



How the Camel Got His Hump

LISTEN to your child read this story aloud.

Back when the world was new, animals began to do work for people. The horse with a saddle on his back came to the camel and said, "Oh, Camel, come and work like the rest of us."

But the camel did not want to work for people. He just said, "Humph!"

The dog with a stick in his mouth came to the camel and said, "Oh, Camel, come and fetch like the rest of us."

But the camel did not want to fetch. He just said, "Humph!"

Then the ox wearing a yoke on his neck came to the camel and said, "Oh, Camel, come and plow like the rest of us."

The camel did not want to plow. He just said, "Humph!"

This made the three animals very angry, so they went to talk to the Djinn in charge of all the deserts.*

The animals asked the Djinn, "Do you think it is fair that we have to work and the camel does not?"

"I do not think it is fair," said the Djinn. "I will teach Camel a lesson."

The Djinn went to the camel and asked him to help with the people's work.

But Camel just said, "Humph!"

"Since you just keep saying 'Humph!' I will give you a 'humph'," said the Djinn.

Then the camel's back began to swell up to a big hump.

"Now you are going to work for people," said the Djinn. "You will walk in the desert for days and live from the water and food in your hump."

And so the camel learned how to work, but he has never learned how to be polite when people are around.

* In Muslim legend, a Djinn is a supernatural figure who affects the lives of men and women.



By Rudyard Kipling. Retold by Mary Rose

Dear Parents,

Understanding plot development and conflict resolution may sound like very sophisticated skills for elementary school students, but even young children can learn these concepts if they are presented in the context of simple text with a simple story line. Most stories follow a pattern. The story begins with a problem that needs to be resolved. Certain actions happen in the middle, and the ending solves the original problem. This pattern is true of simple stories and even of much of the world's great literature. This homework assignment asks students to define the main conflict in a story and to determine how it is resolved. Please help your child complete this page using his or her own words.

Skill/

Identifying the main conflict in a story and how it is resolved

We completed this assignment together.

(Child's Signature)

(Parent's Signature)

The Questions



Together write simple answers to the following questions.

1. What is the main problem in this story? _____
2. How did the Djinn help the animals solve their problem? _____
3. What lesson did the camel learn from the Djinn and the animals? _____