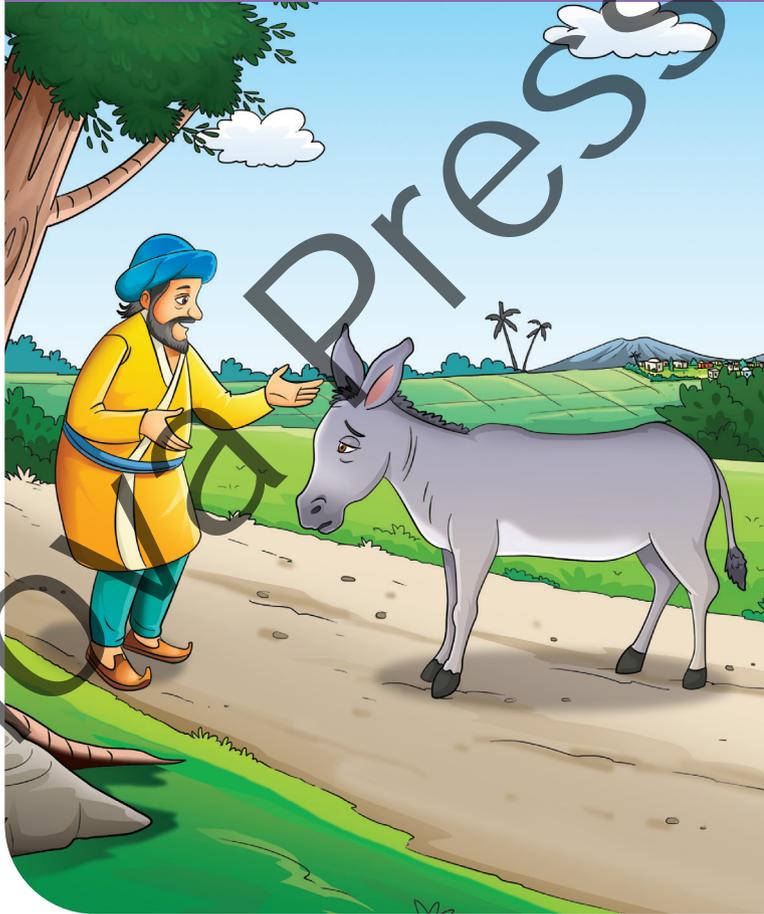


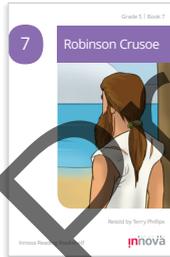
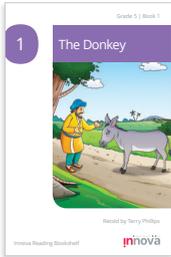
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The Donkey



Retold by Terry Phillips

Titles in the Innova Reading Bookshelf, Grade 5



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Published by:
Innova Press Ltd.
Suite 1, 3rd Floor,
11–12 St James's Square,
London SW1Y 4LB
United Kingdom

INNOVA PRESS LIMITED
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ISBN 978-1-78768-136-1

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data.
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Project management and production:
Global Blended Learning
Design: Global Blended Learning
Illustration: Global Blended Learning
Audio recording: Wired Studios Ltd.

The Donkey



The Donkey

Nasruddin had an old donkey.
Her name was Jenny. He loved his donkey,
but she was old, and she was weak.

One day, Nasruddin said to Jenny,
"I'm sorry, Jenny. I must sell you."
Jenny was very sad.
Nasruddin said, "You can't work
and I need another donkey."

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. Nasruddin took Jenny to the market.
2. Nasruddin took Jenny to her field.

Look at the next page. Check.



I'm sorry, Jenny.
I must sell you.

You can't work
and I need another donkey.

a field

The Donkey

Nasruddin took Jenny to the market.

He saw a sign.

It read, "I buy donkeys for cash from 10.00 to 2.00."

Nasruddin went up to the man and said,
"My donkey is old and weak,
and she can't work anymore."

The man said, "I don't buy old, weak donkeys.
I buy animals for work."

Nasruddin began to walk away.

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. The man said, "Goodbye."
2. The man said, "Wait!"

Look at the next page. Check.



My donkey is old and weak, and she can't work anymore.

I don't buy old, weak donkeys. I buy animals for work.



The Donkey

The man said, "Wait! How much is she?"

Nasruddin said, "Can you give me 80?"

The man laughed and said, "I'll give you 20."

Nasruddin said, "I need 30."

The man said, "OK. Here's the cash."

He gave Nasruddin 30.

Nasruddin started to walk away.

Then he remembered.

He thought, "I need a donkey."

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. Nasruddin went back to the man.
2. Nasruddin went home.

Look at the next page. Check.



The Donkey

Nasruddin went back to the man.
He said, "I need a donkey."

The man had a new sign.
It read, "I sell donkeys for cash from 2.00 to 4.00."

The man said, "I start selling donkeys at 2.00."

Nasruddin went and bought some food.

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. Nasruddin returned to the donkey seller at 4.00.
2. Nasruddin returned to the donkey seller at 2.00.

Look at the next page. Check.



I need a donkey.

I start selling donkeys at 2.00.

I sell donkeys for cash from 2.00 to 4.00.



food

The Donkey

Nasruddin returned to the donkey seller at 2.00.
Jenny was on a high platform.
The man said, "Ladies and gentlemen!
I have a wonderful donkey here."

Nasruddin looked at Jenny.
He thought, "Is he talking about Jenny?"

The man said, "She is young and strong!"

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. Nasruddin said, "Is she young and strong?"
2. Nasruddin thought, "Is she young and strong?"

Look at the next page. Check.



Ladies and gentlemen!
I have a wonderful donkey
here.

Is he talking about
Jenny?

She is young
and strong.

a platform

The Donkey

Nasruddin thought, "Is she young and strong?"

The man said, "This donkey can carry things all day."
Nasruddin was surprised.
He thought, "Can she carry things all day?"

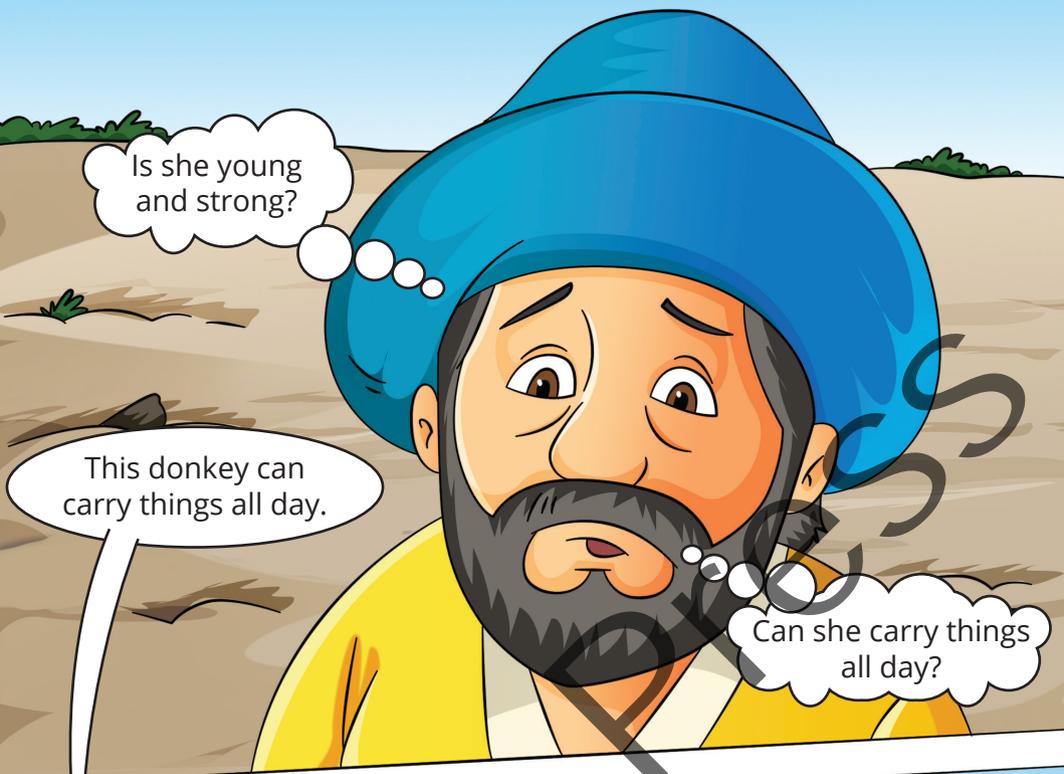
The man said, "How much will you pay me for this wonderful animal?"

One man shouted, "Fifty!"
Another man shouted, "Sixty!"
A woman shouted, "Seventy!"

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. Nasruddin shouted, "Eighty!"
2. Another woman shouted, "Eighty!"

Look at the next page. Check.



Is she young and strong?

This donkey can carry things all day.

Can she carry things all day?



How much will you pay me for this wonderful animal?

Fifty!

Sixty!

Seventy!

The Donkey

Nasruddin shouted, "Eighty!"

The man said, "Will anyone give me 90?"
The people shook their heads. They said, "No."

Nasruddin gave the man 80.
He said, "Here's the cash."
He took Jenny's rope and they left the market.

On the way home, Nasruddin said to Jenny,
"I'm stupid. You're not very old."
Jenny felt young again.

He said, "You're not very weak."
Jenny felt strong again.

He patted her back and said,
"I think that you can carry things all day."

He put his heavy bag on her back
and they went home.

True or false?

- Nasruddin and Jenny were happy at the end.



Will anyone give me ninety?

Eighty!

No.

Here's the cash.

I'm stupid. You're not very old.

You're not very weak.

a heavy bag
back

I think that you can carry things all day.

Picture dictionary



a donkey



a field



a sign



a market



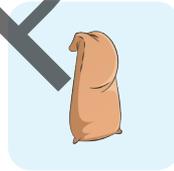
cash



a rope



heavy



light



strong



weak



sell / sold



buy / bought

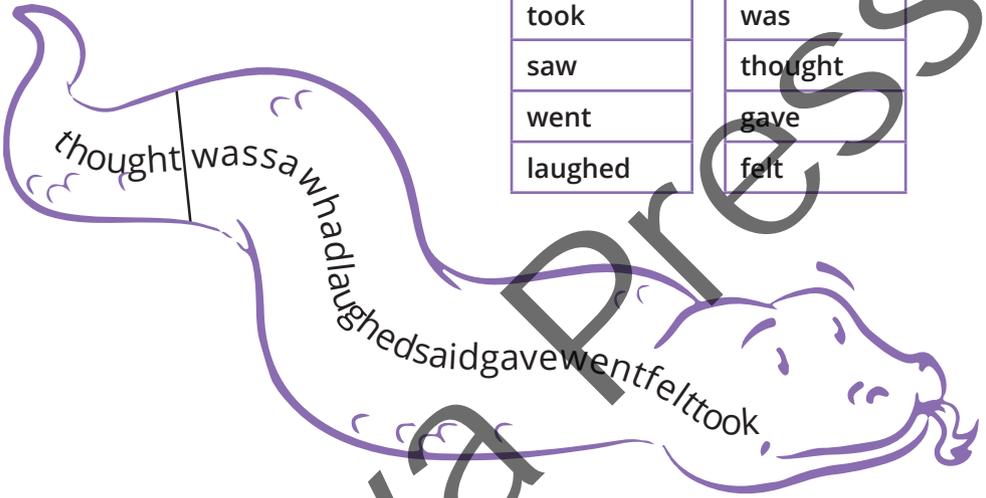
Exercises

Vocabulary 1

Read the words.

Find the words in the snake.

had	said
took	was
saw	thought
went	gave
laughed	felt



Vocabulary 2

Find pairs of words. Draw lines.

old

happy

weak

low

clever

stupid

sad

young

high

light

heavy

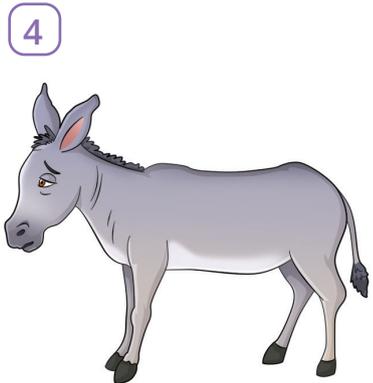
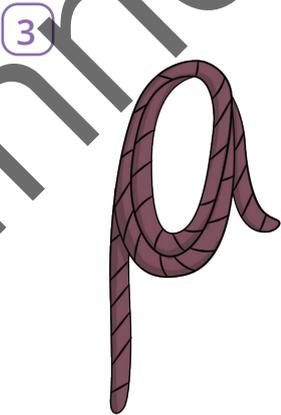
strong

The Donkey

Vocabulary 3

Write the numbers.

	a sign
	a field
	food
	a rope



The Donkey

	a donkey
	a bag
	a market
	cash

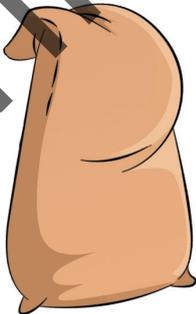
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6



7



8

I buy donkeys for cash
from 10.00 to 2.00.

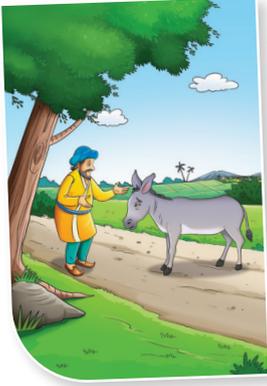
The Donkey

Comprehension: Ordering

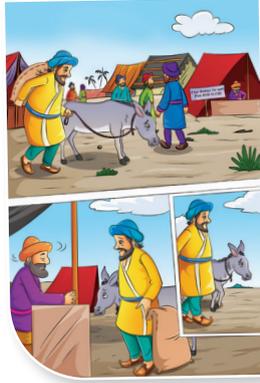
Tell the story. Number the sentences in order.

	He put his heavy bag on her back and they went home.
1	Nasruddin had an old donkey called Jenny. He loved his donkey but she was weak.
	Nasruddin returned to the man at 2.00. Jenny was on a high platform. The man said, "I have a wonderful donkey here." Nasruddin thought, "Is he talking about Jenny?"
	Nasruddin shouted, "Eighty!" He gave the man eighty, took Jenny's rope and they left the market.
	Nasruddin took Jenny to the market. He went up to the donkey seller but the man said, "I buy animals for work." Nasruddin began to walk away.
	Nasruddin went back to the man. The man said, "I start selling donkeys at 2.00."
	Nasruddin went and bought some food.
	On the way home, Nasruddin said to Jenny, "I'm stupid. You're not very old." He said, "You're not very weak."
	The man said, "Wait!" He gave Nasruddin 30. Nasruddin started to walk away. Then he thought, "I need a donkey."
	The man said, "How much will you pay me for this wonderful animal?" One man shouted, "Fifty!" Another man shouted, "Sixty!" A woman shouted, "Seventy!"

The Donkey



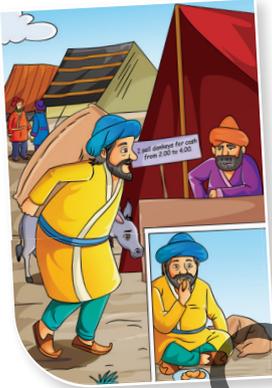
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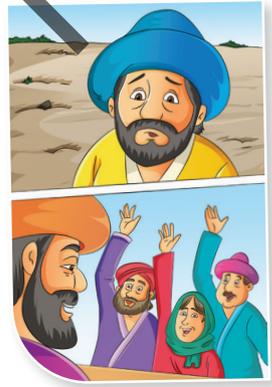
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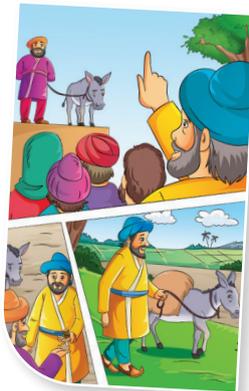
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5



6



7

The Donkey

Grammar

Tell the story.

Tick (✓) the best way to complete each sentence.

1. Nasruddin had an old donkey. Her name ...

was Jenny.

is Jenny.

2. Nasruddin took ...

Jenny to the market.

to the market Jenny.

3. He asked a man, "How much ...

you give me for her?"

will you give me for her?"

4. Nasruddin went and ...

had some food.

have some food.

5. Nasruddin returned ...

on 2.00.

at 2.00.

6. Jenny was ...

on a high platform.

in a high platform.

7. The man said, "I have a wonderful ...

donkey here."

donkeys here."

8. Nasruddin thought, "Is he ...

talking about Jenny?"

talk about Jenny?"

9. Nasruddin gave the man 80 and ...

took Jenny's rope.

Jenny's rope took.

10. Nasruddin said to Jenny, ...

"You're not very old."

"You weren't very old."

11. Nasruddin said to Jenny, "I think that ...

you can carry heavy things."

you carry heavy things."

The Donkey

A poem

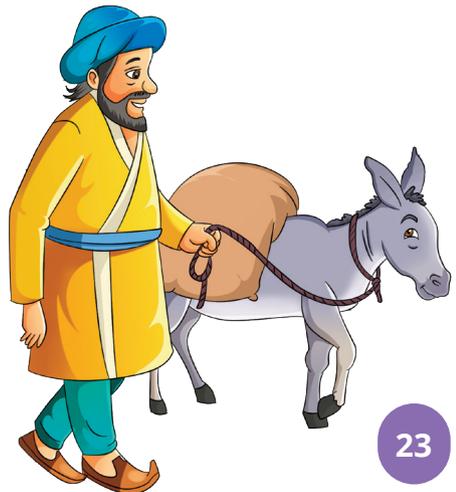
Nasruddin had a donkey.
She was weak and old.
He took her to the market.
He needed to get gold.

Eighty gold coins was his price,
But the buyer gave him 30.
Nasruddin sat down for lunch:
Rice and meat and tea.

After lunch, he went to see
The donkey man at 2.00.
He was on a platform.
Jenny was there, too.

The man said,
"She is young and strong!"
Nasruddin thought,
"Jenny?"
"She can carry things all day!"
Nasruddin thought,
"Can she?"
"How much will you pay me?"
"Fifty!"
"Sixty!"
"More!"
Nasruddin said,
"Eighty!"
The man still wanted more.

But in the end, he said,
"OK."
He took the cash for Jenny.
Jenny wasn't old or weak.
She was worth every penny!



The Donkey

Answer key

Vocabulary 1

thought | was | saw | had | laughed | said | gave | went | felt | took

Vocabulary 2

old	young
weak	strong
clever	stupid
sad	happy
high	low
heavy	light

Vocabulary 3

a sign 8; a field 2; food 6; a rope 3; a donkey 4; a bag 7; a market 5; cash 1.

Comprehension

1. Nasruddin had an old donkey called Jenny. He loved his donkey but she was weak.
2. Nasruddin took Jenny to the market. He went up to the donkey seller but the man said, "I buy animals for work." Nasruddin began to walk away.
3. The man said, "Wait!" He gave Nasruddin 30. Nasruddin started to walk away. Then he thought, "I need a donkey."
4. Nasruddin went back to the man. The man said, "I start selling donkeys at 2.00."
5. Nasruddin went and bought some food.
6. Nasruddin returned to the man at 2.00. Jenny was on a high platform. The man said, "I have a wonderful donkey here." Nasruddin thought, "Is he talking about Jenny?"
7. The man said, "How much will you pay me for this wonderful animal?" One man shouted, "Fifty!" Another man shouted, "Sixty!" A woman shouted, "Seventy!"
8. Nasruddin shouted "Eighty!" He gave the man 80, took Jenny's rope and they left the market.
9. On the way home, Nasruddin said to Jenny, "I'm stupid. You're not very old." He said, "You're not very weak."
10. He put his heavy bag on her back and they went home.

Grammar

- 1 was Jenny.
- 2 Jenny to the market.
- 3 will you give me for her?
- 4 had some food.
- 5 at 2.00.
- 6 on a high platform.
- 7 donkey here."
- 8 talking about Jenny?
- 9 took Jenny's rope.
- 10 You're not very old."
- 11 you can carry heavy things."

For Teachers and Parents

Aim

To develop the **skill of reading** to **non-native speaker young learners**.

Encouraging learning

Classic tales retold with **engaging full-page illustrations**.

A hook at the end of every page: **'What happened next?'** encourages young learners to predict, then check for themselves.

The stories are **fun** and often have a **moral** to discuss in the children's first language after reading.

Illustrations with speech and thought bubbles

Detailed **full-colour illustrations** support every page of prose text. **New nouns** are captioned. The illustrations and bubbles mean that children can understand a lot of the story before they read, or while they read, the prose text.

Audio file

The audio is available for **free** at www.innovapress.com/readers or through the **QR code**.

Exercises and poems

Vocabulary, comprehension and grammar exercises for each story, and **poems**, too!

Level of prose text

Grade 1: **100L – 200L**, 50 – 150 words
Grade 2: **200L – 300L**, 100 – 250 words
Grade 3: **200L – 300L**, 250 – 350 words
Grade 4: **300L – 400L**, 300 – 450 words
Grade 5: **400L – 600L**, 400 – 900 words

Young learners with a slightly lower Lexile level will be able to understand the stories in each case because of the support from the illustrations.

Reading skills in Grade 5

Skill 1: Understanding sentences

Medium-length sentences with basic English sentence patterns are introduced systematically.

Each sentence is on its own line in the prose text in the early stories so children can see the structure clearly, and begin to internalise basic sentence patterns in English. Then the sentences merge into paragraphs in later stories.

The patterns in Grades 5 are:

- all the patterns in Grades 1 to 4 plus
- S V O O, e.g., *Nasraddin gave the man two pennies.*
- adverb + adjective, e.g., *much closer*
- *there is/are/was/were ...*
- *too vs not enough*
- S V that S V ..., e.g., *I think that you can carry heavy things all day.*
- closed and open questions in the present simple and past simple
- a small range of modals

Skill 2: Understanding relationships between sentences and paragraphs

Links between sentences – e.g., indefinite to definite article, noun to pronoun – are reinforced from earlier grades, and *this* and *that* are introduced.

Subskill 3: Predicting next events in a continuing story

The 'What happened next?' feature on each page makes this essential subskill fun, and enables a teacher or parent to check how much the young learner has understood about the story and the possible continuation sentences.

Guide for Teachers and Parents

Comprehensive methodology notes

online which include alternative routes through the story, group and individual activities and extension activities for children who finish quickly.

Grade 5

Innova readers are designed by ELT experts in the UK specifically for children whose first language is not English.

- **Classic tales** enable young learners to develop the skill of reading.
- **A controlled syllabus progression** for vocabulary and sentence structure ensures easy comprehension and consolidation of what is learned.
- **An interactive element** at the end of every page challenges young learners to predict "What happened next?".
- **An audio version** is available free at innovapress.com/readers or by scanning the QR code below.
- **Exercises and poems** check vocabulary, comprehension and grammar, and help young learners appreciate English poetry.

