

Selections: The genie in the jelly jar

by Helen Douglas

Activities author: Adrian Tennant

Level: Movers+

Recommended age: Level 4, primary (9+)

Time needed: Indicated for each activity

Type of English: American

Activity 1 (5-10 minutes)

1. Put the children in pairs.
2. Hand out one copy of the worksheet that contains Activities 1 and 2 to each pair.
3. Ask the children to look at the picture and discuss the questions.
4. Monitor and help where necessary (you might need to prompt the children about stories with genies in them).
5. Finally, ask a few children to report back on their discussion with their partner.

Activity 2 (5-10 minutes)

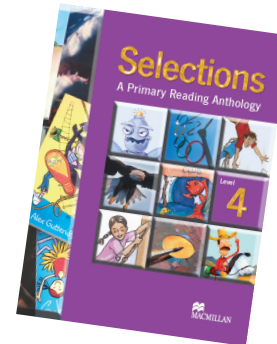
1. Ask the children to look at the words in the green cloud of smoke.
2. Write the title of the story on the board.
3. Ask the children to decide which words they think will be in the story and to check [✓] the ones they think will be there.
4. Tell the children that not all the words are in the story.
5. Put the children in pairs and ask them to compare their ideas.
6. Tell the children they will have a chance to check their ideas when they read or listen to the story.

Key:

believe; bottle; free; fun; puff of smoke; wish

Activity 3 (10 minutes)

1. Ask the children to read the story or play the recording and have them check their answers to Activity 2.
2. Put the children in pairs and encourage them to check together.
3. Monitor and help where necessary.
4. Play the recording again or ask the children to read the text again if necessary.
5. Finally, check the answers as a class.



Activity 4 (10 minutes)

1. Put the children in pairs.
2. Hand out one copy of the worksheet that contains Activity 4 to each pair of children.
3. Ask the children to work together and see how many answers they can remember.
4. Monitor and help where necessary, but don't give the answers away.
5. Ask the children to either read the story again or listen to the recording and then check their answers.
6. Finally, check the answers as a class.

Key:

1.a; 2.c; 3.b; 4.a; 5.c; 6.c; 7.a; 8.b

Activity 5 (10-15 minutes)

1. Write the following question on the board: *If a genie gave you three wishes, what would you wish for? Why?*
2. Give the children a few minutes to think of their answer.
3. Put the children in groups of three or four and ask them to share their answers together.
4. Monitor and help where necessary.
5. Ask a few children to report back on their group's discussion.

Activity 6 (10 minutes)

1. Sit in a circle with the children.
2. Start by saying a sentence such as *If I won \$1 million, I would fly to Australia.*
3. Ask the child to the left of you to take the second half of your sentence and turn it into an 'if' clause and then add a new ending, i.e. *If I flew to Australia, I'd go to the beach.*

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4. Ask the child to the left of the first child to repeat the process by taking the end of the previous sentence and using it as the start of their sentence, i.e. *If I went to the beach, I'd*
5. Keep this going around the circle and encourage the children to use their imagination.

Note: In large classes you could demonstrate the activity and then divide the class into groups of 8-10 students. Monitor and help where necessary if you decide on this option.

Extra activity

1. Ask your students to see if they can find two stories where there are wishes or a genie.
2. If you have access to the internet in the classroom, ask the children to work in pairs to search for stories. Alternatively, ask the children to find the stories for homework by using the internet, checking out folktale books in the library or asking their parents.
3. Each student / pair of students can then summarize their stories and share them with the rest of the class.

Note: Most cultures have stories connected to a genie-like figure that can grant wishes, i.e. *Aladdin and the magic lamp*; *How the fisherman tricked the genie*, etc.

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The genie in the jelly jar

Written by Helen Douglas Illustrated by Philomena O'Neill

Maggie was helping her mother clear out the kitchen cabinets. She wasn't happy about it. She wanted to be out in the sunshine with her friends.

Maggie sighed. She picked up a bottle of vinegar and checked it. It was fine. She put it back in the cabinet. 'This is so boring,' she thought.

Suddenly at the back of the cabinet, she saw a little jelly jar. It was very old. There was a bright red label on the jar with strange foreign writing all over it. She didn't understand what it said at all.



Maggie twisted the lid on the jelly jar. There was a puff of smoke and a bright green glow came out of the jar. There was a cracking sound and a girl appeared. She was very small and had blond hair.

'Oh, I'm free, I'm free!' cried the little creature as she flew.

Maggie looked at her mother to see if she had heard all the noise but she had her head in a cabinet.

'Don't worry, she can't see or hear me,' said the creature. 'Only the person who opens the jar can see me.'

'Who are you?' asked Maggie. 'What are you?'

'I'm a genie,' said the creature. 'My name is Jasmine.'

'I don't believe in genies,' said Maggie.

'Oh! Well, then I guess you don't want your four wishes,' said Jasmine.

'Don't be silly. Everyone knows that you only get three wishes when you let a genie out of its bottle.'

'It may usually be three wishes, but I grant four wishes,' said Jasmine. 'Now, what's your first wish?'

'Oh!' said Maggie. She thought hard. 'I know. I wish I wasn't stuck here in this kitchen but out in the sunshine instead!'



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'Done,' said Jasmine. She folded her arms and blinked. Maggie found herself standing on a little island in the middle of the ocean. She had only a tall palm tree to talk to!

'Oh no!' she cried. 'Where am I?' Now she was frightened. She was all alone.

Suddenly, Jasmine appeared in a green flash and a puff of smoke.

'Jasmine, what have you done?' Maggie asked.



'I've granted your wish, Mistress,' said Jasmine with a smile.

'But how will I get home?' asked Maggie.

'You can use another wish,' said Jasmine.

'Oh, yes,' Maggie said in relief. 'Jasmine, I wish I was still in the kitchen.'



'Done,' said Jasmine. She folded her arms and blinked.

Maggie found herself back home in her kitchen. She could see her mother standing on a stool, still cleaning the high cabinets.

'Oh, thank you, Jasmine,' Maggie said.

'I only granted your wish,' said Jasmine.

'You like to make people's wishes go wrong, don't you?' Maggie said slowly.

Jasmine shrugged. 'It's more fun,' she said. 'It's so boring being stuck in a bottle for thousands of years. Sometimes I don't see anyone for fifty years or more.'

'I wish I was free,' sighed Jasmine.

'I don't mind wishing you free,' said Maggie.

'Really?' Jasmine wasn't sure whether to believe Maggie or not.

'Sure,' said Maggie. 'Otherwise I might make my last wish and find myself on a desert island again, or worse!'

'You do have to be careful what you wish for,' said Jasmine. 'You still have your third wish. What will you wish for?' Maggie looked around.

'I wish that the kitchen was clean and everything was put away neatly in the cabinets,'

Maggie said slowly.



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'Done,' said Jasmine. She folded her arms and blinked her eyes.

Maggie looked around her. The kitchen was beautifully clean. Everything was neatly put away in the cabinets.

'Thank you, Jasmine,' said Maggie, 'OK. You kept your promise. Now I'll keep mine. Jasmine, I wish you were free.'

There was a green flash, a puff of smoke and a cracking sound. 'Did it work?' Maggie asked.

Jasmine appeared suddenly. She looked the same as she had before except that she had a big smile on her face.

'Yes, it worked. You really did it! Oh, thank you! I'm going to go and visit my family. Do you know I haven't seen my parents in three thousand years?'

'Wow!' said Maggie. 'Well, I hope you have a wonderful time.'

'I will. Goodbye, Maggie!' Jasmine disappeared in a green flash.

'Goodbye, Jasmine,' Maggie whispered. She was sure she could hear Jasmine laughing as she went out into the sunshine and a faraway voice said, 'Always be careful what you wish for.'



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Before listening / reading

Activity 1

Look at the picture and answer the questions.



1. Do you know any stories about genies?
2. What do you think genies do?
3. What do you think the story is about?
4. Do you think there are any problems during the story? If yes, what kinds of problems?

Activity 2

Which of these words do you think you will hear or read in the story? Check [✓] the words you think you will hear or read.



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After you listen or read

Activity 4

See if you can remember the answers to these questions

1. What was Maggie helping her mother do?
a. tidy the kitchen b. clean the house c. tidy her bedroom
2. What color was the label on the jar?
a. blue b. green c. red
3. What color was the smoke?
a. blue b. green c. red
4. What was the genie's name?
a. Jasmine b. Jenny c. Juliette
5. How many wishes did Maggie get?
a. two b. three c. four
6. What was Maggie's first wish?
a. to set the genie free b. to have a clean kitchen c. to be out in the
sunshine
7. When the genie grants a wish, what does she do?
a. blinks b. smiles c. shakes her head
8. When did the genie last see her parents?
a. fifty years ago b. three thousand years ago c. she has never seen
them