

A DINNER OF SMELLS (KS2 & 3)

Concept – The strong looking after the weak

Retell the story from one of the four characters' viewpoints.

Define who 'weaker' members of our society are. Discuss when and how weaker members should be cared for.

Act the story out or retell it by narration and miming.

This story about mullah (Islamic teacher) Nasrudin defending a poor man reflects the responsibility leaders have to care for all members of the community.

Long ago there was an expensive restaurant in a busy bustling street, and every day the owner of the restaurant would create wonderful meals, and every day people would fill the restaurant to eat them.

Now it so happened that one day, a poor man lingered by the restaurant door, and as he did he breathed in deeply, and his face broke in to a gentle smile as he imagined the food that was making the smells that filled his nostrils.

But the smile quickly faded when a voice bellowed in his ear. For there stood the restaurant owner, glowering unkindly. "You're going to have to pay me for those smells!" he ranted. "It's my food and smells that my food makes belong to me. You are stealing them from me and must pay me for them."

"But I have no money," the poor man stammered. "In which case I will take you to the Qadi." [pronounced "ca-dee"]

Now the Qadi is the judge in a Muslim court. The poor man was very frightened because the Qadi was a very powerful person and what he said usually happened.

A few days later the poor man trudged towards the court. On his way he passed the mosque and there he saw mullah Nasrudin who was both wise and gentle and asked the poor man where he was going. The poor man told him.

"You must go to the court," the mullah said, "but you will

not go alone for I will come with you."

When they arrived at the court the rich restaurant owner and the Qadi were already there, talking and laughing. It was obvious they were friends and obvious the Qadi would side with the restaurant owner and at the end of the trial, as predicted, the Qadi ordered the poor man to pay a large fine for stealing the smells.

The mullah listened as the Qadi ordered the poor man to pay his fine. Then he stood up.

"This man is my brother," he said, "and I would like to pay his fine." The poor man gasped and the rich restaurant owner smiled as he watched the mullah take golden coins out of a purse and drop them one by one in to a bag. Each coin clanked as it landed. Each coin meant more and more money. And all for a smell.

"Can you hear those coins?" mullah Nasrudin asked. The rich restaurant owner nodded. He heard them all right and they were about to be his.

Or were they?

"Because that's your fine," the mullah said. "My brother here smelled your food in the same way you have heard my money."

And with that he and the poor man stood up and left the court and the poor man did not have to pay the fine. He was free because the strong had taken care of him.

Create a story board outlining the key events.

