

The Black Girl & the Red Scarf



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There was a woman from Abyssinia (the old Kingdom of Aksum) that used to clean the Prophet's masjid in Madinah. She lived in a tent in Masjid An-Nabawi and she would visit Aisha, the Mother of the Believers. Aisha's house had a door that led from her house to the masjid.

Everytime she would visit her, she would recite the same lines of poetry.

ويومَ الوشاحِ من أعاجيبِ ربِّنا
ألا إنه من بلدةِ الكفرِ أنجاني

The day of the scarf was one of the wonders of our Lord, for from the disbelieving town He rescued me.

One day, Aisha رضي الله عنها asked her "Why is it that every time you sit with me, you say these lines of poetry?". So she told her full story. She was a black slave girl who was owned by an Arab tribe. They set her free but she remained with them. Once, a little girl from the tribe came out wearing a red leather scarf that was decorated with precious stones.

It either fell from her or she put it somewhere and a small kite bird flew by and snatched it up. When they realised it was lost, the people searched for it but couldn't find it. They accused the girl of stealing it and started searching her.

While she was being searched by the people, she called out to Allah and said "If Allah saves me, I will go to Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم."

The Black Girl & The Red Scarf

Syria.

lean?

Masjid An-Nabawi

Masjid Al-Aqsa

when she was accused of stealing?

she visited Aisha رضي الله عنها?

heard of her death?

son's great example?

JAZAKALLAH khairan!

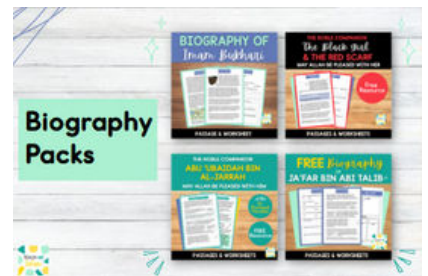
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السلام عليكم...

I really hope you and your kids enjoy and benefit from this resource!

Contents

There are 2 different levels biography passage. Each one has an accompanying worksheet or activity. Answer keys and black and white versions are included for your convenience.

Advanced Colour Version	5
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The information in this resource can be found in [this pdf](#). May Allah reward the noble author Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee.

The full references are included in the pdf but I have copied the hadith references for quick reference:

[Sahih al-Bukhari 439](#)

[Muslim 956](#)

Imam Al-Bayhaqi and others said the name of the noble black woman who cleaned the masjid is Kharqa Umm Mahjan ﷺ.

READING










Islamic Phrases

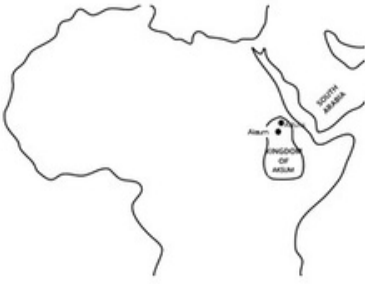
When you read about Islam you may see these symbols



Let's find out what they mean and how to read them correctly!

				
 When do we see it?	After the Messenger of Allah is mentioned	After a male companion of the Prophet is mentioned	After a female companion of the Prophet is mentioned	After several companions of the Prophet are mentioned
 What do we say?	salallahu alayhi wasalam	radi Allahu anhu	radi Allahu anha	radi Allahu anhum
 What does it mean?	May Allah raise his rank and grant him peace	May Allah be pleased with him	May Allah be pleased with her	May Allah be pleased with them

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that led from her house to the masjid. Every time she would visit her, she would recite the same lines of poetry.

ألا إنه من بلدة الكفر أنجاني

ويومَ الوشاحِ من أعاجيبِ ربِّنا

The day of the scarf was one of the wonders of our Lord, for from the disbelieving town He rescued me.

One day, Aisha رضي الله عنها asked her "Why is it that every time you sit with me, you say these lines of poetry?". So she told her full story. She was a black slave girl who was owned by an Arab tribe. They set her free but she remained with them. Once, a little girl from the tribe came out wearing a red leather scarf that was decorated with precious stones.

It either fell from her or she put it somewhere and a small kite bird flew by and snatched it up. When they realised it was lost, the people searched for it but couldn't find it. They accused the girl of stealing it and started searching her.

While she was being searched by the people, she called out to Allah and said "If Allah saves me, I will go to Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم."

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Allah honoured her and sent the same kite bird flying to them and it dropped the red scarf in front of them. The girl said “This is what you accused

me of, and I was innocent; and here it is.” The girl then migrated to Madinah and lived inside of the Prophet’s Masjid until her death.

On the night she died the Companions did not want to wake the Prophet ﷺ and trouble him. They buried her and performed the funeral prayer for her. Some days went by and the Prophet ﷺ realizing he hadn’t seen her, asked about her. When he was told that she had died, he asked to be shown her grave. The Prophet ﷺ went to her grave in Baqi al-Gharqad (the cemetery) and prayed the funeral prayer for her.

The Messenger ﷺ said “Indeed, these graves are filled with darkness upon its inhabitants. And indeed, Allah illuminates it for them due to my prayer over them.”¹

Allah ﷻ gave her a high status by guiding her to Islam, making her a Companion of the Prophet ﷺ, blessing her with the opportunity to perform the great deed of cleaning Masjid An Nabawi, blessing her with the company of Aisha, a home in the masjid and the Prophet ﷺ praying the funeral prayer for her.

May Allah have mercy on her and reward her for her example of gratitude to her Lord for his blessings upon her.

¹Muslim 956

The Black Girl & The Red Scarf

1 The girl was from Syria.

True False

2 What masjid did she clean?

Masjid Al-Haram Masjid An-Nabawi Masjid Al-Aqsa

3 Who took the scarf?

4 Who did the girl ask for help when she was accused of stealing?

5 What did she repeat every time she visited Aisha رضي الله عنها?

6 What did the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم do when he heard of her death?

7 What can you do to follow the Companion's great example?

The Black Girl & The Red Scarf



There was a girl from Abyssinia who lived with an Arab tribe. One day a girl from the tribe left her red scarf which was covered with jewels on the ground. A kite bird grabbed it and flew away with it.

The people of the tribe searched for the scarf and couldn't find it. They said the Abyssinian girl stole it and began searching her. She asked Allah to help her. She said she would go to Muhammad ﷺ and accept Islam if He helped her. Then Allah sent the bird back and it dropped the scarf on the ground as it flew by. Everyone then knew that she did not steal the scarf.



She travelled to Madinah, met the Prophet ﷺ and became Muslim. She lived in a tent in the Prophet's Masjid and cleaned it. The Mother of the Believers, Aisha ؓ lived next to the masjid and she used to visit her. Every time she visited she used to say these lines of poetry.

The day of the scarf was one of the wonders of our Lord, for from the disbelieving town He rescued me.

She remembered often Allah's blessing upon her when he rescued her. May Allah make us grateful like her for our blessings!



The girl was from Abyssinia

True

False

She stole the red scarf

True

False

She cleaned Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah


True

False

Allah helped her when she made du'aa

True

False

She used to spend time with Aisha 

True

False

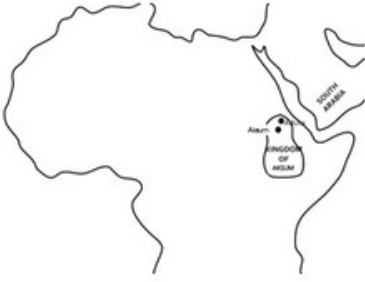
She often remembered how Allah blessed her.

True

False



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1 The girl was from Syria.

True False

2 What masjid did she clean?

Egypt Khaybar Abyssinia

3 Who took the scarf?

4 Who did the girl ask for help when she was accused of stealing?

5 What did she repeat every time she visited Aisha رضي الله عنها?

6 What did the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم do when he heard of her death?

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She remembered often Allah's blessing upon her when he rescued her. May Allah make us grateful like her for our blessings!

→ The girl was from Abyssinia

True

False

She stole the red scarf

True

False

She cleaned Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah


True

False

Allah helped her when she made du'aa

True

False

She used to spend time with Aisha 

True

False

She often remembered how Allah blessed her.

True

False



The Black Girl & The Red Scarf

1 The girl was from Syria.

True

False

2 What masjid did she clean?

Masjid Al-Haram

Masjid An-Nabawi

Masjid Al-Aqsa

3 Who took the scarf?

A small kite bird.

4 Who did the girl ask for help when she was accused of stealing?

Allah

5 What did she repeat every time she visited Aishaؓ?

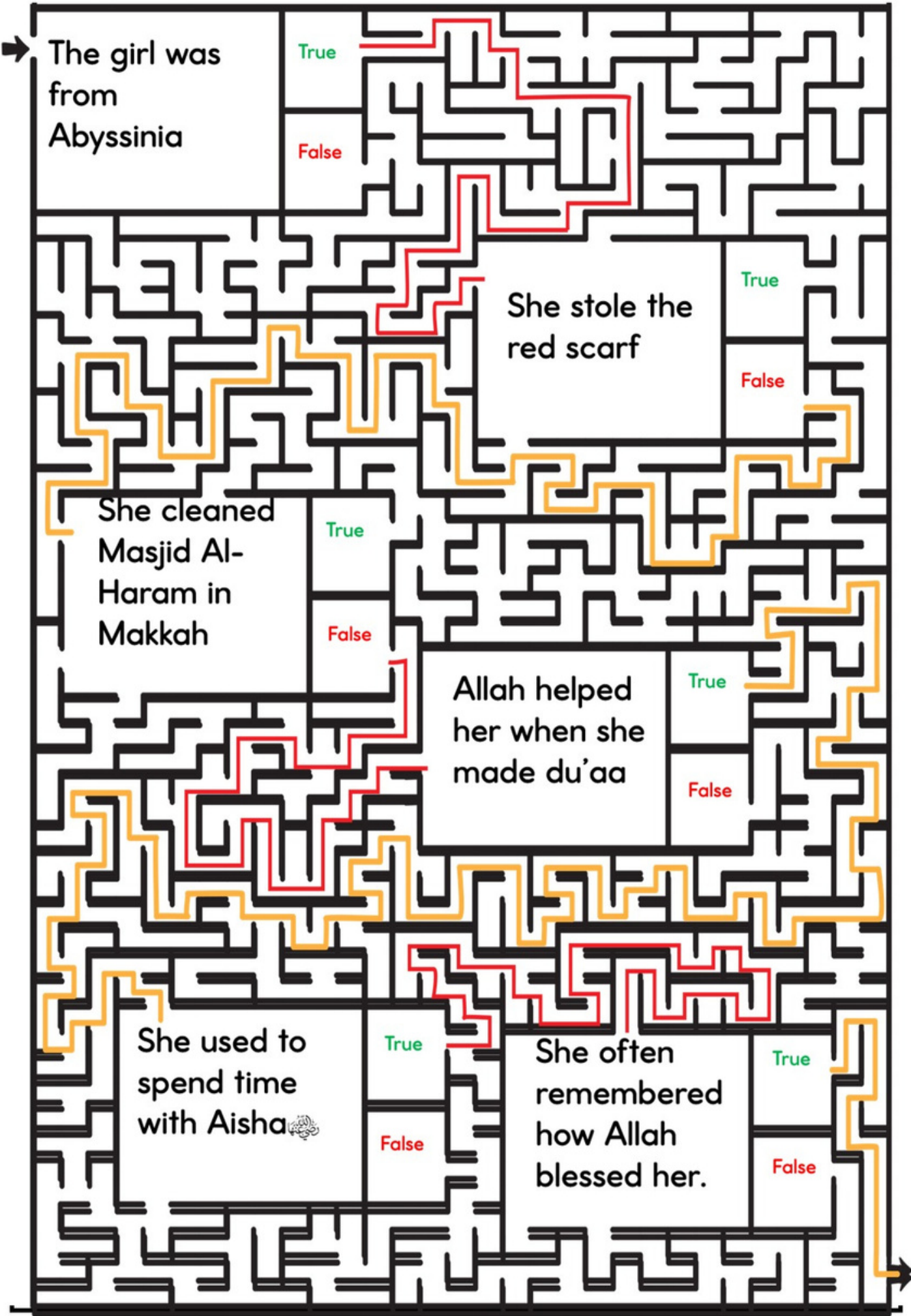
Two lines of poetry about when Allah rescued her.

6 What did the Prophetﷺ do when he heard of her death?

He visited her grave and prayed the funeral prayer for her.

7 What can you do to follow the Companion's great example?

Student's own response but could include make dua sincerely, always ask Allah for help, remember Allah's blessings, help to clean the masjid, keep good company and fulfil your promises.



→ The girl was from Abyssinia

True

False

She stole the red scarf

True

False

She cleaned Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah


True

False

Allah helped her when she made du'aa

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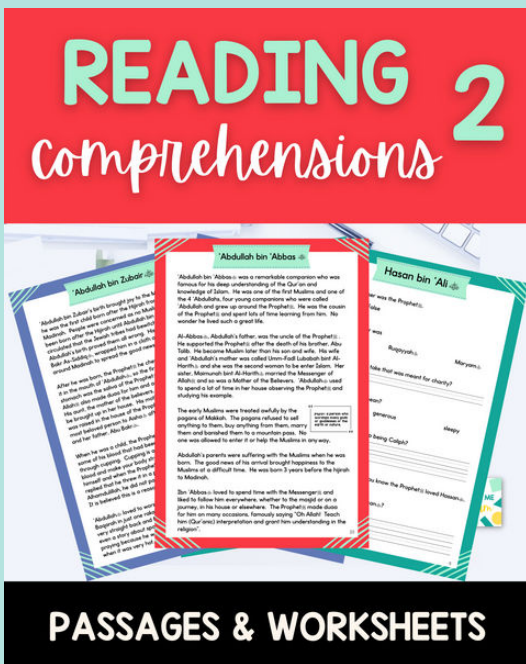
True

False



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