

INSPIRATION CARD 1: BEFORE YOU SEE *ALADDIN*

Aladdin's fictional setting draws inspiration from various countries, cultures, and imaginations, including India, Turkey, and the Middle East. Theatre makers often research the world of the play, including cultures, language, religion, and architecture in order to inspire their art.

In the theatre, part of a dramaturg's job is to investigate such areas, and share his/her findings with the writers, actors, director, and designers to help them with their work.

To help you prepare for work in your classroom after the show, here are some ideas for work and activities with your children before your visit to see *Aladdin*.

TO PREPARE THE CLASS FOR INSPIRATION CARDS 2 TO 4: STORYTELLING

- Explore the legend of One Thousand and One Nights, also called **The Arabian Nights**. Aladdin is one of the stories reputed to have been told by Scheherazade to intrigue the king and keep herself alive.
- Create a story in the class with each pupil making up a sentence at a time, use 'suddenly' as a way to move the action on.
- Research traditional tales and stories from other cultures and compare them to the story of *Aladdin* and some of the other 1001 tales (e.g. Ali Baba and Sinbad the Sailor). What are the main features of these stories?



Illustration by Edmund Dulac.

TO PREPARE THE CLASS FOR INSPIRATION CARDS 5 AND 6: ART AND DESIGN

- Ask the children to find some pictures of Middle Eastern towns (e.g. Istanbul or Cairo) and deserts (e.g. the Sahara). Ask them to bring them in or look online and put them on the whiteboard.
- Use these as a stimulus for a discussion about where the story of Aladdin is set.
- How might the setting be realised on the stage? What will the buildings and scenery look like?



Illustration by Edmund Dulac.

TO PREPARE THE CLASS FOR INSPIRATION CARDS 7 AND 8: PERFORMANCE

- Ask the children to think about the costumes in *Aladdin*. Some might have seen Disney's animated film so will have some ideas.
- Explore what the costumes might tell us about what it is like in Agrabah. What do the costumes tell us about the people wearing them?
- In the interval, task your pupils with noting down a description or sketching two costumes.



Rough animation from
1992 Disney film *Aladdin*©



How did you research?

What did you find out?

