

INSPIRATION CARD 2: STORYTELLING, SETTING THE SCENE IN AGRABAH

CONTRASTING TWO SETTINGS

Ask the class to contrast the things that are different about Aladdin's home from their own.

- What clues are there in the show settings that tell them what Agrabah is like (e.g. clothes or items for sale in the market)?

CONTRASTING THE TWO SETTINGS

The class could each pick a setting from the show and imagine they are there as a friend of one of the characters (e.g. on a market stall in Agrabah, or sitting next to Jasmine in the palace garden) and describe what they can see, hear, smell or touch.

IMAGINE A MAGIC CARPET RIDE

If the pupils had a secret magic carpet, where would they fly to? Is it a real place or a fantastic place they have made up? Perhaps they would choose to fly over Agrabah. Would they take someone along for the ride? Ask them to use lots of adjectives, verbs and nouns to describe their magic carpet ride and draw what they can see from their magic carpet.

FINDING OUT THE FACTS

Ask your pupils to imagine that the arrival of Prince Ali has set Agrabah alight and the city is buzzing! They are to imagine they are journalists gathering information so they can write an article for a blog post or magazine. What questions would they ask? Write an article in the third person, describing the events.



PERFORMANCE: BECOME THE PLAYWRIGHT

The pupils re-write a scene from *Aladdin* in a different or modern setting.

Can they add some new characters or events because of the changes they are making?

For example:

- The market scene set in a busy, modern town near your school.
- The Cave of Wonders becomes an old junk shop with a mysterious shopkeeper.
- It pours with rain for days in Agrabah and the town becomes completely flooded.

EXTENSION

They should also think about stage directions, which are included in the Glossary (see Background to the Show resource).

NARRATION IN PERFORMANCE AND STORYTELLING

Introduce the concept of narration as a theatrical device to explain or introduce a scene for the audience. A narrator is often used at the beginning of a play, to describe where the action takes place. Why do the class think that narration would be needed, what could it add to the story?

Ask the class to imagine a scene from *Aladdin* that is taking place with no scenery, just the characters acting on an empty stage. The musical's Director has asked them to help out by writing a piece of narration to introduce the scene before they start. How would they describe the setting, what would they need to tell the audience about it? For example, 'It is a hot day in the desert city of Agrabah and the marketplace is full of people from the city buying food. Aladdin and his friends are getting ready to put on a show'.



