

Story Guide

KHALIFAH AND THE MONKEYS BY Chirine El Ansary

Watch the video of storyteller Chirine El Ansary live at the 2018 National Storytelling Festival [here](#).
(Right click on link to open it in a new tab.) All videos include ASL interpretation.
Story run time is 2:46 - 22:00. An extra, short fable runs until 25:31.
Now, enjoy exploring the story with the activities outlined below.



explore it

- Chirine opens by saying, "You are telling me with your eyes which story you want to hear." Why do you think she opens this way?
- Chirine speaks Arabic in the story. Have you ever heard this language? How does Chirine's use of her native language enhance the story? Learn to say please and thank you in Arabic.
- Chirine ends the storytelling session with a short fable about a gardener and a bear. What are the pros and cons of ending the session this way? Do you think the moral for this fable could apply to the story about Khalifah?



think it

- Use an encyclopedia to find three facts about Cairo, Egypt, the setting for this story.
- Why did Khalifah want to beat the monkeys that he caught in the net? What made him stop before he did it?
- Describe the fish that Khalifah caught when he cast the net the 4th time.
- What are the third monkey's instructions as Khalifah leaves for the wedding?
- How does the fishing net - finding it and what happens with it - change Khalifah's life?



create it

- Illustrate the three monkeys. How are the three monkeys different from one another? Compare the difference in the monkeys with the change in Khalifah from the beginning to the end of the story.
- Make a list of 5 adjectives that describe Khalifah at the beginning of the story and 5 different adjectives that describe him at the end of the story.
- Draw the slum where Khalifah lived before and after he met the rich merchant.



tell it

- Create a story about a time when something happened that was completely different from what you expected to happen (like when Khalifah pulls monkeys out of the Nile rather than fish.) Add some funny elements to your story.
- Journal about a time when you felt bad about yourself like Khalifah did in the beginning of the story. What or who made you feel better or "lighter" as Khalifah felt when he left the home of the richest merchant of Cairo to travel back to the slum?