

TALES OF THE ALHAMBRA

BACKGROUND

- **The Alhambra** is a palace and fortress of the Moorish rulers of Granada. It was built between the 9th and 14th centuries.
- **Albaycin** is a district north of the Alhambra, with winding streets and small medieval-style squares.
- **Boabdil** is the Spanish name for Abu Abd-Allah Muhammad, the last Nasrid ruler of Granada.
- **Generalife** is another palace surrounded by beautiful orchards and gardens, opposite the Alhambra.

LEAD IN ACTIVITIES

- In each of the stories, there's a spell on somebody or something. A spell is when magical powers control a situation. It can also be a text of words with magic power. Do you know a story or film with a spell in it? Tell the class about it.
- What do you know about the Alhambra in Granada? Did you ever visit the Alhambra? Tell the class about your visit.
- The three stories you're going to read about all take place in Granada. What happened in Granada in 1492?
- What is an astrologer?

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES

- Look at the picture on page 10 and describe what is happening
- Read the first paragraph on page 26. Who is the soldier? When did he start guarding the bridge?
- Read the first paragraph on page 31. Don Vincent must find two people for the soldier. Who are they?
- Read the second paragraph on page 40. What do you learn about Ibrahim Ebn Abu Ayub?
- Look at the picture in the middle of page 44. Describe what is happening?

AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

DRAMA ACTIVITIES

Work with a partner or a group. Learn one of the dialogues below and act it out in front of the class

1. Peregil takes the ill Muslim to his house.

Peregil's wife: Why did you bring a Muslim to our house? It's dangerous for us. The Inquisition will discover him!

Peregil: This poor man is ill. I can't leave him alone on the hill.

The Muslim: I'm dying. Take this box as a reward for your charity.

(The Muslim dies.)

Peregil's wife: Now, they'll think we killed him. They'll send us to prison.

2. Don Vincent goes with the soldier to his room in the tower.

The soldier: I came to this room 300 years ago and I'm a prisoner here.

Don Vincent: A prisoner? That's not true. You were on the bridge. You walked back to this place. You're a free man.

The soldier: No. That only happens once in 100 years, on the Eve of St John. The Muslim lifts the spell on that day.

Don Vincent: What Muslim? What spell? I don't understand.

3. Ibrahim puts a figure of a Moorish horseman on top of the tower.

Ibrahim: This horseman will always turn in the direction of our enemies.

King Aben: There's an enemy army approaching! Let's fight them!

Ibrahim: Don't call your soldiers. You can fight the battle with your chess pieces in the tower.

King Aben: They're moving by themselves! Both sides are fighting a battle! That's incredible!

4. The king's soldiers return with the princess.

Soldiers: We looked everywhere, but we only found this maiden. She's from Guadix.

King Aben: Who are you? *(to the maiden)*

Princess: I'm a princess – the daughter of a Gothic prince.

King Aben: She's beautiful! I must keep her.

Ibrahim: Beware, she's a witch. The magic horseman points to your enemies –and he pointed to her.

King Aben: That's impossible. She's beautiful and good!

PROJECT

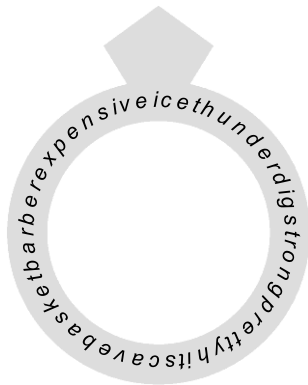
Look in an encyclopedia or other reference book, or search on the Internet to find information about:

a. the Moorish kingdom in Granada.

b. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella's conquest of Granada. Write a paragraph about the information you find and read it to the class.

FINAL TEST

Circle ten words in the ring. Then use the words to complete the sentences.



1. The water in the well is cold as
3. It's raining and there are heavy clouds. I can hear
4. The girl has got long black hair and lovely blue eyes.
5. The soldier the ground with his sword.
6. They've got a big of food for the priest.
7. The king's army is and defends the kingdom well.
8. The astrologer wants to live in a in the Alhambra Hill.
9. The king buys jewels and perfume for the princess.
10. The workers in the garden.

Match A and B to make sentences.

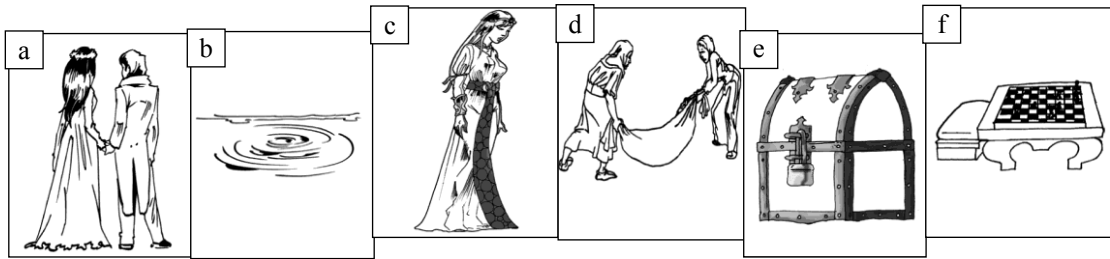
A

1. The ill man gave Peregil
2. The Muslim shop owner read
3. Peregil and the shop owner divided
4. Don Vincent played the guitar and
5. Father Thomas resisted
6. The magic horseman always
7. The king's soldiers returned
8. The people of Granada

B

- a. had a lovely voice.
- b. turned in the direction of the enemy.
- c. the words on the parchment.
- d. with a young lady.
- e. didn't like the princess.
- f. a sandalwood box.
- g. all temptation of food on the third day.
- h. the treasure and left Granada.

Write the letter of the correct picture next to each question.



- 1. What did Peregil and his wife take to the River Genil?
- 2. Where did the Muslim throw the candle?
- 3. What did Emmeline touch with the magic ring?
- 4. What did Don Vincent and Emmeline decide?
- 5. How did King Aben fight battles?
- 6. What reward did Ibrahim ask for?