

New Fairytales & Fables from the UAE™ Criteria and Character Descriptions

Traditional Characters from the United Arab Emirates

Guidelines for Writing an Emirati Fairytale:

- New Fairytales and Fables must feature one of the twenty-four Emirati characters listed below. The stories will be judged on their originality and creativity.
- The tales have to be a minimum of 350 words and a maximum of 500 words.
- The setting of the story must be in the desert/mountains/sea/demolished neighborhoods or haunted houses to ensure authenticity
- The names of the characters must be associated with U.A.E's culture and heritage
- The skill of the characters must be associated with U.A.E's traditions and customs: examples: sailor, merchant, farmer, pearl diver etc. However, note these roles can change to reflect the varied roles Emiratis play in all sectors of modern day industries.
- The tales must include a theme that teaches an Emirati value or principal, i.e. loyalty, honesty, respect for elders, etc.
- There must be a logical series of events. The character's setting and train of events cannot skip around from one event to another.

Characters stem from six categories:

1. Animals
2. Jinn/devils
3. Half humans
4. Humans
5. Objects
6. Plants

Stories usually take place in the following settings:

- Demolished Neighborhoods
- Deserts
- Haunted Places
- Mountains
- Sea

Notes:

- While the majority of tales and characters were created to scare children from being mischievous and ill behaved, don't limit your imagination to this one character dimension. Please feel free to

explore other attributes of each character. Jinn were the original super heroes; remember they have magical powers, so also explore some of their more positive characteristics. These characters have been used throughout the ages to protect Emiratis. Remember their roles have always been those of guardians and you can incorporate that protective element into your story. Have them champion Emirati values and culture.

- Most characters all seem to have special powers but are also limited with some form of weakness (chains/weak body/strength is only during certain times of the day etc.)
- Most jinn live in haunted places, trees and/or beside the water
- Most cursed creatures jinn appear at noon and sunset time and disappear at Fajr prayer and are afraid of the Quran (malwethat), iron, silver and mercury

Animals



Abu al Les

Abu Al Les is an Arabian fox that is a cunning, deceptive trickster famed for taking advantage of those who are dissatisfied despite the many gifts and blessings in their lives.


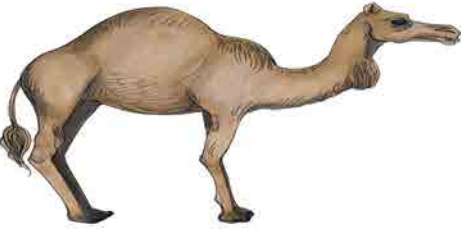


- Story: There was an old farmer who spent his life working hard building up his farm for his four married sons. Upon his death, the farm was divided between the brothers, but none were satisfied with their portion, each believing they deserved more than the others. Their fights continued and spread to Abu al Les, who arrived to offer a solution. He asked the sons to entrust him with dividing the farm between all four brothers to guarantee that each had the same amount.






After six months, the youngest son was walking around the farm and found there wasn't enough food to feed all the animals. Each brother was now earning less and less money each month. A search for Abu al Les came up empty. Finally, the brothers were now all equal in their poverty. They realized they lost everything in their lust for more and more.








Hemarat el Ghayla (Donkey Noon)

- In ancient times Hemarat el Ghayla/Donkey Noon was a menacing figure that ate children that snuck out to play during the afternoon. Over time, it has transformed into the guardian that guides children back to safety if they venture in the desert alone.
- People who see the white Nagat Al Eid during Eid al Fatar or Eid al Adha live a long life filled with blessings

	<p>Al Naghaga (The owl)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Naghaga has the body of an owl and a face of a woman. She used to be a human and a mother of a baby that would not stop crying. While she was trying to calm the baby down, she accidentally killed him. She ran away from her husband and hid in a haunted tower. She was then possessed by a jinni and became an owl. Al Naghaga became the Nanny Owl loved by parents and children alike as she distributed qarqaan (sweet) bags to kids every Friday during family gatherings, but not before asking their parents if the children were well behaved at home and at school.
	<p>Nagat al Eid (The Eid Camel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past, Nagat al Eid only appeared during Eid al Fatr. The Naga would come out to eat children that ate too much food and sweets in the morning of Eid al Fatr. Sightings of a white Nagat al Eid is also known to usher in blessings from Allah.
<p><u>Jinn</u></p>	
	<p>Sheikh Sahar & the Hyena - Hessa and her daughters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheikh al Sahar is a very large, magician who appears mean and angry as he rides his pet hyena backward to avoid the heat of the sun. Hessa and her daughters all live inside Sheikh Al Sahar's Hyena
	<p>Abu Al Salasel (Man of Many Chains)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was once a very poor slave in one of the markets, who the merchants always beat and tortured. When the slave finally rebelled and became extremely angry and dangerous, the merchants then wrapped him with chains and locked him in a storeroom, where he was possessed by a jinni. Abu Al Salasel protects the vulnerable, abused and downtrodden. He has become a defender of those without a voice to defend themselves.

	<p>Al Roua'a (Scared or scary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Roua'a was a laborer of East African origins who looks very strong, muscular and tough. <p>At night, Al Roua'a transforms from his human form to that of a monster-like appearance. (Don't forget to focus on a positive trait that allows Al Roua'a to protect an important aspect of Emirati culture and/or heritage).</p>
	<p>Baba Daryah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was a sailor, wrongly accused of theft and his hands were injured and cut off with a saw. He was then thrown in the water and possessed by a jinni Bu Darya or Baba Darya can be found in areas near or around water and stands for those suffering from injustice.
	<p>Fatouh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is a nice, bald headed man with the eyes of a cat. He also has a long pointy nose and ears with really long toe and finger nails He protects the mangrove areas, but has expanded to a protector of the environment.
	<p>Ghareeb (Stranger):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghareeb is short, skinny, frail and weak looking, but he has special powers...even though he looks frail (weak), he is very strong. <p>(Imagine an elder with super powers who can correct naughty kids or young adults who have taken the wrong path).</p>
	<p>Um Al Heilan (very mean old woman)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She has countless wrinkles and veins across her face and is attracted to negative people that fail to appreciate the blessings in their lives. <p>Imagine someone who always finds something negative to say or complain about and that energy drawing Um Al Heilan closer to those individuals to magnify or expand the misery they share with others. Think of her as the Queen of Karma</p>

Half Jinn/Half Human	
	<p>Abu Ras (Big-head)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abu Ras is the guardian of souks. He scares people from stealing. • He has a big head, one donkey's leg and one lion's paw and is embarrassed by his looks and as a result rarely faces people. • Once upon a time, different stores were being robbed daily in the Friday souk..
	<p>Qawm al Deseas (Group of Rascals)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are a group of three jinn famous for their fortunetelling skills with the bodies of humans and the faces of dogs. • They are attracted to liars and troublemakers and amplify the consequences of their bad behavior or actions.
	<p>Shanaq bin Anaq</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is the great grandson of Adam and Khawla. Adam and Khawla's granddaughter fell in love with a jinni and became pregnant with Shanaq bin Anaq • His is a good-looking, gentle giant. • He is a very sweet man, but he's so big that he can't see the damage his body causes. Although he is a friendly giant, he destroys houses and cities as he walks along
	<p>Um al Duwais</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Um al Duwais is a very beautiful woman with the legs of a donkey and sword • She attracts men with her beauty and her alluring perfume is known to be irresistible to those with cheating hearts. Her scent is said to arrive before she does. • She is also known as the Guardian of Emirati Love and the Protector of Orphans
HUMANS	
	<p>Saber (patient person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saber the Patient is a nice gentle man with a disfigured body. He has a hunched back with one popped eye and leads a lonely life because of his appearance.

Objects



Al Medfah (Canon)

- During the war between Sharjah and Ajman, the canon was used during the 1st round of war. The canon then refused to move at the second round. An old man suggested everybody dance and sing to the canon. The canon then moved.
- The canon is possessed by a jinni and is found in many wars. Sometimes the canon won't move, the wheels won't turn and it won't fire or misfires unless or a group of people sing/eat and dance to it to motivate it to move



Khattaf Raffay (Sail boat)

- Khattaf Raffay can enter and come out of any object or person, but his most common form is in the sails of a ship.
- The jinni can be found in or near bodies of water, particularly the Arabian Sea.



Salama and her Daughters


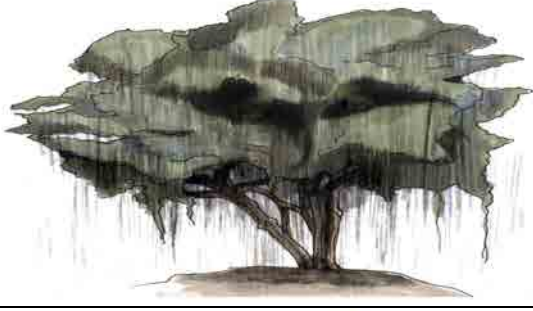


- Salama is a big mountain encircled by her daughters of three or four smaller mountains located in the Strait of Hormuz
- There is always a strong whirlpool around Salama and her daughters. Any boat that comes along could be destroyed.
- Pirates, fishermen and sailors throw dates to Salama and her daughters to feed them. Also feeding them can calm the whirlpool that surrounds the mountains for a safer journey.
- Some Christians have stated that Salama and her daughters were actually whales that were transformed to mountains



Swaydat Khasaf (swayda = black dates, khasaf: braided basket/shawl)

- In each date store room there is always one bag of dates that is actually a jinni
- This jinni is the guardian of the date store room
- Swaydat Khasaf was used to scare their children from eating too many dates/sugar and also by merchants to discourage date thieves. We have several stories about diabetes and Swyadat Khasaf as well as young men stealing dates as a dare and Swaydat Khasaf's response. Use your imagination and think of how this jinni can be use to promote Emirati culture and heritage.

Plants

	<p>Abu Karbah (Palm Tree)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In every farm, there is a strong/ferocious/masculine palm tree. He is usually located in a hidden areas of the farm or at specific private corners• Abu Karbah has two large branches that act as hands and will harm anyone that comes close to him or the farm.• Abu Karbah
	<p>Al Sedra (Cedar Tree)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sedra is a popular place for jinn to live• If the jinni lives in a Sedra, anybody that tries to demolish or hurt the Sedra will be harmed• If a person passes by a possessed Sedra, he/she will feel strange• People use these stories to protect their plants
	<p>Ghaf Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ghaf Tree is indigenous to the UAE, which means it has lived for centuries and is an integral part to the countries cultural and biological heritage.• It is a drought-tolerant tree that might be the sturdiest in the UAE and is famed for being home to the jinn.• The bark and tree's fruit also have a variety of medicinal uses from anti-inflammatory, common cold, cough, rheumatism, scorpion sting, snake bites, etc.
	<p>Kaf Iblees (The devil's palm aka a cactus tree)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They say that a man used to always annoy/bother famers on their farms.• He was then cursed and became one of the devil's palms (one of the spiky leaves of the cactus tree).• Every leaf of the cactus is known as "Kaf Iblees" Jinni



Themes for New Fairytales & Fables from the UAE

ACCEPTANCE - قبول	ANGER - الغضب	BEING DIFFERENT - تكفون أن مختلفا
CHARITY (ZAKAH/SADAQA-H) - الزكاة	COMMUNITY - مجتمع	CONFORMITY - مطابقة
COOPERATION - تعاون	COURAGE - شجاعة	COURTESY - أدب
CREATIVE THINKING - تفكير ابداعي	DETERMINATION - الإصرار / العزم	FAIRNESS/UNFAIRNESS - ظلم / الانصاف

FAMILY - عائلـة	FORGIVENESS - مغفرة	FRIENDSHIP - صداقة
GENEROUSITY - الكرم	GRATITUDE - الامتنان	HELPING - مساعدة
HONESTY - الصراحة	HOSPITALITY - الضيافة	JUSTICE - عدالة
KEEPING A PROMISE - الـحفاظ الـوعد على	KINDNESS - لطف	KINDNESS TO ANIMALS - الـحيوانات على الـعطف
LISTENING - استماع	LEARNING - تعلم	LONELINESS - بالـوحدة الـشعور
LOVE - الـحب	LOYALTY - وفاء	MERCY - رحمة
NON-VIOLENCE - الـلاعنف	PERSERVERANCE - مـبـاثـرة	PRIORITIES - الـأولويات
REGRET & RECOVERY - الـأسف والـانتعاش	RESISTANCE - مـقاومة	RESPECT - احترام
RESTRAINT - كبح	SELF-AWARENESS - الـوعي الـذاتي	SELF-CONTROL - الـتحكم الـذاتي
SELFLESSNESS - الـإتسام بالـإيثار	SELF-RESPECT - الـذات احترام	SHARING - مـسـامـة
HONORABLENESS - الـوقار	REMEMBERANCE - الـذكـر	COMPASSION - شفقة