

Name:

Date:

Worksheet One

This worksheet accompanies slides 4 and 6 of *Reading Literature 2.ppt*

“The Poor Fisherman”

Read the story. Then fill in the table with information about “The Poor Fisherman.” Use details from the story to prove your answers.

The Poor Fisherman

On a barren, lonely beach stood a poor fisherman. Nothing green could he see. Sharp rocks stretched endlessly away under the scorching sun and even the wind seemed starved and thin, as it blew in from the desert beyond.

The stones of the beach were hard and bare. No birds flew through the empty skies and wherever the poor fisherman looked, only hollow hunger gazed back at him.

Three times the fisherman cast his net. When he pulled it in, he found mud, garbage, even a dead donkey – but not a single fish.

"Unhappy me!" he wailed. "Will my bad luck never end?"

He cast his net one last time. When he pulled it in, there in the folds was a heavy brass jar.

"At last!" cried the fisherman. "I can sell this jar in the bazaar and buy bread and dates, chickpeas and olives for my hungry family!"

He shook the jar. Was there something inside?

"My lucky day!" he cried. "Perhaps it contains an expensive perfume. I can sell that and buy a wonderful new carpet from the weaver too – and have enough left over to give some money to the poor!"

A cork sealed the jar tightly. The fisherman took his knife and pried the cork out...

At once, thick smoke came from the jar. It spread over the beach and over the sea and rose up high in the air until it touched the sky.

Name:

Date:

The terrified fisherman watched as the smoke took on the shape of an enormous, green-skinned, sharp-toothed djinni.

"You have released me!" thundered the djinni. "Now I will grant you a single wish..."

"A thousand thanks, O Great One," said the fisherman.

"You may choose..."

"Yes? Yes?" said the fisherman eagerly. "Riches? Power? Happiness? A herd of a hundred camels?"

"No," the djinni grinned down at him. "You may choose exactly which death you wish to die!"

The fisherman looked around. Nothing but hard, empty rocks and gray, lifeless sand as far as the eye could see. Nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

He was alone with the djinni.

"But I let you out!" said the fisherman. "Surely you should thank me?"

"Your reward is death!" snarled the djinni.

"For the first hundred years I lay in the jar, I promised to give the man who came to release me all the gold his heart desired. But no one came."

"For the next hundred years, I promised to give the man who came to release me the happiest of lives; but still no one came."

"For the next hundred years I promised to make the man who came to release me a king and to grant him three wishes every day. But even then, no one came."

"At last I grew angry. I swore I would kill whoever let me out of the jar. Now that day has come! The only wish I grant for you is the choice of how you meet your death!"

Name:

Date:

"I suppose I must die then," said the fisherman, "if I really did let you out of that jar. You're so big, I can't believe you were ever in it. I bet you can't even get your little toe inside!"

"Of course I can!" snapped the djinni.

And to prove it, he turned himself into smoke. As the fisherman watched, the smoke trickled back into the jar until it was all inside.

"Well?" came the voice of the djinni. "Do you believe me now, O ignorant fisherman?"

"Yes I do," said the fisherman. And quick as a flash, he pushed the stopper back in.

"Let me out!" cried the djinni, from inside the jar. "Let me out and I will repay you!"

"A thousand pardons, O Great One," replied the fisherman.

"I may be poor and I may be hungry, but at least I am not stupid!"

And with that, he took the jar and threw it back into the sea. It sank beneath the waves and was never seen again.

Name:

Date:

Question	Answer
Where does the story take place?	
How does the fisherman feel at the beginning of the story?	
Why does the djinni want to kill the fisherman?	
How does the fisherman defeat the djinni?	
What is the moral of "The Poor Fisherman"?	

Name:

Date:

Worksheet Two

This worksheet accompanies slide 7 of *Reading Literature 2.ppt*

Story events

Cut out the boxes below. Arrange the events in the correct order to help you retell "The Poor Fisherman."

The fisherman throws the jar into the sea.

The fisherman traps the djinni in the jar.

The fisherman finds a jar.

The djinni tells the fisherman to choose his death.

The djinni appears.