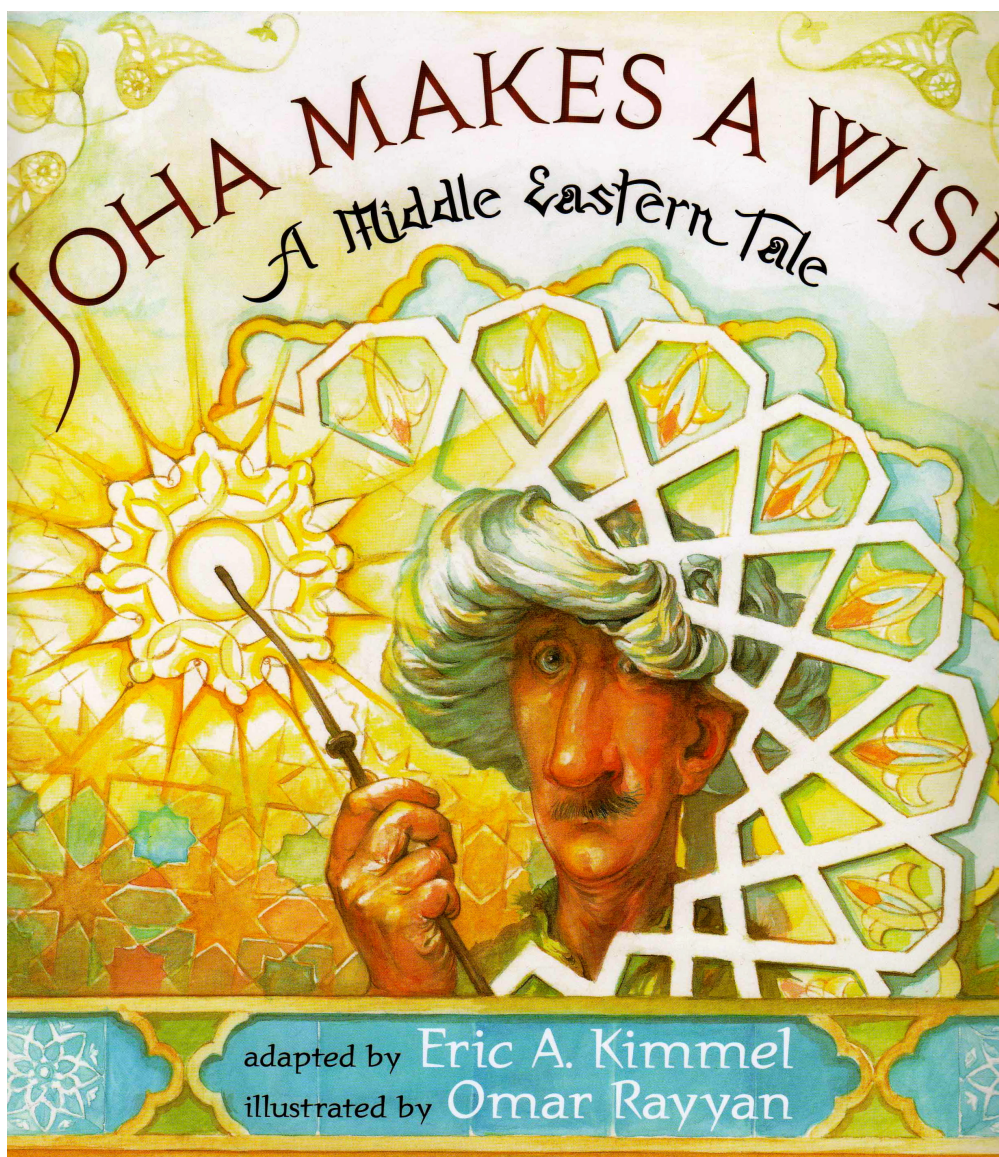

Joha Makes A Wish

A Middle Eastern Tale

Told by Eric A. Kimmel

Illustrated by Omar Rayyan

Teacher Guide © Val Z. Hornburg



Summary

Traditional Joha tales told throughout the Arabic-speaking world tell about Joha, a foolish but often wise man. This Eric Kimmel original tells of Joha's mishaps after finding a special wishing stick.

IDEAS FOR CLASSROOM USE



Discussion Questions—encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- *Does Joha have bad luck or good luck? What do you think?*
- *The stick, used upside down, caused the wishes to be upside down as well. Do you think Joha would ever realize that there was a connection between how the stick was held and the outcome of the wish?*
- *What do you think about the turn of events at the end of the story? Does the sultan get what he deserves?*
- *How is Joha both foolish and wise in this story?*

RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

Language Arts

Create your own wishing sticks

Collect sticks from nature or chopsticks if you can't find enough, and encourage children to decorate and create their very own wishing sticks. Use other items from nature or craft items to decorate the sticks so each child can distinguish their stick from others.

Invite children to choose from one of the Wishing Stick Instructions lessons below:



Wishing Sticks Instructions #1

Invite children to imagine the kind of wishes their stick would be masterful at granting. Perhaps it will bring general good luck or the granting of any wish. Encourage them to be super creative and to think globally. For instance, perhaps the stick grants double wishes – it grants the wish for the person wishing as well as for the person's best friend. Perhaps their stick takes care of animals, or is especially good at healing people's illnesses. Or...the sky's the limit. Encourage out of the box thinking so children imagine all the problems of the world being solved. Invite them to write instructions for using their wishing sticks and to share them with one another.

Wishing Stick Instructions #2 ~ Tricky sticks!

Do the above writing activity, but have children create a twist in how the stick is to be used. Perhaps it can only be held in someone's left hand...or it needs to be held above the holder's head. Encourage children to be creative and tricky with their "top secret" instructions. Perhaps the top secret instructions could be written with invisible ink or written in code!

Art Design

Create new sandals for Joha



“Joha, you can do better than that,” was what I thought when Joha wished to have his old sandals back. Draw and describe Joha's new sandals, ones that would keep Joha's feet cool from the heat of the sun and the sand.

Geography

Where is Baghdad, Iraq?

Find Iraq on a map. Learn a few facts about the people and the culture by visiting this National Geographic website for kids:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/iraq/>

Science ~ Learn about donkeys!

Donkeys are amazing work animals. Learn about why they are such a good animal to have on hand in Iran or here at home and how to take care of them.

Learn a few simple facts about donkeys from visiting this website. It also shares the title of a good book to try to find on hand at your local library:

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/economy/donkeys.htm>



Just for fun ~

Play Pin the Tail on the Donkey!

If you don't want to invest in a purchased game, invite children to draw and enlarge a picture of a donkey, create wild and wonderful tails for each child to use and during your next party, have a great time!