

Riding Backwards on the Donkey

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In this book, elements from more than one of Nasreddin Hodja's stories have been combined to make a single story.

NASREDDIN HODJA

When we hear his name, we immediately think of a long white beard, a big turban, a flowing robe and a smiling face. Then a big smile spreads across our own faces.

He is full of witty remarks and he has something clever to say in every situation.

We laugh when we think of his stories.

Nasreddin Hodja was born almost 800 years ago in the 13th century, in what is today the city of Konya in Turkey and lived much of his life in a place called Akşehir.

WHAT WE WILL LEARN

When we read this book we will:

- Learn how to properly read punctuation marks, develop our reading abilities.
- Learn how to guess how events in a story will develop and conclude.
- Learn how to benefit from the meaning presented in the illustrations of the story.
- Learn how to find answers to who, what, when, where, why and how in what we read.
- Learn how to reinforce rules about good manners and how to behave properly.
- Learn in time the meaning of concepts and when to use them.
- Improve our vocabulary and our control of the language that we use.
- Learn how to experience what we read and how to compare and connect it to our own daily lives.
- Develop our imaginations.
- Become familiar with animal concepts and with nature.

And last but not least, we will get to meet Nasreddin Hodja!

CONCEPTS:

When we read this book we will learn concepts such as:

- Mealtimes (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Animals and sounds (donkey, sheep)
 - Numbers (1-10)
- Linear concepts (before, now, after)
- Natural concepts (mountain, plain, creek, forest)
 - Sweet – Salty
 - Big – Small
 - Back – Front
 - Outside – Inside

One sunny spring morning, the postman knocked on Nasreddin Hodja's door. He brought Nasreddin a letter from a relative who lived far away. Nasreddin curiously opened the envelope. In the letter, the relative said that he really missed Nasreddin Hodja. The relative also said that he wanted to see him. He invited Nasreddin to his village.



Nasreddin Hodja was very happy about this invitation. He got ready right away. He put all of his things in a bag. Then he got his donkey, Tracker, and set out on his way. The road was long but Nasreddin Hodja was very happy that at the end of it he would see his relative.





He sang songs on the way. His donkey accompanied him saying, "Hee-haw, hee-haw!"

HEE-HAW!

HEE-HAW!



They passed over mountains, hills and plains together. Sometimes Nasreddin Hodja rode Tracker. Other times he got off and walked next to him in order to not make the poor thing tired.



A few hours later he arrived in his relative's village. When he arrived, he asked the men sitting in the town square where his relative lived. One of the men knew Nasreddin's relative. The man showed him to his house.



The relatives met Nasreddin at the door and invited him inside right away. They ate and drank together. After the meal they showed Nasreddin the room where he would be staying.

“Nasreddin, you are tired. Rest tonight. Tomorrow we will talk about everything.” They said.

