

## Close Reading: "Origins of the *Arabian Nights*"

1. Who wrote the *Arabian Nights*? When? [base your answer on the first 3 ¶s] \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The original stories apparently came from \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ century.
3. In what language were they originally translated into? \_\_\_\_\_
4. True / False            The original set of stories contained 1001, as the title suggests.
5. When was another set of tales added? Their origin? \_\_\_\_\_

### "Their Current Form"

6. In what form do we find the oldest surviving manuscript? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Where do we find the next oldest 3-volume Syrian manuscript? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Whose manuscript is known for being the only one to contain the ending to the *Nights*? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Name the four surviving Arabic printed texts:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What was Lane's 1839 text known for? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Which translator "pulled out all the stops" in his translations? \_\_\_\_\_
12. In particular, what did that translator tackle that others before him avoided?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Define *scatological*: \_\_\_\_\_
14. "Today, the translation by \_\_\_\_\_ is considered by many to be the best English translation."

### "Literary Style and Devices"

15. What is considered to be one of the most "striking devices" used in *Nights*? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Define the term from #15. \_\_\_\_\_
17. How do the authors of *Nights* take this device to the extreme? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What primary purpose do the frames serve? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Define *credence*: \_\_\_\_\_
20. What is a “related literary device used quite often in the *Nights*”? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Name two related, common motifs used in the *Nights*. \_\_\_\_\_
22. Name one significant, yet “minor” motif used in the tales. \_\_\_\_\_
23. How are the stories of *Nights* different from similar European tales of the time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
24. Even though she is a “victim of the cruelty of a mad sultan,” how does Scheherazade survive?  
\_\_\_\_\_
25. So, what is the moral? \_\_\_\_\_
26. Briefly, what is the role of Islam in *Nights*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“Influence of the *Nights* on Western Literature”**

27. When did the first stories from the *Nights* reach Europe? \_\_\_\_\_
28. Who is Antoine Galland? \_\_\_\_\_
29. How is the term *expurgated* used in reference to the *Nights*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
30. Why are tales from the *Nights* particularly appealing to children? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
31. Which work of Samuel Taylor Coleridge is similar in theme to the *Nights*? \_\_\_\_\_
32. How is Robert Louis Stevenson’s *New Arabian Nights* similar to the ancient *Nights*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
33. “No modern author used the *nights* more extensively than \_\_\_\_\_”
34. Define *incognito*. \_\_\_\_\_
35. True / False            The stories of the *Nights* can easily be attributed to one author.