The Arabian Nights Online: 
Recommended Web Resources, Teaching Materials and Study Guides

On the context:

The University of Georgia’s Islam Resource Page  
http://www.uga.edu/islam/home.html  
This Webby-nominated site is the best place to start for all topics related to Islam and Muslim societies through the ages.

Al-Bab: An Open Door to the Arab World  
http://www.al-bab.com/default.htm  
Excellent site on Arab culture, supported by the British-Yemen Society and maintained by Brian Whitaker, Middle East editor for the Guardian newspaper.

1001 Inventions  
This is the link to a web page on the recent British exhibition “1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World.” The host site, medievalists.net, contains a wealth of articles on the Middle Ages.

Inside Islam: Dialogues and Debates  
http://insideislam.wisc.edu/  
A collaboration of the UW-Madison’s National Resource Centers and WPR’s “Here on Earth: Radio without Borders.” Includes links to radio programs on Islam.

Islam for Today  
http://www.islamfortoday.com/  
Web site by Muslims designed “for Westerners seeking a knowledge and understanding of Islam.” Contains helpful articles on religion, history and women in Islam.

(Re)embracing Diversity: Educational Outreach for Muslim Sensitivity  
http://www.outreachworld.org/resource.asp?curriculumid=174  
Curriculum unit with twelve fifty-minute lessons and an instructor’s guide. Description: “This curriculum unit combines a wealth of information about Islam and Muslims with interactive classroom activities that foster tolerance and respect for ethnic and religious diversity.”
On the text:

**Arabian Nights Books**
http://www.arabiannightsbooks.com/main.do
Information on the origins, illustrators and translators of the *Nights*.

**Sir Richard Burton’s translation online**
http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/mideast/arabnit.htm

**Arabian Nights Study Guide**
http://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/eng251/arabstudy.htm
From Northern Virginia Community College. Includes some ideas for activities.

**The Electronic Literature Foundation’s Arabian Nights Page**
http://www.arabiannights.org/index2.html
Selected tales in Andrew Lang’s translation.

**Journal of the 1001 Nights**
http://journalofthenights.blogspot.com/
Resource for scholarship on *The Arabian Nights*. Maintained by Michael Lundell, a PhD candidate in English Literature, this is probably the most comprehensive source of information on the text available online.

**Scheherazade’s Web: The Arabian Nights and Comparative Literature**
http://www.dinarzade.blogspot.com/
Literary site maintained by Jack Ross of Massey University. Contains articles on the links between *The Arabian Nights* and Western literature.

**Teaching The Arabian Nights: Arabic Storytelling and American Orientalism**
Website of a UCLA course on the *Nights*. Includes link to a video of Arabic storytelling.

**Course Guide to “Whose Arabian Nights? Islamic, Arab, Persian and Western Visions”**
http://faculty.ccp.edu/dept/humanities/humanitiesf/giddle.htm
Designed for college students at the Community College of Philadelphia, this course guide contains ideas that could be adapted for high school students.

**The Arabian Nights: A Play by Mary Zimmerman** (pamphlet)
A pamphlet on the play prepared by the Open State Theatre and Company. Contains concise background information on the text of *The Arabian Nights*, the play based on it, and the playwright.
Resources on the Issue of Explicit Language/Content in the Classroom

Here are some links that may be helpful in dealing with the occasionally explicit language and content of *The Arabian Nights*.

**Dealing with Selection and Censorship: A Handbook for Wisconsin Schools and Libraries**
http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pubsales/library_1.html

**Cooperative Children’s Book Center, School of Education, UW-Madison**
Intellectual Freedom Services
http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/freedom/default.asp

**American Library Association, Office for Intellectual Freedom**
http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/index.cfm

**Current debates** on the text of *The Arabian Nights* in Egypt may also be of interest:
http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2010/06/09/110883.html
Films, Videos and Interviews

General Resources:

Islam: Empire of Faith (PBS, 2005). A PBS documentary series that traces the history of Islam, with a focus on the contributions of Islamic cultures to the world. There is a companion website: http://www.pbs.org/empires/islam/
There is also a site designed specifically for educators using the series: http://www.pbs.org/empires/islam/eduk12plan.html

Inside Islam (The History Channel, 2002). Documentary on Islamic history and practice, focusing on the links between Christianity, Judaism and Islam.


The Arabian Nights in Film and Television: A Selection

One Arabian Night (1921). A hunchback hunts down a murdering sheikh in this silent Orientalist fantasy.

The Thief of Baghdad (1940). Teeming with Orientalist imagery.

Arabian Nights (1942). Like The Thief of Baghdad, an excellent choice for a critique of Orientalism.

Legends of The Arabian Nights (2006). A&E documentary examining the tales, with analyses by authors and historians.


Books and Articles: A brief review

I. Scholarly Works

World Literature/s Research Workshop
http://global.wisc.edu/worldlit/
An excellent resource for teaching world literature, with pdf files of articles for downloading.


Story-Telling Techniques in The Arabian Nights. David Pinault (Leiden: Brill, 1992). Literary study with particular attention to the following: The Story of the Fisherman and the Demon; The Story of the Three Apples; Harun al-Rashid and his vizier; the role of demons and hunchbacks.

different cultural settings (France, Argentina, Southeast Asia) and media (film, popular literature, contemporary fiction).

_The Arabian Nights in Transnational Perspective._ Ulrich Marzolph (ed.) (Detroit, Michigan: Wayne State University Press, 2007). This collection includes essays on a variety of topics, including frame narratives, political thought in _The Arabian Nights_, translation, and modern oral performance of the _Nights_ in Afghanistan.

_The Arabian Nights Reader._ Ulrich Marzolph (ed.) (Detroit, Michigan: Wayne State University Press, 2007). This collection includes good background essays, several of which are found in the Norton Critical Edition. One article which unfortunately did not get into Norton is “Shahrazad Feminist” by Fedwa Malti-Douglas.


_The Thousand and One Nights: Space, Travel and Transformation._ Richard van Leeuwen (London: Routledge, 2007). Discusses the themes of space and travel in _The Arabian Nights_.

### II. Selected Fiction Influenced by _The Arabian Nights_

_Haroun and the Sea of Stories._ Salman Rushdie (Penguin, 1991). Magical tale of a storyteller inspired by the stories Rushdie used to tell his nine-year-old son. Also available is the _Haroun and the Sea of Stories Study Guide:_

http://www.leasttern.com/Haroun/haroun.htm

_When Dreams Travel._ Githa Harihara (Picador, 2000). Beautifully written and well-received novel that imagines the lives of the main characters in _The Arabian Nights_: the sultan, his brother, Shahrazad and her sister.


_In Arabian Nights: A Caravan of Moroccan Dreams._ Tahir Shah (Bantam, 2007). In this sequel to his memoir _The Caliph’s House_, Tahir Shah weaves his personal search for identity into his family’s tradition of storytelling and the larger Arabic oral tradition.
Graphic Novels:

- *Our Kingdom – Arabian Night* by Naduki Koujima:

- *Fables: Arabian Nights and Days* by Bill Willingham:

- *Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall* by Bill Willingham