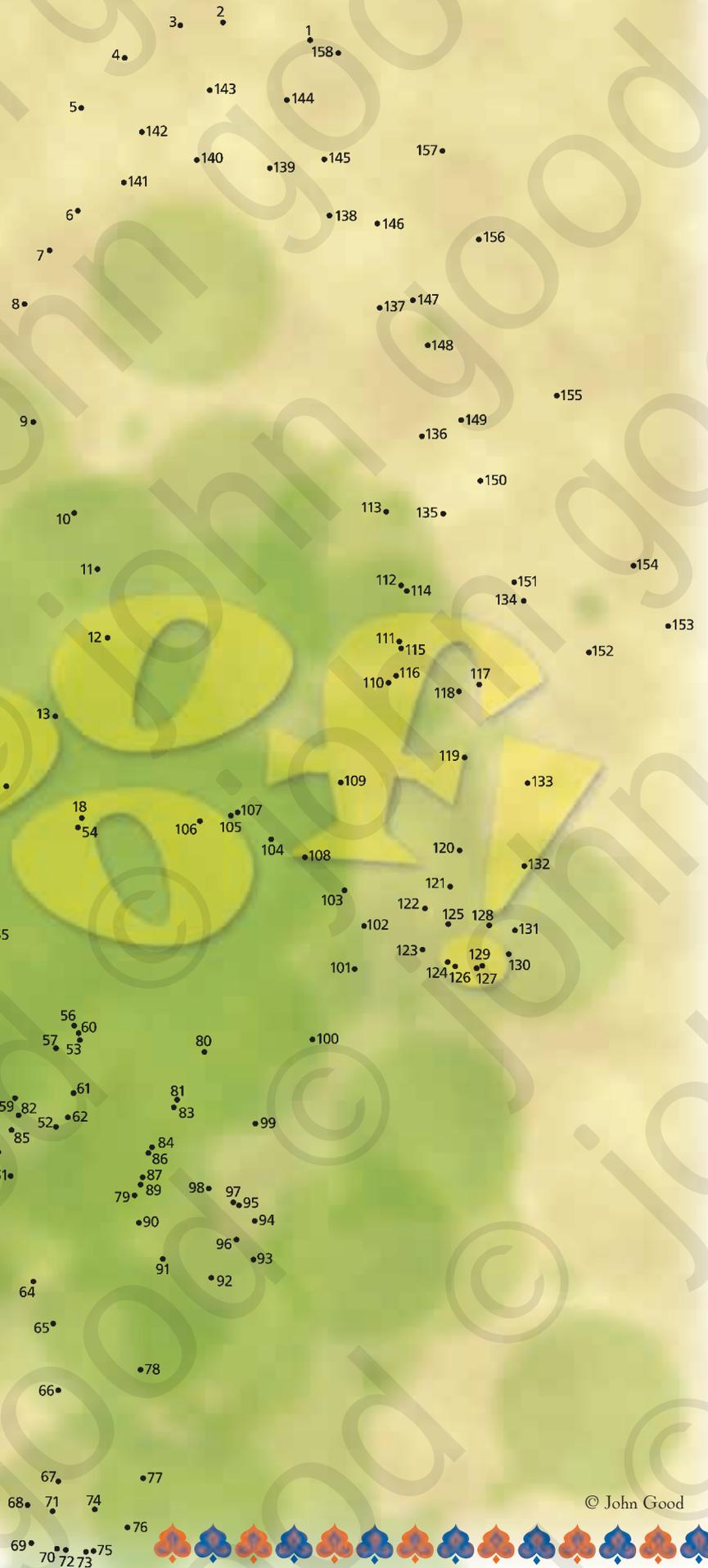
BAZAAR
 COMMAND
 GENIE
 LAMP
 NIGHTS
 PLEASURE
 RUBIES
 SMOKE





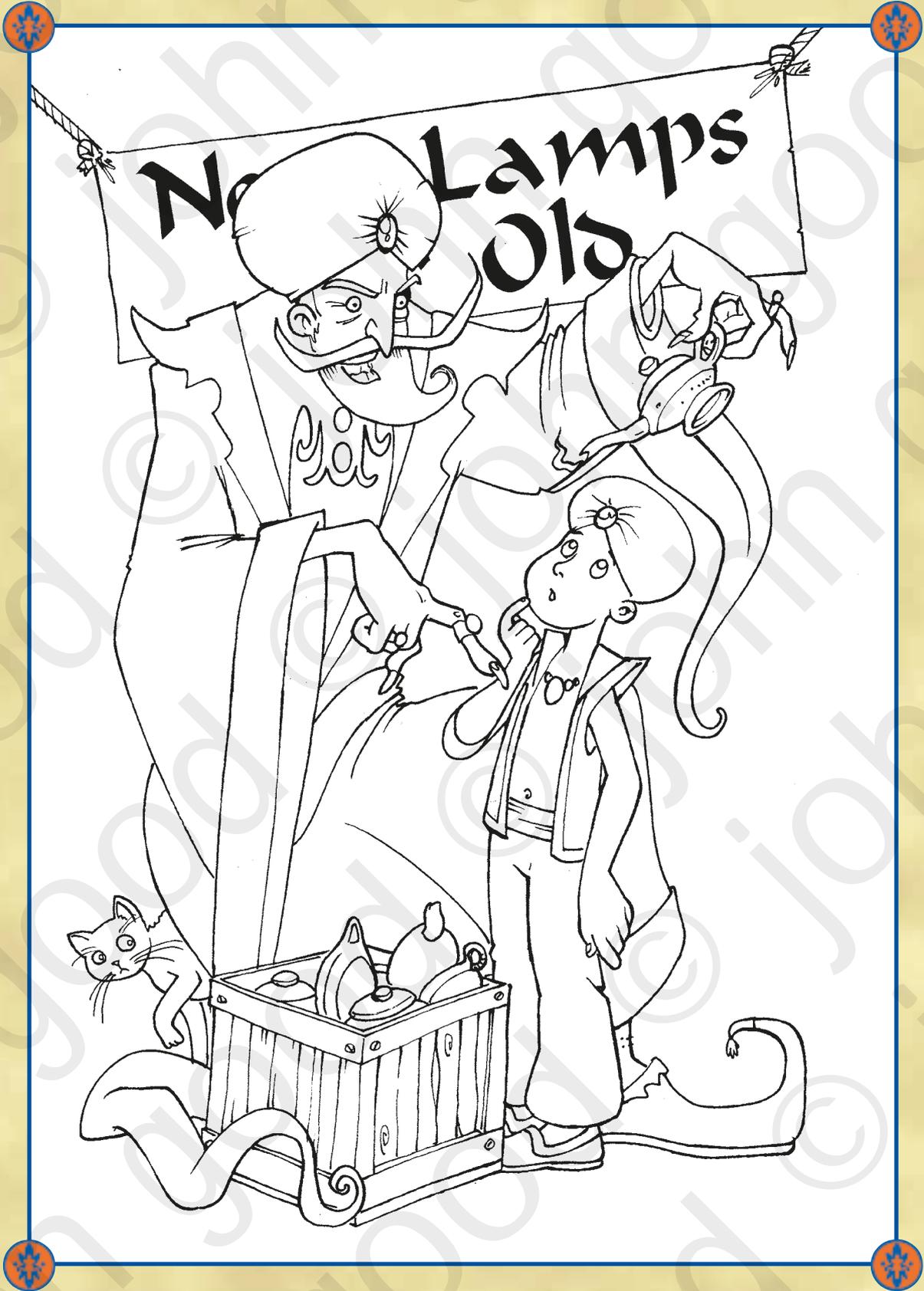
Dot to Dot

When his nefarious schemes are discovered, Abanazar usually tries to get away by changing shape. Can you find out what he has transformed into by joining up the dots?



Colour Me In

Colour in this picture of Aladdin and Abanazar in the bazaar!





Three Wishes!

The genie has kindly granted Aladdin three wishes. What would *you* wish for if you could wish for anything? Write or draw in the thought bubbles what you would wish for!





Silly Sudoku!

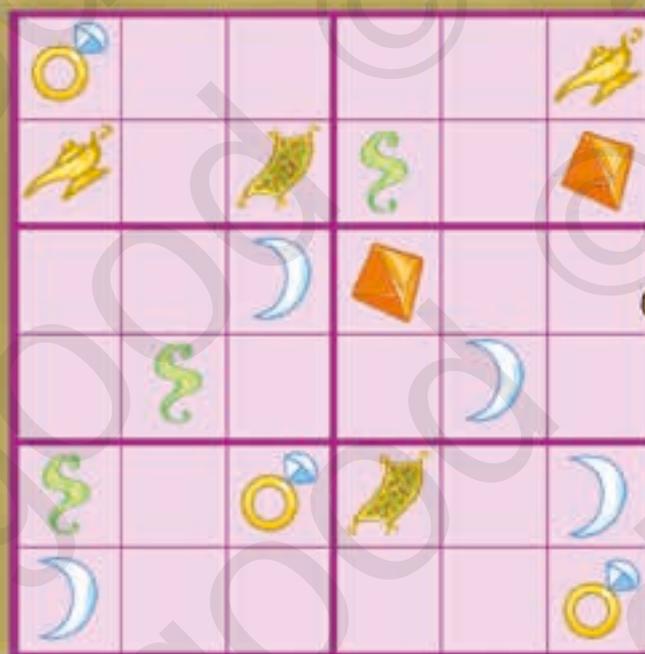
When he was trapped in Abanazar's cave, Aladdin found some old, dusty parchments, covered with grids. Each grid had drawings of different items on them.

Aladdin soon worked out that they were puzzles. Here is one of the first ones he did. The grid below is made up of 16 squares, divided into four smaller boxes of four squares each.

The idea is to fill it so that every row and column of the large grid and every smaller 2 x 2 box contains each of the four different shaped items. Can you solve it?



He found harder puzzles too—an extra two items in a bigger grid, so that each row, column and box has six squares. See if you can do this one!



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Say it With Socks!



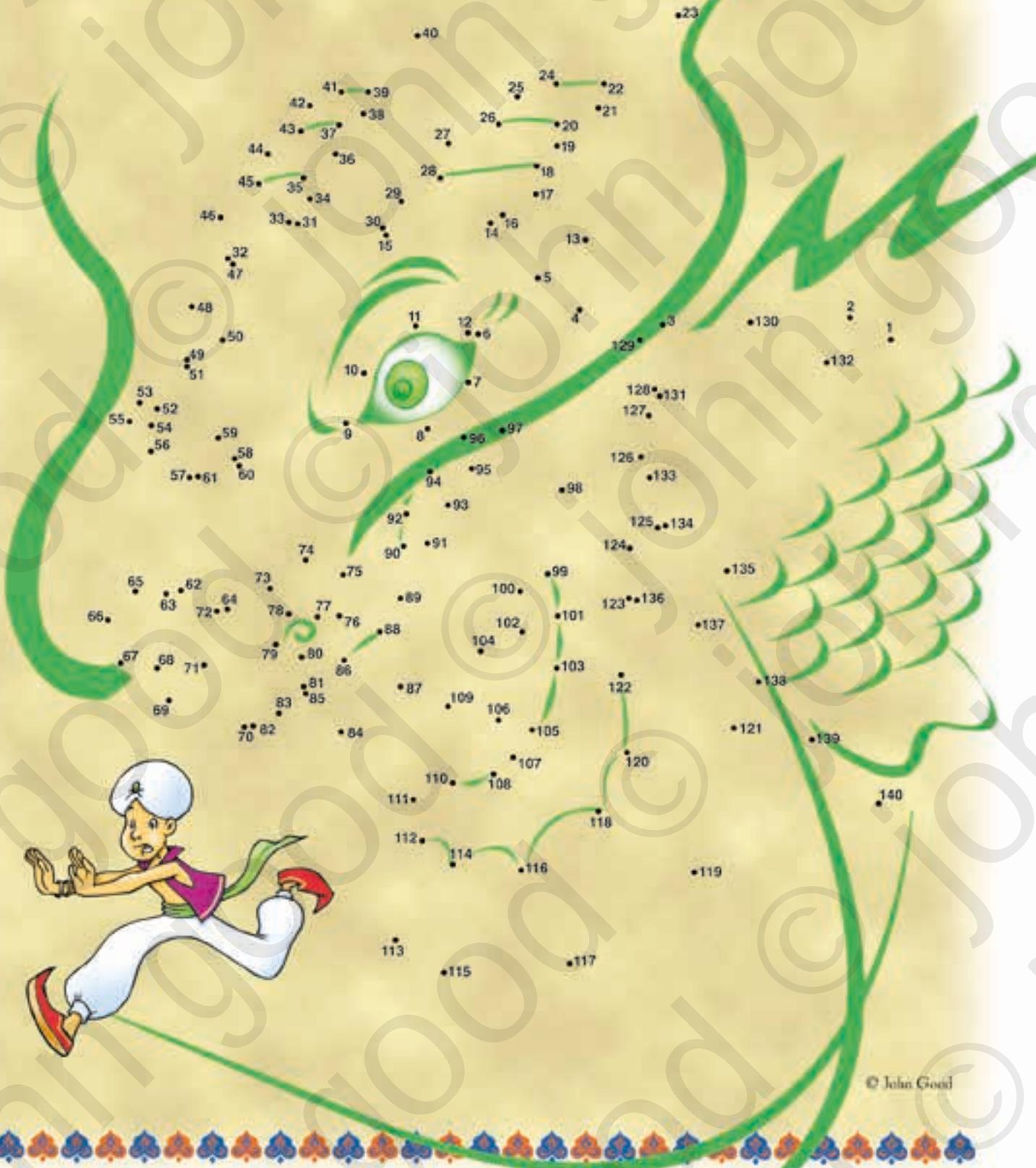
When Aladdin is out and about, and Widow Twankey wants to tell him something, she leaves a message on the washing line! Can you find out what she is trying to tell him?





Join the Dots!

Uh-oh! That wicked Abanazar has changed himself into something terrible! Join up the dots to find out what he has turned himself into.





Send in the Clones!



To avoid being caught, Abanazar has created a copy of himself! However, if you look carefully, you will find TEN differences between them. Can you find them all?



Wishee Washee's Wonderful Washing Wordsearch!



Wishee Washee has to sort all the laundry and washing things out! Can you find all the words—they may read backwards, forwards, up, down and even diagonally! When you have found all the words, there will be some letters left over, which will spell something out. Can you find out what it says?

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

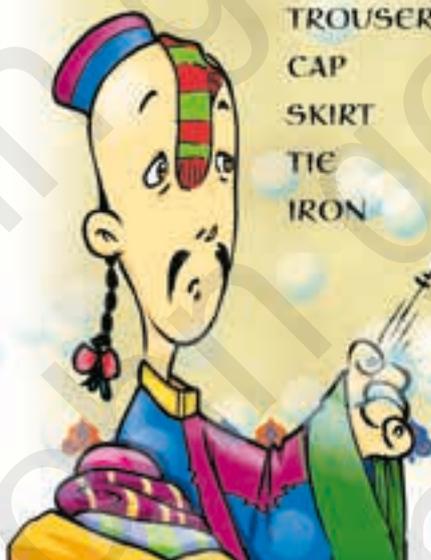


TROUSERS
 CAP
 SKIRT
 TIE
 IRON

FABRIC SOFTENER
 SPIN DRYER
 KNICKERS
 WATER
 LINEN BASKET
 WASHING MACHINE
 UNDERPANTS
 DRY CLEANING

VEST
 LAUNDERETTE
 SOCKS
 TIGHTS
 SHORTS
 DETERGENT
 TUMBLE DRYER
 SOAP POWDER

SLIP
 SHIRT
 BRA
 BLOUSE
 STARCH
 DRESS
 ROBE



Cunning Codewords!

Both Abanazar and Aladdin know that the magic words to open the mouth of the secret cave are 'OPEN SESAME'! However, only one of these is right, as they've all been jumbled up! Can you help them find it?

OS SEE
MEESA!

NESSA
MEPPPO!

MEAN O
POSES!

SEE ENO
SPAM!

NESPO
SEMAM!

ONE PAS
SEMO!





Rooting Through the Rubble!

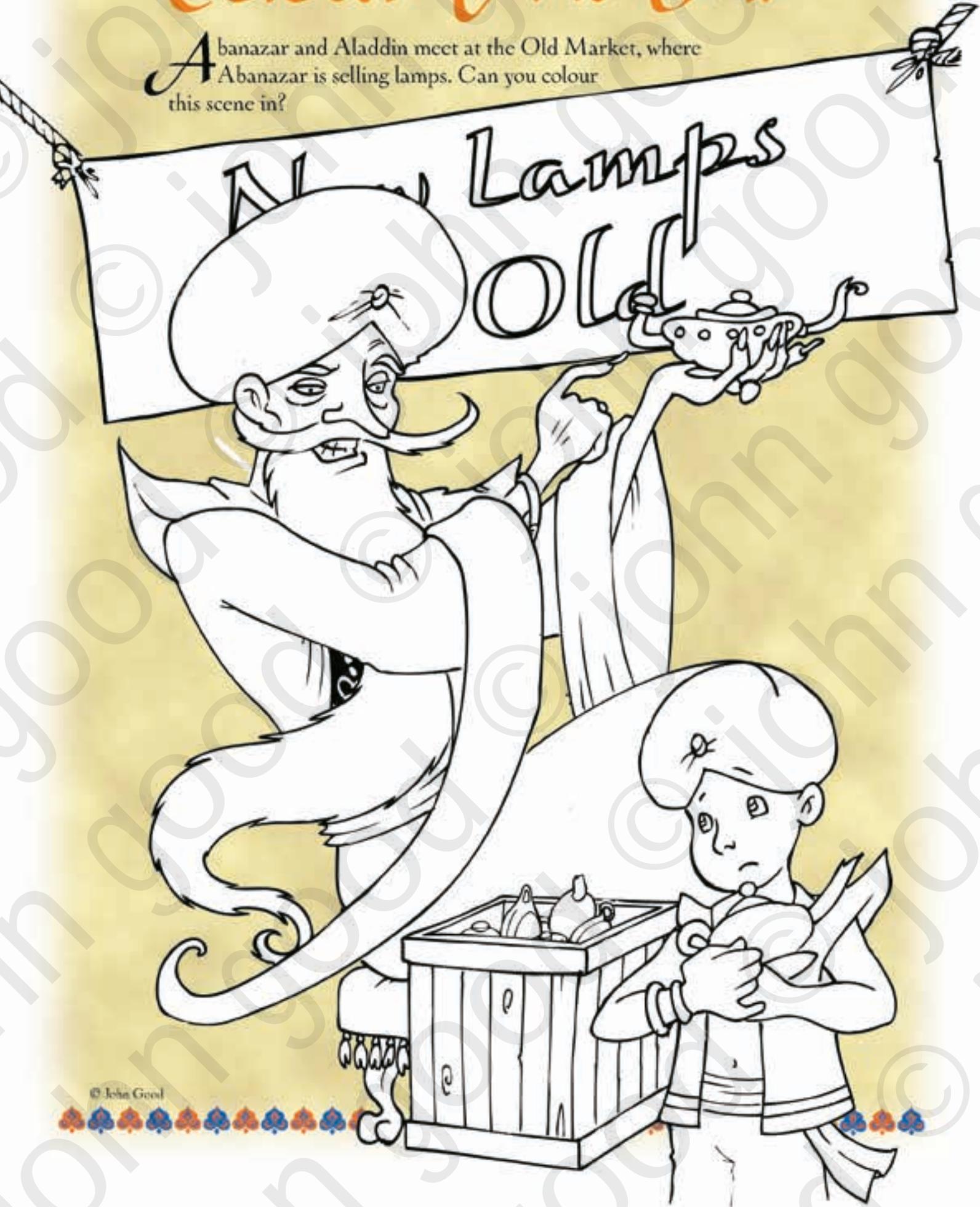
Aladdin has been trapped in the cave by that nasty Abanazar. Whilst scrambling around in the dark, he finds something buried in the rubble. What is it? Colour in the areas with dots in them and find out what Aladdin has found!





Colour Me In!

Abanazar and Aladdin meet at the Old Market, where Abanazar is selling lamps. Can you colour this scene in?

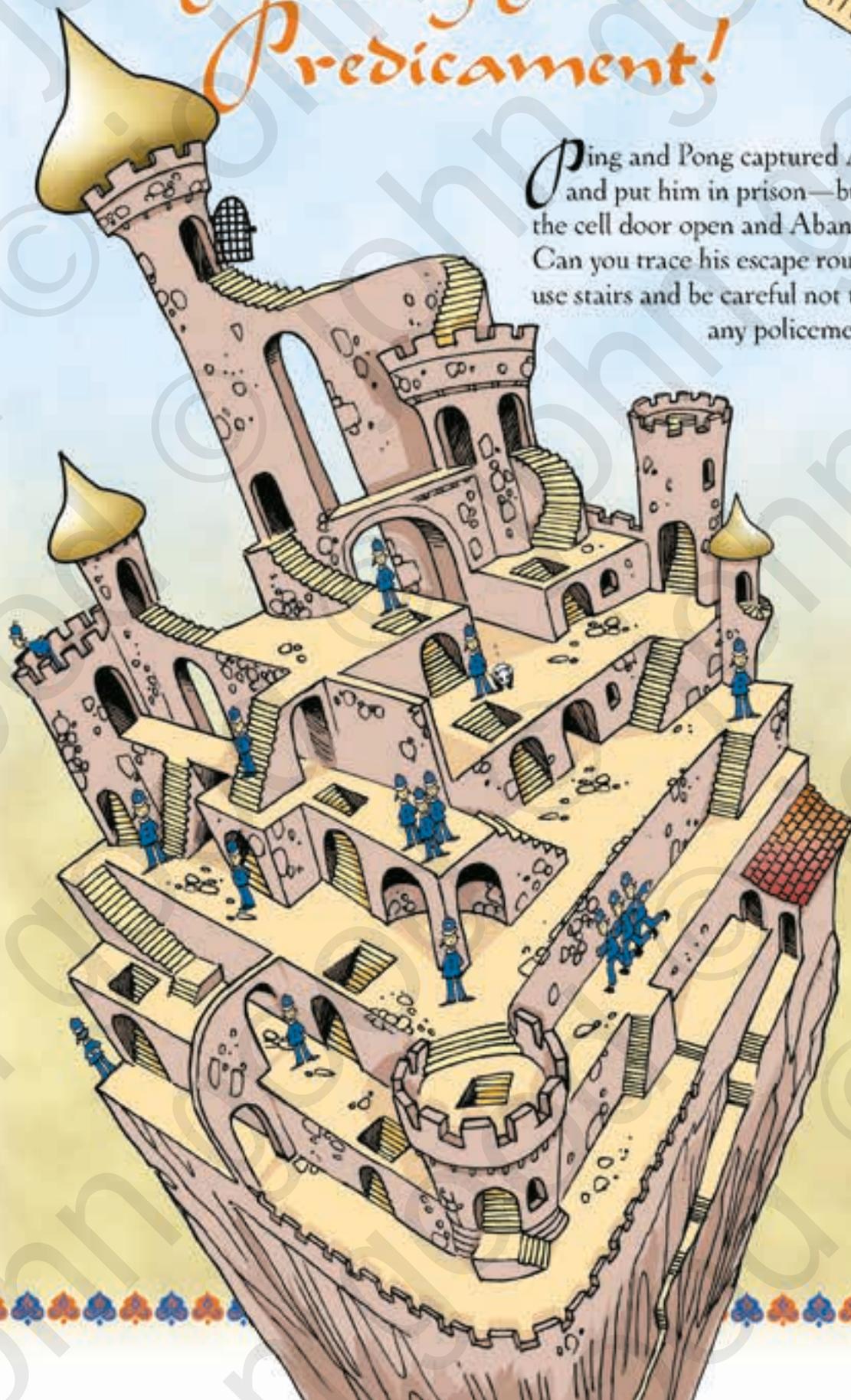




Ping and Pong's Puzzling Prisoner Predicament!



Ping and Pong captured Abanazar and put him in prison—but they left the cell door open and Abanazar escaped! Can you trace his escape route? You must only use stairs and be careful not to walk in front of any policemen!



Answers!

Double Trouble

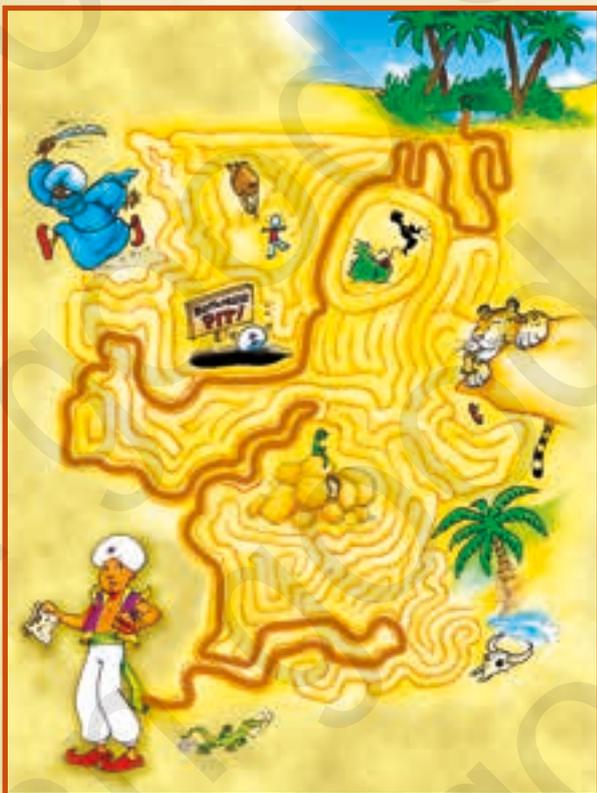


Abdul and Omar are the twins!

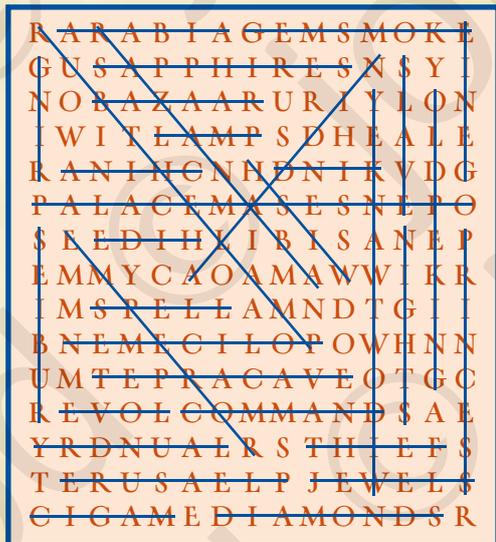
Dot to Dot



Dune Maze



Aladdin's Hidden Message



'YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND,
O MASTER'



Answers!

Silly SuDoku





Answers!

Send
in the
Clones



Rooting
Through the
Rubble!



Ping and Pong's
Puzzling Prisoner
Predicament



Join the
Dots!





Answers!

Cunning Codewords!

SEE ENO
SPAM!



Wishie Washie's Wonderful Washing Wordsearch!

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

'THE CHINESE LAUNDRY'





Answers!

Say It with Socks!

‘Aladdin, hurry up and get
more soap from Mr Wong, we’ve run out.’

