



Al-Azhar Al-Sharif
Presidency of Al-Azhar Institutes

ENGLISH RAYS OF WISDOM FOR

AL-AZHAR LANGUAGE INSTITUTES

Primary Four



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Rays of Wisdom

Year Four Primary

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Preface

Rays of Wisdom 4 has been prepared for Grade 4 students at Al-Azhar Language Institutes to develop their English language skills while nurturing imagination, creativity, and moral values. The book offers a rich combination of stories, poetry, and biographies of great Islamic figures, carefully selected to meet the needs and interests of learners at this stage.

The short stories section includes *The Devoted Friend* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, presented in simple chapters to guide students gradually through reading longer texts. These stories encourage imagination, critical thinking, and reflection on friendship, kindness, and curiosity.

The poetry section introduces learners to rhythm, rhyme, and figurative language through two classic poems: *Who Has Seen the Wind?* and *The Caterpillar*. These poems help students enjoy the beauty of words while practicing reading aloud and appreciating nature and life.

The Islamic figures section highlights inspiring examples from our rich heritage. Students will learn about Asmaa' Bint Abi Bakr, a model of courage and faith, and Abu Ubaidah Ibn Al-Jarrah, one of the noble companions of the Prophet ﷺ, known for his honesty, humility, and leadership.

Through this blend of literature and values, *Rays of Wisdom 4* aims not only to strengthen students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills but also to inspire them to apply lessons of character, responsibility, and faith in their daily lives.

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Stories

The Devoted Friend — Simplified Edition

Based on the original by Oscar Wilde

Adapted for Young Readers by a Team of Editors
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Introduction

The Devoted Friend is a short story written by **Oscar Wilde**, a famous writer from Ireland. He is known for writing beautiful stories that teach important lessons about life, kindness, and human nature.

This story is about **Hans, a kind and hardworking gardener**, and a wealthy man called the **Miller**. Hans tries to be a devoted friend, helping the Miller in every way he can. But the story shows us that friendship is not only about giving—it is also about **care, fairness, and understanding**.

Through Hans's story, readers can learn important lessons:

- True friendship is about **mutual care and respect**.
- Being devoted to someone does not mean ignoring your own well-being.
- Helping others should be kind and fair, not one-sided.

As you read this story, think about your own friends and how you show care for each other. What makes a **friendship strong and honest**?

Chapter 1

Hans was a poor gardener who lived in a small, cozy house near a river. Every morning, he woke up early, listening to the birds singing and the water flowing gently. Hans loved working in his garden. He planted vegetables and flowers, watered them carefully, and removed any weeds. His neighbors often said, "Hans is honest and kind. He always works hard and never asks for much."

One sunny morning, Hans was trimming the hedges in his little garden when he saw the Miller walking along the path to his large, beautiful house. The Miller wore clean, shining clothes and had a proud look on his face. Hans had seen him around the village, but they had never spoken.



"Good morning, Hans!" said the Miller in a friendly voice. "Your garden is looking lovely today. The flowers are so bright and beautiful."

"Good morning, sir," Hans replied politely. "I try my best. I love watching the plants grow and bloom. It makes me happy."

The Miller smiled and walked closer. "I have a thought," he said. "I want to plant some flowers and vegetables in my garden, but I am too busy. If you help me, I can give you some tools, seeds, and advice. That way, your work will be easier, and your garden will grow even better."

Hans's eyes brightened. He was a kind man, and he liked helping others. "I would be happy to help you," he said. *He seems so generous. Maybe he can be my friend too,* thought Hans.

From that day, Hans began visiting the Miller's garden. The Miller gave him instructions about which plants to water and which flowers to trim. Hans listened carefully and worked as hard as he could.

Sometimes, Hans thought about how lucky he was. He had never met anyone so rich and polite who seemed to care about him. Yet, deep inside, Hans wondered if the Miller truly understood what it was like to work hard every day without much rest. But Hans decided to trust him, hoping their friendship would grow.

And so, Hans and the Miller began their friendship. It was a friendship of help and trust, though Hans did not yet know that being devoted to a friend could sometimes be harder than he imagined.

Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. Describe Hans's garden and his daily routine.
2. How does Hans feel when the Miller compliments him?
3. What does the Miller offer Hans, and why?
4. Do you think Hans should trust the Miller immediately? Why or why not?

B) Choose the correct answer:

1. Hans's house is:
 - a) big and fancy
 - b) small and cozy
 - c) near the mountains
2. The Miller's clothes are:
 - a) old and torn
 - b) dirty
 - c) clean and shining
3. Hans hopes:
 - a) to become rich quickly
 - b) to be the Miller's friend
 - c) to leave gardening forever

Chapter 2

Hans continued visiting the Miller's garden every day. He watered the plants, trimmed the flowers, and did everything the Miller asked. The Miller, in turn, often gave Hans advice about gardening, but sometimes it seemed more like orders than friendly suggestions.

"One day," said the Miller, "you should plant your strawberries closer together. That way, they will grow better."

"Yes, sir," Hans replied politely. He thought, He knows so much. I must listen to him if I want to learn.



After working for a while, Hans said, "Sir, I wish I had a small wheelbarrow. Carrying all these tools is heavy for me."

The Miller nodded slowly. "Well, if you plant a bigger garden, I might think about it. But you must work hard first, Hans. That is how you earn rewards."

Hans felt a little disappointed but nodded. He trusted the Miller and believed that if he worked hard, the Miller would keep his promise.

One morning, Hans had an idea. "Sir, maybe we could share our vegetables with the villagers. It will make them happy, and they can also give advice about growing better plants."

The Miller laughed softly. "Oh, Hans, you are so kind, but sharing is not always smart. You must think about yourself and your garden first. Still, it is a good thought for a gardener like you."

Hans felt happy that the Miller had listened, even if only a little. He thought, He is wise and experienced. I must keep learning from him.

But deep in his heart, Hans also started to notice that the Miller seemed to enjoy giving advice and telling Hans what to do more than helping him. Hans did not say anything; he wanted to be a devoted friend and learn everything the Miller could teach him.

So, every day, Hans worked and followed the Miller's advice. He hoped that one day, their friendship would be truly fair and helpful for both of them.

Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. What advice does the Miller give Hans about gardening?
2. How does Hans feel when the Miller talks to him?
3. Why does Hans want to share vegetables with the villagers?
4. Do you think the Miller is a true friend to Hans? Why or why not?

B) Choose the correct answer:

1. Hans wants a wheelbarrow because:
 - a) he wants to sell vegetables
 - b) carrying tools is heavy
 - c) he wants to give it to the Miller
2. The Miller thinks sharing vegetables is:
 - a) smart
 - b) kind but not smart
 - c) dangerous
3. Hans continues working hard because:
 - a) he wants to impress the villagers
 - b) he wants to learn from the Miller
 - c) he wants to earn money quickly

Chapter 3

As the days passed, Hans worked harder than ever. Every morning, he went to the Miller's garden, carrying heavy tools and watering cans. Sometimes, he felt tired, but he reminded himself, I am helping my friend. A true friend works hard for those he cares about.

One rainy morning, Hans came to the Miller with wet clothes and muddy shoes. "Good morning, sir," he said. "I have been planting the new flowers you asked for, even in the rain."



The Miller looked at him but did not seem worried about Hans's wet clothes. "Ah, Hans," he said slowly, "you must work faster. The flowers grow slowly because you are too careful. If you work harder, they will bloom beautifully by tomorrow."

"Yes, sir," Hans replied, shivering. He is right; I must do my best, he thought.

Later that day, Hans asked politely, "Sir, may I rest for a little while? My back hurts from carrying water all morning."

The Miller shook his head. "Rest? No, Hans. If you rest now, the flowers will not be ready. Keep working. Besides, I will give you a little present when the garden is perfect."

Hans nodded quietly. He worked through the afternoon, his hands aching, his clothes soaked. Even though he felt tired, he kept going because he wanted to be loyal and devoted.

That evening, Hans sat by the river, thinking about the Miller. I am a good friend, but does he truly care about me? he wondered. But then he smiled.

Perhaps this is what it means to be a devoted friend—to help even when it is hard.

Hans went home late, exhausted, but he felt proud. He believed that one day, the Miller would recognize his hard work and reward him fairly.

Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. Why does Hans keep working even when he is tired?
2. How does the Miller respond when Hans asks to rest?
3. What does Hans think about being a devoted friend?
4. Is Hans being treated fairly by the Miller? Explain your answer.

B) Choose the correct answer:

1. Hans works in the rain because:
 - a) he is forced by the villagers
 - b) he wants the flowers to bloom
 - c) he is careless
2. The Miller promises Hans:
 - a) a reward when the garden is perfect
 - b) a new house
 - c) money for every flower
3. Hans feels:
 - a) proud of his work
 - b) angry at the Miller
 - c) ready to stop gardening

Chapter 4

As the weeks passed, Hans worked harder than ever in the Miller's garden. He carried heavy baskets, dug the soil, watered the flowers, and trimmed the plants. Even when he was tired or cold, he did not complain. He thought, A true friend never stops helping, no matter how hard it is.

One sunny morning, the Miller came to the garden. "Hans," he said, "I need you to cut some reeds by the river. I want to build a new fence for my garden. It will be very quick."

Hans looked at the reeds. They were tall and heavy. "Sir," he said, "they are very difficult to cut. My hands might hurt, and it could take many hours."

The Miller frowned. "Oh, Hans, it will be easy if you try. Besides, it is for me—your friend. Friends always help each other."

Hans hesitated but then nodded. I must help him. Friends must be devoted, he thought. He worked all day in the sun, cutting the reeds, his hands bleeding and muscles aching.

At the end of the day, Hans was exhausted. "Sir," he said, "I have finished the work, but I am very tired. Can you help me home?"

The Miller shook his head. "You are fine, Hans. I do not need to carry you. You should walk slowly and rest at home."



Hans tried to smile and walk, but he felt weak. Soon, he fell by the river. The villagers found him, but it was too late—Hans could not move. They realized that he had worked too hard and that the Miller had not cared for him like a true friend.

The villagers buried Hans near the river where he had worked so devotedly. They said, Hans was kind and loyal, but sometimes helping a friend does not mean the other will care for you in return.

The Miller went back to his house, thinking only of his beautiful garden. He never understood Hans's hard work or loyalty.

The story teaches a lesson: True friendship is not just about giving and working for someone else. A real friend cares for you, listens to you, and shares both help and kindness.

Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. What task does the Miller ask Hans to do at the river?
2. What happens to Hans after he works all day?
3. What lesson do the villagers learn from Hans's story?
4. How can someone be a devoted friend without hurting themselves?
Give an example.

B) Choose the correct answer:

1. Hans falls by the river because:
 - a) he is careless
 - b) he is exhausted from working too hard
 - c) he is playing
2. The Miller thinks about:
 - a) Hans's health
 - b) his own garden
 - c) helping villagers
3. The moral of the story is:
 - a) Always work for someone richer than you
 - b) True friends care for each other equally
 - c) Work is more important than friendship

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland — Simplified Edition

Based on the original by Lewis Carroll

Adapted for Young Readers by a Team of Editors
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Introduction

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a famous story written by **Lewis Carroll**, an English author known for creating magical, imaginative worlds. The story is about a young girl named **Alice** who falls into a mysterious place called **Wonderland**.

In Wonderland, nothing is ordinary. Animals talk, flowers have secrets, and rules are very different from the real world. Alice meets strange and magical creatures, like the **White Rabbit**, the **Cheshire Cat**, the **Caterpillar**, and the **Queen of Hearts**.

This story teaches important lessons:

- Being **curious** can lead to exciting adventures.
- It's important to be **brave and clever** in unfamiliar situations.
- Friendship, kindness, and thinking for yourself are very valuable.

As you read, think about how Alice feels in Wonderland. How does she solve problems? How does she stay brave when things are confusing or strange?

Chapter 1-

Down the Rabbit Hole

Alice was sitting on the soft grass by the riverbank. The sun was shining, and the birds were singing, but Alice felt bored. She had nothing to do and no one to talk to.

Suddenly, a very strange sight caught her eye. A **White Rabbit**, dressed in a fine coat, ran past her. He looked at a small pocket watch and muttered to himself, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!"

Alice's eyes grew wide. A rabbit that talks? And wears a coat? she thought. Her curiosity could not be stopped. She jumped to her feet and ran after him. The rabbit was quick, darting across the field, and finally disappeared down a large, dark hole beneath an old tree.



Without thinking, Alice leaned over and peered into the hole. "It's so deep!" she whispered. Suddenly, she **slipped and fell**. Down, down, down she went, deeper than she had ever imagined.

Alice tried to stay calm as she passed by floating objects: books, teacups, picture frames, and even a pair of boots! *How strange this place is!* she thought. She wondered how long the fall would last. She felt as if she were flying.

Finally, Alice landed gently on a soft pile of leaves at the bottom. She looked around and saw a **long hallway lined with doors of all sizes**. Some doors were tiny, some were medium, and one was very large. On a small table in the middle of the hall, there was a tiny golden **key** and a glass bottle labeled “**Drink Me.**”

Alice picked up the bottle and read the label carefully. *If I drink this, I might shrink small enough to open the tiny door*, she thought. Taking a deep breath, she sipped the liquid. Almost instantly, she began to **shrink smaller and smaller**, until she was just the right size to fit through the tiny door.

Alice stepped through the door and found herself in a **wonderful, magical garden** filled with colorful flowers, twisting paths, and strange creatures she had never seen before. She felt a mix of excitement and nervousness.

What adventures await me here? Alice wondered, as she took her first careful steps into Wonderland—a world that was full of surprises, mysteries, and magic.

Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. What unusual thing does Alice see at the beginning of the story?
2. Describe what happens when Alice falls down the rabbit hole.
3. What items does Alice find on the table in the hallway?
4. Why do you think Alice decided to follow the White Rabbit, even though it was unusual?

B) Choose the correct answer:

2. The White Rabbit is wearing
 - a) a hat
 - b) a coat
 - c) shoes
3. Alice feels
 - a) bored and sleepy
 - b) curious and excited
 - c) angry and tired
4. The bottle says
 - a) "Eat Me"
 - b) "Drink Me"
 - c) "Open Me"

Chapter 2

The Pool of Tears and Strange Creatures

After shrinking from the magical drink, Alice stepped carefully through the tiny door into a garden full of bright, colorful flowers. Everything seemed alive and magical. She wandered along a winding path, amazed by the beauty around her.

Suddenly, she began to grow taller and taller! “Oh my! I’m getting so big!” Alice cried. Her head nearly touched the leaves above, and she had to bend down to avoid knocking over the flowers.

“I wish I could control my size,” she muttered. *This is even stranger than falling down the rabbit hole.*

Alice looked around and noticed that she was in a small courtyard filled with animals and creatures she had never seen before. There were birds that talked softly, a lizard wearing tiny spectacles, and a mouse who seemed very anxious.

Alice tried to speak kindly to the creatures. “Hello! I’m Alice. Can you tell me where I am?”

The mouse shook its head. “You’re in Wonderland,” he said.



“Everything here is unusual. Be careful where you step, or you might get lost forever.”

Just then, Alice noticed a **small pool of her own tears** she had shed when she was growing so big. The pool was surprisingly large. “Oh dear,” she said. “I hope I don’t drown in my own tears!”

As she wandered, more creatures appeared. Some were friendly, some were silly, and some were a little confusing. They spoke in riddles, asked strange questions, and sometimes made Alice laugh. She realized that in Wonderland, nothing was ordinary—everything was a puzzle or a surprise.

Alice sighed and sat down for a moment. *I must be careful*, she thought. *Even friends here might be tricky, and I don’t want to make mistakes.* But her curiosity was stronger than her worry. She wanted to explore every path, meet every creature, and understand this magical world.

With a deep breath, Alice stood up and took her first careful steps along the winding paths of Wonderland, ready for whatever adventures awaited her next.

Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. What happens to Alice after she shrinks and steps into the garden?
2. Who are some of the creatures Alice meets?
3. Why is the pool of tears significant?
4. Why do you think Wonderland has so many unusual creatures and surprises? How might this teach Alice a lesson?

B) Choose the correct answer:

1. Wonderland is:
 - a) a normal garden
 - b) a magical place
 - c) a school playground
2. The mouse tells Alice:
 - a) to explore without care
 - b) that everything here is unusual
 - c) to go back home immediately
3. Alice feels:
 - a) scared but curious
 - b) bored
 - c) sleepy

Chapter 3

The Caterpillar, the Cheshire Cat, and the Duchess

Alice walked along the winding paths of Wonderland, feeling both curious and a little nervous. The flowers seemed to whisper secrets, and the trees seemed to lean closer as if listening. Soon, she came upon a **large mushroom**, where a blue Caterpillar was sitting calmly, smoking a hookah.

“Who... are... you?” the Caterpillar asked slowly, looking at Alice with half-closed eyes.

“I’m Alice,” she replied politely. “I didn’t mean to bother you. I’m exploring Wonderland.”

The Caterpillar blew a smoke ring that floated in the air and said, “You must learn... who you are... before you can understand anything here.”

Alice was puzzled. “Who I am? I know my name is Alice, but... do you mean something else?”

The Caterpillar nodded. “Perhaps... or perhaps not. Try eating this mushroom. One side will make you taller, the other side shorter. Choose wisely.”

Alice took a small piece and carefully nibbled. Slowly, she grew taller, then shorter, then just the right size. *How strange!* she thought, realizing Wonderland worked in mysterious ways.

After leaving the Caterpillar, Alice wandered into the house of a **grumpy Duchess**. The house smelled of pepper and the air was filled with sneezes. The Duchess had a baby that cried loudly, and a cook who shouted strange orders.

“Goodness!” Alice whispered. “What a chaotic place.”

While exploring, she met the **Cheshire Cat**, a large cat with a wide, friendly grin. “Hello, Alice,” said the Cat, floating in the tree. “Which way should you go?”

Alice looked around. “I’m not sure. I want to find the Queen of Hearts, but I don’t know the way.”

The Cheshire Cat smiled mysteriously. “That depends... on where you want to end up. In Wonderland, the path is never straight, and the journey matters as much as the destination.”

Alice realized that Wonderland was full of strange lessons and curious friends. Each creature she met taught her something new about herself and about this magical, unpredictable world.

I must be careful, but I must also be brave, Alice thought. She continued her journey, stepping lightly through Wonderland, ready for more adventures.



Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. What advice does the Caterpillar give Alice?
2. Who is the Cheshire Cat, and what does he tell Alice?
3. What is strange about the Duchess's house?
4. How does meeting the Caterpillar and the Cheshire Cat help Alice understand Wonderland better?

B) Choose the correct answer:

1. The mushroom makes Alice:
 - a) taller on one side, shorter on the other
 - b) invisible
 - c) able to fly
2. The Cheshire Cat:
 - a) grins and gives advice
 - b) chases Alice
 - c) is a small mouse
3. Wonderland teaches Alice that:
 - a) everything is ordinary
 - b) curiosity can be confusing but helpful
 - c) she should return home immediately

Chapter 4

The Queen of Hearts and the Trial

Alice wandered deeper into Wonderland, following winding paths lined with tall, colorful flowers. Soon, she reached a large, bright garden where the **Queen of Hearts** was holding a croquet game. The Queen wore a gown covered in red hearts and carried a golden scepter. She looked very angry.

“Off with their heads!” the Queen shouted suddenly. “Anyone who makes a mistake must be punished!”

Alice felt nervous. She had never seen someone so strict. *I must be careful*, she thought.

The Queen’s soldiers were playing croquet with flamingos as mallets and hedgehogs as balls. Alice watched in amazement. She had never seen such a strange game in her life!

Suddenly, the Queen noticed Alice. “Who is this?” she demanded.

“I’m Alice,” said Alice politely.

The Queen frowned. “You will come to my court! A trial will begin at once!”

Alice followed the Queen to a large courtroom filled with Wonderland creatures. There was a King of Hearts, witnesses, and even a Mock Turtle giving evidence. The trial was confusing, and everyone argued loudly.

Alice realized that the Queen's anger was silly and unfair. "This is ridiculous," she thought. "I don't need to be afraid of someone who behaves this way."

As the Queen shouted, "Off with her head!" Alice suddenly felt herself **growing taller and taller**, until she towered over the courtroom. The Queen and her soldiers were startled and could not move.

At that moment, Alice woke up. She was back on the riverbank, beside the warm sun and the gentle river. It had all been a strange, wonderful dream.

Alice smiled. *What a curious adventure!* she thought. She realized that even in strange and confusing situations, being brave, curious, and clever could help her find her way.



Exercises

A) Answer the following questions:

1. Who is the Queen of Hearts, and why is Alice afraid of her?
2. What strange things happen during the croquet game?
3. How does Alice wake up from Wonderland?
4. What lesson can we learn from Alice's experience with the Queen of Hearts and the trial?

B) Choose the correct answer:

1. The croquet mallets are:
 - a) sticks
 - b) flamingos
 - c) umbrellas
2. The trial is:
 - a) fair and calm
 - b) confusing and loud
 - c) very short
3. Alice learns that:
 - a) dreams are always scary
 - b) curiosity and bravery help in strange situations
 - c) she should avoid adventures forever

Poetry

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Who Has Seen the Wind?

Christina Rossetti

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.*

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.*

Paraphrase

No one can see the wind, not you or me.
But we know it's there when the leaves shake and the trees bend their heads.

Rhyme Scheme

- The rhyme pattern is **ABCB** in each stanza.
Example: *you / trembling / through*
-

Figurative Language

- **Personification:** Trees “bow down their heads” like people showing respect.
-

- **Imagery:** “Leaves hang trembling” (we can imagine the movement of leaves).
- **Repetition:** The question “Who has seen the wind?” starts both stanzas for emphasis.

Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning (English)	Example Sentence
trembling	shaking lightly	The rabbit was trembling with fear.
passing through	moving across	The car is passing through the street.
bow down	bend forward in respect	People bow down to pray.

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions.

1. Who has seen the wind?
2. How do we know the wind is there?

2. Choose the correct answer.

1. What moves when the wind passes?
 - a) Stones
 - b) Leaves
 - c) Houses
2. The rhyme scheme is:
 - a) ABAB
 - b) ABCB
 - c) AABB
3. Trees are described as:
 - a) Bowing their heads
 - b) Jumping high
 - c) Dancing
4. Who has seen the wind?
 - a) You
 - b) I
 - c) No one
5. The poet of this poem is:
 - a) Robert Frost
 - b) Christina Rossetti
 - c) William Blake

3. Creative Activities

- Draw a tree with **leaves trembling** and **branches bending** in the wind.

- Write 2 lines about something else we cannot see but we know exists (e.g., love, air, smell).
- Act out the poem: some students play “trees,” others play “leaves,” while the “wind” moves around.

The Caterpillar

by Christina Rossetti

Brown and furry
Caterpillar in a hurry,
Take your walk
To the shady leaf, or stalk,

Or what not,
Which may be the chosen spot.
No toad spy you,
Hovering bird of prey pass by you;

Spin and die,
To live again a butterfly.

Paraphrase

The poet sees a little brown, furry caterpillar moving quickly. She warns it to walk carefully to a safe leaf or branch where it can hide. She hopes no toad or bird catches it. Later, the caterpillar will spin its cocoon and, after dying in that form, it will come back to life as a beautiful butterfly.

Rhyme Scheme

The poem is written in rhyming couplets (pairs of rhyming lines):

- furry / hurry (AA)
 - walk / stalk (BB)
 - not / spot (CC)
-

- you / you (DD)
- die / butterfly (EE)

So the rhyme scheme is **AABBCCDDEE**.

Figurative Language

1. **Imagery**: “Brown and furry” – we can picture the caterpillar.
 2. **Personification**: The poet talks to the caterpillar as if it can understand.
 3. **Alliteration**: “Brown and furry, / Caterpillar in a hurry” – repetition of the **r** sound.
 4. **Symbolism**: The caterpillar becoming a butterfly symbolizes **new life and hope**.
-

Key Vocabulary

- **Furry** – covered with soft hair.
 - **Stalk** – the stem of a plant.
 - **Toad** – an animal like a frog.
 - **Spy** – to watch secretly.
 - **Hovering** – staying in the air above something.
 - **Spin** – to make a cocoon.
-

Exercises

1. Comprehension Questions

1. What does the poet see in the poem?
2. Why does the poet tell the caterpillar to be careful?
3. What dangers are mentioned in the poem?

2. Choose the correct answer

1. The caterpillar is described as:
 - a) Green and slimy
 - b) Brown and furry
 - c) Long and scary
2. What does the caterpillar spin?
 - a) A web
 - b) A cocoon
 - c) A nest
3. Who might catch the caterpillar?
 - a) A cat and a dog
 - b) A bird and a toad
 - c) A butterfly
4. What happens after the caterpillar “dies”?
 - a) It disappears forever
 - b) It becomes a butterfly
 - c) It turns into a toad
5. What is the main message of the poem?
 - a) Nature is dangerous
 - b) Change brings new life
 - c) Caterpillars are ugly

3. Creative Tasks

1. Draw the life cycle of a butterfly.
2. Write 4 lines of your own poem about another insect or small creature.
3. Imagine you are the caterpillar. Write a diary entry about your journey to becoming a butterfly.

Islamic Figures

Asmaa' Bint Abi Bakr

“The Woman with Two Belts”

1- A Woman of Courage and Faith

Asmaa' Bint Abi Bakr was one of the bravest women in Islamic history. She lived at the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and played an important role in helping Islam grow. She was the daughter of Abu Bakr As-Siddiq, who was the Prophet's best friend and first companion to believe in Islam.

Even as a young girl, Asmaa' had a strong heart full of faith. She loved Allah and His Messenger (PBUH) with deep sincerity. She grew up watching the struggles of the early Muslims in Makkah. Many people made fun of them, insulted them, and even hurt them. But Asmaa' stayed strong. Her faith never weakened. She always trusted Allah's promise to help those who are patient and truthful.

When the time came for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to leave Makkah secretly during the *Hijrah* (migration) to Madinah, Asmaa' played a brave and important role. She secretly brought food and water to the Prophet (PBUH) and her father while they were hiding in the Cave of Thawr. She even tore her own belt to tie the food containers. That is why the Prophet (PBUH) gave her the beautiful nickname: *Dhat al-Nitaqayn* – “the Woman with Two Belts.”

But her courage didn't stop there. Asmaa' became a strong mother, a wise teacher, and a faithful servant of Islam for the rest of her long life. Her story teaches us lessons of strength, trust in Allah, and standing for truth even during the most difficult times. Every Muslim can learn from her beautiful example.

Her early life in makkah

Asmaa' was born in Makkah into a respected family. Her father, Abu Bakr As-Siddiq, was known for his honesty, kindness, and good character even before Islam. When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) received revelation from Allah, Abu

Bakr immediately accepted Islam. Asmaa' grew up watching her father sacrifice his wealth, time, and energy for the sake of Allah.

From a young age, Asmaa' saw how Muslims were being treated badly in Makkah. The Quraysh leaders didn't want people to follow Islam, and they tried to stop the message. Muslims were insulted, beaten, and tortured. She saw people like Bilal Ibn Rabah being punished for saying "*Allah is One*." Her father helped free slaves like Bilal, and Asmaa' saw how kindness and bravery go together.

Asmaa' also learned important lessons from her home. She learned to:

- always tell the truth,
- trust Allah in every situation,
- be kind to family, neighbors, and the poor,
- stay patient during hard times.

Even as a child, Asmaa' showed strong faith. She never turned away from Islam. Her early years shaped her into a strong, patient, and wise woman who would later carry big responsibilities.

Her family

Asmaa' Bint Abi Bakr came from a noble family. Her father, Abu Bakr As-Siddiq, was the first adult man to accept Islam. Her younger sister, Aisha, became one of the wives of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and a great scholar.

Their house became a safe place where early Muslims gathered to learn about Islam and pray together. Asmaa' often listened to the Prophet's teachings and memorized many of his words.

Even though her family faced many dangers because they followed Islam, they stayed united and strong. They helped other Muslims who were poor or suffering. Their house was full of mercy, faith, and love.

Asmaa's mother, Qutaylah Bint Abd al-Uzza, was not Muslim at first. Later, when Asmaa' was living in Madinah, her mother came to visit her and brought her gifts.

Asmaa' was unsure whether to accept them since her mother was not Muslim. She asked the Prophet (PBUH), and he told her:

"Yes, keep good relations with your mother."

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 2620)

This shows how Islam teaches us to always respect and care for our parents, even if they are not Muslim.

Exercises

A- Answer the following questions

1. Who was Asmaa' Bint Abi Bakr?
2. Who was her father?
3. Who was her sister?
4. What made her family special?
5. Why were early Muslims treated badly?

B- Read the sentences carefully. Write True if the sentence is correct and False if it is not.

1. Asmaa' was afraid to help Islam.
2. Abu Bakr was the Prophet's enemy.
3. Asmaa's house was a place for Muslims to meet.

2- The Secret of the Hijrah

The Quraysh leaders became very angry when more people started believing in Islam. They made a dangerous plan to kill the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). But Allah protected him. Jibreel came to the Prophet (PBUH) and told him to leave Makkah secretly. Abu Bakr, Asmaa's father, would travel with him.

The Prophet (PBUH) and Abu Bakr left at night. To hide from their enemies, they stayed in the Cave of Thawr, which was outside Makkah. They remained there for three days. It was a very risky and frightening time because the Quraysh were searching everywhere.

Asmaa', even though she was very young, was trusted with this great secret. Every night, she secretly carried food, water, and news to the cave. She walked alone in the dark mountains, climbing dangerous paths. She trusted Allah and was not afraid.

One day, when she didn't have anything to tie the food containers, she tore her belt into two pieces. She tied one piece around the food and one around the water. Because of this act, the Prophet (PBUH) called her *Dhat al-Nitaqayn* — "the Woman with Two Belts." This name became famous in Islamic history.

When Quraysh leaders came to Abu Bakr's house looking for him, they questioned Asmaa'. One of the men slapped her hard across her face. But Asmaa' stayed strong and refused to tell them anything. She bravely protected the secret of the Prophet (PBUH) and her father.

Her faith and courage show us how even young people can serve Islam in great ways.

The woman with two belts

Asmaa' is forever remembered as "The Woman with Two Belts." This special title honors her bravery during one of the most dangerous times in Islamic history. Carrying food and water to the Prophet (PBUH) and her father in the cave was not

easy. Wild animals lived in the mountains. Quraysh soldiers were searching everywhere. But her strong trust in Allah gave her courage.

Her journey to the cave teaches us that bravery is not only about fighting with swords. True bravery is also about:

- helping quietly,
- keeping secrets for the sake of Allah,
- staying calm under pressure,
- and trusting Allah completely.

Because of Asmaa's actions, the Prophet (PBUH) and Abu Bakr safely left Makkah and reached Madinah. This event changed Islamic history forever.

Every time Muslims hear the story of the Hijrah, they remember the important role of this brave young woman.

Life in Madinah and support for Islam

After the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) safely reached Madinah, many Muslims also migrated there. This new city became a safe place for Muslims to live and practice their religion. Asmaa', along with her family, later joined them in Madinah.

Life in Madinah was better than Makkah in many ways. Muslims could pray freely, build the first masjid (Masjid Quba and Masjid an-Nabawi), and create a strong Muslim community. But there were still challenges. The enemies of Islam attacked Madinah many times.

Asmaa' married one of the bravest companions, Az-Zubayr ibn Al-Awwam . He was among the first people to accept Islam. He fought courageously in major battles like Badr, Uhud, and Khandaq.

While her husband was away in battles, Asmaa' stayed home and looked after their household. She worked very hard: grinding grains, carrying heavy water containers, cooking, cleaning, and feeding their animals. She did all of this with patience and without complaining. She was content with what Allah gave her.

In addition to raising her children with love and care, she also helped other Muslim women, offering comfort and support during difficult times.

Asmaa' taught her children important lessons:

- love Allah,
- always speak the truth,
- be patient during hardships,
- stand up for justice.

Her son Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr grew up to become a brave leader and pious Muslim, thanks to her excellent upbringing.

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions

1. What dangerous plan did Quraysh make?
2. Where did the Prophet (PBUH) and Abu Bakr hide?
3. What did Asmaa' do during the Hijrah?
4. How did she get her title "Woman with Two Belts"?

2. Match the names in Column A with the correct information in Column B

Column A	Column B
Asmaa'	carried food to the cave
Abu Bakr	Prophet's closest friend
Quraysh	enemies of Islam
Cave of Thawr	hiding place

3- Her Role during Hardships

Asmaa' lived through many difficult times. The Muslims of Madinah had to defend themselves against many attacks from Quraysh and other tribes.

During battles, the Muslim men fought bravely, while women like Asmaa' helped behind the scenes. She would:

- cook meals for the fighters,
- carry water to the battlefield,
- care for the injured after the battles,
- comfort and support the families of the martyrs.

At home, she also showed great courage. One day, when Quraysh soldiers came searching for Abu Bakr, they knocked on her door. They shouted at her and one of them hit her hard on her face. But Asmaa' remained silent and firm. She refused to betray her father and the Prophet (PBUH). Her silence protected them and showed her deep trust in Allah.

This incident teaches us that even when facing harm, a Muslim must stay truthful and brave.

Her life as a wife and mother

Asmaa' was not only a brave woman but also a loving wife and caring mother. She supported her husband, Az-Zubayr ibn Al-Awwam, during times of poverty and struggle.

In the beginning of their marriage, they did not have much money or servants. Asmaa' worked hard every day. She carried palm leaves on her head from far away, fetched water, ground grain, and looked after the animals.

But she never complained. Instead, she always thanked Allah for everything they had. She believed that every hardship would bring reward from Allah.

She raised her children with strong Islamic values. She taught them to:

- fear Allah,
- be honest,
- pray regularly,
- give charity,
- always stand up for justice.

Her son Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr grew up with great courage, strong faith, and excellent character. He became one of the most respected leaders in Islamic history.

Her strength in old age

Asmaa' Bint Abi Bakr lived for almost one hundred years. Even when she became very old and blind, her heart remained full of faith, patience, and strength.

She continued to pray, fast, and teach others about Islam. People in Madinah respected her wisdom. Young girls, women, and even men would come to her house to learn from her and hear the stories of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the early Muslims.

Her son, Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr, became a leader in Makkah after the death of Yazid ibn Muawiyah. But later, he faced a great challenge. The Umayyad ruler, Al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf, sent a huge army to attack Makkah. Abdullah knew that he might lose his life, so before the final battle, he went to visit his mother.

Even though Asmaa' was nearly one hundred years old and blind, her advice was full of strength. Abdullah asked, "Mother, am I on the truth?" She replied:

"My son, if you know you are on the truth, be patient. Dying with honor is better than living in humiliation."

Her brave words gave her son the courage to return to the battlefield. He fought bravely until he was martyred. Asmaa' was deeply saddened by his death, but she stayed strong and trusted Allah's reward.

Her wisdom and legacy

Asmaa' was not only brave but also very wise. She lived through the time of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the rule of Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, and many later events.

Her home became a place of knowledge. Many people came to learn from her. Even famous companions like Ibn Abbas, known for his deep knowledge of the Qur'an, respected her wisdom.

She always lived a simple life. She didn't care about money or fancy clothes. Once, someone asked her why she wore simple clothes even though her son was a ruler. She answered:

"I prefer to wear what pleases Allah, not what pleases people."

Her words teach us that true honor is not in wealth, but in pleasing Allah and staying humble.

Asmaa's life is a shining example for all Muslims. She showed that women can be wise teachers, strong leaders in the home, and important supporters of Islam.

Exercises

A- Answer the following questions:

1. Who was Asmaa's husband?
2. What did she do at home while her husband was away?
3. How did she teach her children?
4. What advice did she give to her son Abdullah before his last battle?

B- Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

- Asmaa' worked hard by _____, _____, and _____.
- She taught her children to _____ and _____.

4- Her Son's Final Battle

The final test for Asmaa' came when her son, Abdullah ibn Az-Zubayr , faced the powerful army of Al-Hajjaj in Makkah. The Ka'bah was even damaged during this battle as stones were thrown into the sacred city.

Before going to the battle, Abdullah came to say goodbye to his mother. He asked her if he should surrender or fight for justice. Asmaa' said:

"My son, if you are certain, you are upon the truth, then be patient. By Allah, a noble death is better than a life of humiliation."

With these powerful words, she encouraged him to stay strong.

Abdullah went to the battle and fought bravely until he was killed. The enemies cut off his body and hung him in Makkah for days. But Asmaa' remained strong. She went to his body and prayed:

"O Allah, I have already given this body to You. O Allah, be pleased with him."

Her strength in this painful moment showed the deep faith she had in Allah's mercy and reward.

Her death and the lessons she left

After the painful death of her son, Asmaa' remained alive for a short time. She became one of the last people on earth who had seen the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with her own eyes. She lived during the most important years of Islamic history, witnessing many great events.

When she passed away, she was nearly one hundred years old. The Muslims mourned her death deeply. She left behind a legacy of:

- unshakable faith,
- patience during hardship,
- truthfulness even under threat,
- and courage that inspired generations.

Her life teaches us that no matter how hard life becomes, a believer's heart should stay connected to Allah.

Her death was not the end of her story. Muslims around the world continue to mention her name, learn from her courage, and teach her story to children like us.

A role model for girls and boys

Asmaa' is a role model for Muslim girls and boys. She teaches us that:

- women can be strong and brave,
- young people can serve Islam,
- helping others can change history,
- and truthfulness is always the right path.

She risked her life to help the Prophet (PBUH), supported her family during hardships, and raised strong, pious children. She always stood by what was right, even when she was afraid.

Her bravery was not only in big events like the Hijrah but also in daily life: working hard, raising her children, and advising people with wisdom. Every child can learn from her story and feel proud of their Islamic history.

Remembering Asmaa' today

Today, after more than 1400 years, Muslims still remember Asmaa' Bint Abi Bakr. Her story is told in schools, mosques, homes, books, and Islamic lessons everywhere. Many Muslim families name their daughters "Asmaa'" to honor her.

Her life proves that a person doesn't need wealth, fame, or great power to serve Islam. What matters is strong faith, courage to stand for the truth, and trust in Allah.

We ask Allah to reward her greatly and allow her story to inspire us to live as strong, kind, and faithful Muslims.

Exercises

A- Answer the following questions:

1. How old was Asmaa' when she died?
2. What did she say to her son before his final battle?
3. Why do Muslims still remember Asmaa' today?
4. What lessons can we learn from her life?

B- Choose the correct answer.

1. Asmaa' lived for:
 - a) 50 years
 - b) 75 years
 - c) nearly 100 years
2. The meaning of *Dhat al-Nitaqayn* is:
 - a) Woman of great wealth
 - b) Woman with two belts
 - c) Woman of knowledge

C- Write a short paragraph (5–6 sentences):

- Imagine you are Asmaa'. Write what you felt while carrying food to the cave at night.

D- Create a poster or booklet that includes:

- 3 pictures of Asmaa's bravery
- 3 lessons from her life
- ideas on how we can be brave, truthful, and patient like her

E- Use the information in the table to create a simple timeline. Write the events in order and put the year next to each event on the board or in your notebook.

Event	Year (approx.)
Asmaa' born	Before Prophethood
Hijrah	622 CE
Battle of Badr	624 CE
Abdullah's leadership in Makkah	683 CE
Asmaa's death	73 AH (around 692 CE)

Abu Ubaidah Ibn Al-Jarrah

The Trustee of this Nation

1) Introduction

Who was this noble companion whom the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) held by his hand and said:

“For every nation there is a trustee, and the trustee of this nation is Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah.”

Who was this tall, thin man, gentle in face but strong in faith, about whom Umar ibn al-Khattab later said:

“If Abu Ubaidah were alive, I would have made him my successor. If my Lord asked me, I would say: I appointed the trustee of this nation.”

He was Abu Ubaidah ‘Amir ibn Abdullah ibn al-Jarrah, one of the earliest Muslims, one of the ten promised Paradise, the brave commander, the humble leader, the man who gave everything for Allah.

Abu Ubaidah accepted Islam at the hands of Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him) in the very early days, even before the Muslims gathered in Dar al-Arqam.

He left his tribe, his wealth, and his old life, and chose the path of truth. He even migrated to Abyssinia during the second migration, showing his readiness to sacrifice for Islam.

From then on, his whole life became one word: Trust.

Exercises

A- Answer the following question:

1. Who gave Abu Ubaidah the title “the trustee of this nation”?
2. What did Umar ibn al-Khattab say about Abu Ubaidah as a successor?
3. Who invited Abu Ubaidah to Islam?
4. What word can best describe Abu Ubaidah’s life?

B- Choose the correct answer:

1. Abu Ubaidah’s full name was:
 - a) Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Mughirah
 - b) Abu Ubaidah ‘Amir ibn Abdullah ibn al-Jarrah
 - c) Abu Ubaidah ibn Umar ibn al-Khattab
 - d) Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Siddiq
2. Abu Ubaidah accepted Islam:
 - a) After the migration to Madinah
 - b) In the early days through Abu Bakr
 - c) After the Battle of Badr
 - d) During Umar’s caliphate
3. Where did Abu Ubaidah migrate before Madinah?
 - a) Abyssinia
 - b) Persia
 - c) Yemen
 - d) Najran
4. What did Abu Ubaidah leave behind for Islam?
 - a) Tribe and wealth
 - b) Soldiers and land
 - c) Power and throne
 - d) Wife and children

2) At Badr, Uhud, and the Battles

Abu Ubaidah was always beside the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in every battle. He fought with courage, but his heart was always thinking of protecting the Prophet.

The Battle of Badr

At Badr, the first great battle in Islam, Abu Ubaidah showed his faith and bravery. The Quraysh came with a huge army, while the Muslims were very few. In the middle of the fight, Abu Ubaidah's own father was on the side of the Quraysh. His father tried many times to block and attack him. Abu Ubaidah avoided him again and again, but his father kept chasing him. Finally, Abu Ubaidah had no choice but to fight back. With a heavy heart, he defended himself and struck his father down.

This was one of the hardest moments of his life, but it showed his true faith. Abu Ubaidah proved that his love for Allah and His Messenger was stronger than family ties. The Qur'an tells us that believers put Allah and His Messenger above everything else. Abu Ubaidah became one of the best examples of this teaching.

The Battle of Uhud

At the Battle of Uhud, the Quraysh attacked very strongly. Their main goal was to harm the Prophet. Abu Ubaidah never took his eyes off the Prophet, fighting bravely to keep him safe.

Then something painful happened. The Prophet was hit, and two pieces of his iron helmet got stuck in his blessed cheek. Everyone was scared, but Abu Ubaidah rushed forward. He used his own teeth to pull out one piece of metal. When he did, one of his front teeth broke. He pulled out the other piece and lost another tooth. From that day, Abu Ubaidah's smile showed two missing teeth. But those missing teeth were a medal of honor, because they showed how much he loved the Prophet and was ready to sacrifice for him.

Commander of the Armies

The Prophet trusted Abu Ubaidah so much that he made him the leader of many armies — even over Abu Bakr and Umar. He was called the “Commander of Commanders” because he led with fairness, bravery, and trust.

The Battle of Khabat (The Battle of the Tree Leaves)

One time, the Prophet sent Abu Ubaidah with 300 men on a mission. They only had one small bag of dates to eat. Abu Ubaidah divided the dates fairly — one date for each man every day. The soldiers would suck the date slowly and then drink water to fill their stomachs.

When the dates ran out, the soldiers began chewing the leaves of trees, called khabat. Even in hunger, Abu Ubaidah stayed patient and strong, and he encouraged his men to trust Allah. Because of this, the battle was remembered as the Battle of Khabat. It showed how Abu Ubaidah could lead his soldiers with wisdom, even in the hardest times.

Exercises

A- Answer the following question:

1. Who tried to block Abu Ubaidah at Badr?
2. How did Abu Ubaidah prove his love for Allah and His Messenger at Badr?
3. What injury happened to the Prophet at Uhud?
4. What did Abu Ubaidah lose while helping the Prophet?

B- Choose the correct answer:

1. At Badr, Abu Ubaidah's father was:
 - a) On the Muslim side
 - b) Neutral
 - c) On the Quraysh side
 - d) Not present
2. Abu Ubaidah removed the metal from the Prophet's cheek using:
 - a) His sword
 - b) His hand
 - c) His teeth
 - d) A knife
3. How many teeth did Abu Ubaidah lose at Uhud?
 - a) One
 - b) Two
 - c) Three
 - d) Four
4. The battle where soldiers chewed leaves is known as:
 - a) Battle of Badr
 - b) Battle of Khabat
 - c) Battle of Uhud
 - d) Battle of the Trench

C- Place the following events in the correct order:

- a) Abu Ubaidah fought his father at Badr.
- b) Abu Ubaidah lost two teeth at Uhud.
- c) Abu Ubaidah led the hungry army at the Battle of Khabat.

3) The Prophet's Love for Him

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) loved Abu Ubaidah very much. He always trusted him with important tasks. One day, some people came from a place called Najran. They wanted someone to go back with them to teach them about Islam. They said: "O Prophet, please send with us a man who is honest and trustworthy."

The Prophet smiled and said to them: "I will send you a man who is truly trustworthy." All the companions were sitting there. Each one of them hoped that the Prophet would choose him. Umar ibn al-Khattab later said: "I never wished for leadership in my life, except on that day. I wanted to be chosen by the Prophet."

Then, the Prophet looked around at his companions. He chose Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah and said: "This is the trustworthy man of my nation." Everyone was happy, because they all knew that Abu Ubaidah truly deserved it. He was always honest, fair, and gentle with people.

The Prophet trusted Abu Ubaidah more than anyone when it came to keeping secrets, teaching others, and protecting Islam. This is why the Prophet called him the trustee of this nation.

Exercises

A- Answer the following question:

1. What did the people of Najran ask the Prophet for?
2. How did the Prophet describe the man he would send with them?
3. Who wished for leadership on that day?
4. Who did the Prophet finally choose?

B- Choose the correct answer:

1. The people of Najran wanted:
 - a) A new leader
 - b) Someone trustworthy to teach them Islam
 - c) Wealth and gifts
 - d) Soldiers for protection
2. The Prophet said: "This is the trustworthy man of my nation" about:
 - a) Abu Bakr
 - b) Umar
 - c) Abu Ubaidah
 - d) Uthman
3. Umar said he wished for leadership only on:
 - a) The day of Badr
 - b) The day of Uhud
 - c) The day of Najran's request
 - d) The day of Hijrah
4. Why was Abu Ubaidah chosen?
 - a) Because he was strong in battle
 - b) Because he was wealthy
 - c) Because he was honest and trustworthy
 - d) Because he was from Quraysh

4) Humility and Leadership

After the Prophet's death, Abu Ubaidah continued to serve Islam under Abu Bakr and Umar. He was appointed commander in the Levant (Greater Syria).

Even as Emir of Emirs, leader of huge armies, he lived simply — like an ordinary soldier. He had almost nothing in his house: just a sword, a shield, and a saddlebag.

When Umar visited the Levant, he asked: *"Where is my brother?"*

People asked: *"Who?"*

He said: *"Abu Ubaidah."*

When Umar entered Abu Ubaidah's house, he saw nothing of comfort — no furniture, no luxury. Just bare essentials. Umar smiled and said: *"Why didn't you take for yourself what others take?"*

Abu Ubaidah replied:

"O Commander of the Faithful, this is enough to bring me to my resting place."

Exercises

A- Answer the following question:

1. Where was Abu Ubaidah appointed commander after the Prophet's death?
2. How did he live despite his high position?
3. What did Umar find in Abu Ubaidah's house?
4. What did Abu Ubaidah say about his simple life?

B- Choose the correct answer:

1. Abu Ubaidah became commander in:
 - a) Persia
 - b) Egypt
 - c) Levant (Greater Syria)
 - d) Yemen
2. His house contained only:
 - a) Gold and furniture
 - b) Sword, shield, and saddlebag
 - c) Carpets and cushions
 - d) Books and scrolls
3. Who called Abu Ubaidah "my brother"?
 - a) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
 - b) Abu Bakr
 - c) Umar ibn al-Khattab
 - d) Uthman ibn Affan
4. Abu Ubaidah said his simple life was:
 - a) Too difficult
 - b) Enough to bring him to his resting place
 - c) Not fair
 - d) A punishment

C- Arrange these events in order:

- a) Abu Ubaidah lived as commander in Levant.
- b) Umar visited Abu Ubaidah's house.
- c) Umar asked why he didn't take comforts.

5) His Character

Abu Ubaidah was a kind and gentle man, but at the same time he was very strong and brave. He did not love money or power, and he only wanted to serve Islam. When Umar made him the commander instead of Khalid ibn al-Walid, Abu Ubaidah did not show pride. Instead, he waited until Khalid finished the battle before telling him the news. He said: "We do not fight for power or this world. We are brothers in Allah." This showed how humble he was and how much he cared about unity. Everyone who met him loved him because of his honesty, kindness, and courage.

Exercises

A- Answer the following question:

1. How was Abu Ubaidah both gentle and strong?
2. What did he not love?
3. What did he do when replaced Khalid ibn al-Walid?
4. What did he say about fighting?

B- Choose the correct answer:

1. Abu Ubaidah was known for:
 - a) Love of wealth
 - b) Pride in power
 - c) Honesty and humility
 - d) Harshness
2. What did Abu Ubaidah wait for before telling Khalid he was replaced?
 - a) After the battle ended
 - b) Before the battle began
 - c) During the battle
 - d) At the mosque
3. Abu Ubaidah said Muslims fight for:
 - a) Power
 - b) Wealth
 - c) This world
 - d) Allah
4. How did people feel when they met him?
 - a) Afraid
 - b) Loved him
 - c) Ignored him
 - d) Envious

C- Put these events in order:

- a) Umar replaced Khalid with Abu Ubaidah.
- b) Abu Ubaidah waited until battle ended.
- c) Abu Ubaidah told Khalid the news gently.

6) His Death

In the year 18 AH, during the caliphate of Umar ibn al-Khattab, a terrible plague spread across the region of the Levant. It became known as the Plague of Amwas, named after a small village between Jerusalem and Ramla. This disease struck the Muslim army, and thousands of believers lost their lives.

Abu Ubaidah, who was the commander of the Muslim forces in Syria, was deeply affected. As the leader, he cared for his soldiers and stayed with them during the hardship. Umar ibn al-Khattab, who loved him greatly, once wrote to Abu Ubaidah saying:

“I need you for something important. Please do not stay where the plague is spreading. Come to me quickly.”

Abu Ubaidah understood Umar’s concern but replied with a gentle letter:

“O Commander of the Faithful, I know your heart loves me. But I am with the army of the Muslims, and I do not want to save myself while they are suffering. What will they think of their leader if he runs away from them? I will stay with them, and whatever Allah wills for me will happen.”

He stayed with his men, comforting them and reminding them to be patient, to trust Allah, and to hope for Paradise. Soon, he himself caught the disease. Even in his sickness, he gave his last advice to the army:

“O people, fear Allah, pray your five prayers, fast Ramadan, give your zakah, make Hajj to the House of Allah, and obey your leaders. Do not cheat one another, and do not turn away from each other. If you hold on to these, you will remain guided.”

His illness grew worse, and finally, Abu Ubaidah passed away in Jordan in the year 18 AH. The Muslims buried him there with deep sadness. Umar ibn al-Khattab cried when he heard the news and said:

“If I had a wish, I would have wished for a house filled with men like Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah.”

Thus ended the life of the trustee of this nation — a life filled with sacrifice, humility, and faith. His grave in Jordan is still visited today as a reminder of his trust and devotion to Allah.

Exercises

A- Answer the following question:

1. In which year and during whose caliphate did Abu Ubaidah die?
2. What was the name of the plague that spread in the Levant?
3. What did Umar ask Abu Ubaidah to do in his letter?
4. What advice did Abu Ubaidah give to the Muslims before he died?

B- Choose the correct answer:

1. The plague of Amwas was named after:
 - a) A companion
 - b) A village
 - c) A battle
 - d) A mountain
2. Why did Abu Ubaidah refuse to leave the army?
 - a) He was too sick to travel
 - b) He did not want to abandon his soldiers
 - c) He wanted to return to Madinah
 - d) He had no means of transport
3. Abu Ubaidah died in:
 - a) Medina
 - b) Damascus
 - c) Jordan
 - d) Persia
4. Umar ibn al-Khattab said he wished for:
 - a) A house full of gold
 - b) A house full of books
 - c) A house full of men like Abu Ubaidah
 - d) A house full of swords

7) Lessons from His Life

The life of Abu Ubaidah teaches us many lessons. He was always trustworthy and kept his promises. He showed great sacrifice, giving up his comfort and even breaking his own teeth to protect the Prophet (peace be upon him). He was very humble, living a simple life even though he was a great commander of armies. He was also very brave and never left the Prophet's side in battle. Most of all, he showed true brotherhood, putting Islam above his own name or position. His life is a shining example for all Muslims to follow.

Exercises

A- Answer the following question:

1. What did Abu Ubaidah always keep?
2. What did he sacrifice at Uhud?
3. How did he live as a commander?
4. What was his attitude toward position and fame?

B- Choose the correct answer:

1. Abu Ubaidah's missing teeth showed:
 - a) His weakness
 - b) His honor and sacrifice
 - c) His sadness
 - d) His age
2. Abu Ubaidah's life is an example of:
 - a) Pride and power
 - b) Trust and humility
 - c) Wealth and luxury
 - d) Fame and politics
3. Abu Ubaidah's brotherhood showed that he put:
 - a) Himself above others
 - b) Islam above himself
 - c) Wealth above Islam
 - d) Family above faith
4. The best description of Abu Ubaidah's life is:
 - a) Comfort and leadership
 - b) Trust, sacrifice, and humility
 - c) Wealth and fame
 - d) Travel and power



Rays of Wisdom 4 takes Grade 4 Al-Azhar students on a journey through stories, poems, and the lives of inspiring Islamic figures. From the lessons of friendship in The Devoted Friend to the imagination of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, students build English skills while enjoying literature. Poems and biographies add rhythm, creativity, and values, linking language learning with character and faith.

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