

Bedside Stories

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Baskı Yeri: Özkaracan Matbaacılık ve Ciltcilik San. Tic. Ltd. Şti.
Güneşli Evren Mah. Gülbahar Cad. No:62/C
Bağcılar / İSTANBUL
Tel: 0212 515 49 47 - Fax 0212 602 02 10
Sertifika No: 12228

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(Sertifika No: 19955)
Eğitim Mah. Poyraz Sok. No:18 Hasanpaşa / İSTANBUL
Tel: (0216) 450 60 30 Faks: (0216) 450 60 34

www.dilkoyayincilik.com

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THE FANCY DRESS PARTY



Mr. Bell is a wealthy businessman. He owns many clothing factories. Although Mr. Bell is a rich man he isn't generous or kind. He is especially stingy and unkind towards his driver, Mark.

Mr. Bell: Do you know how stupid you are? Remember that because of me you have a life.

Mark: I'm so sorry, Sir. I'll be more careful next time.

Mr. Bell: You are always telling the same story. Do I pay you for your stupid faults?

Mark: (He takes a deep breath and whispers) This is the last straw. I have no other choice.

Mark drives Mr. Bell to his house. There is a fancy dress party for Mr. Bell's guests. The housekeepers and maids in the house are making preparations for the evening party. It will be a valuable opportunity for Mark.

Mark: (On the phone) I can't stand Mr. Bell anymore. I have to get rid of him as soon as possible and you'll help me with it.

Simon: Today, we will send him to Hell. You know he is very fond of money and I have a good plan.

Mark: What's your plan?

Simon: You'll see.

Mark: When and where will we meet, then?

Simon: I'll call you later. I have to talk to Tony and Harold first.

After a few minutes, Simon calls back ...

Simon: I'll come to the house with Tony and Harold as guests. Nobody will recognize us because we will be dressed up fancy, you know.

Mark: I'll wait for you in the backyard.

Mr. Bell: (Slowly) Where's my treasure?

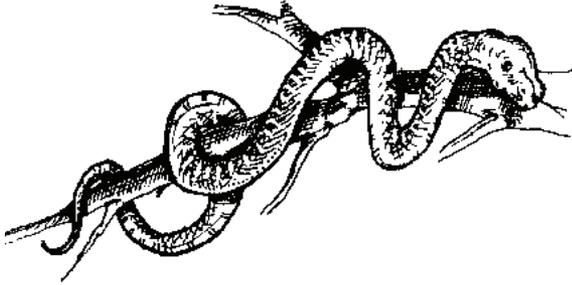
Simon: You'll understand that your only treasure is your own life.

Mr. Bell: What are you doing here?

Simon: I'm preparing you for a fancy trip just like your fancy party but you won't need any money where you are going. Can you imagine a world without money now?

A high-pitched scream and the noise of chains are heard in the cellar. The only witness of that night is the new-built walls that are built on top of the old cellar walls.

THE REVENGE OF THE SNAKES



Jamenah is a farmer. He is cruel and unkind to animals. One day, while he is hunting, he finds a rattlesnake. He decides to harm it. He holds its head and cuts its skin with his knife. He says, “We shall fight.” and burns the snake until it’s dead. Whenever he finds a snake he does the same thing.

One day, a man from his village is walking through the forest. He goes closer to the strange hissing voices and listens. There are many snakes on the ground. They gather for a war council. He listens to them.

“We shall fight them. Jamenah challenged us so we shall go to war. Tomorrow, we shall go to the humans’ village.”

Ronald was never late. She heard his footsteps on the stairs. She paled just for a moment. What could she say when he asked her about the wedding dress?

The door opened, Ronald stepped in and then shut the door. He looked very serious and a bit sad. "He needs a new overcoat and gloves. The weather is getting cold." Dolores thought.

Ronald went to their bedroom to change his clothes. When he opened the wardrobe, his eyes were looking for something. There was a strange expression in his eyes and Dolores couldn't understand the reason so she was terrified. There was no anger, no surprise and no horror. He simply stared at the wardrobe.

"Ron, darling." she cried. "Don't look that way. I sold my wedding dress because I wanted to give you a present. I wouldn't wear it again, would I? You don't know what a nice gift I have got for you. Please hug me."

"You sold your wedding dress?" asked Ronald.

"Yes, I did." said Dolores. "Are you angry with me?"

"You say you haven't got your wedding dress now?" Ronald asked.

"Yes, you needn't look for it. Shall I start serving, dear?" asked Dolores.



I sold my jacket to buy you the shoes.

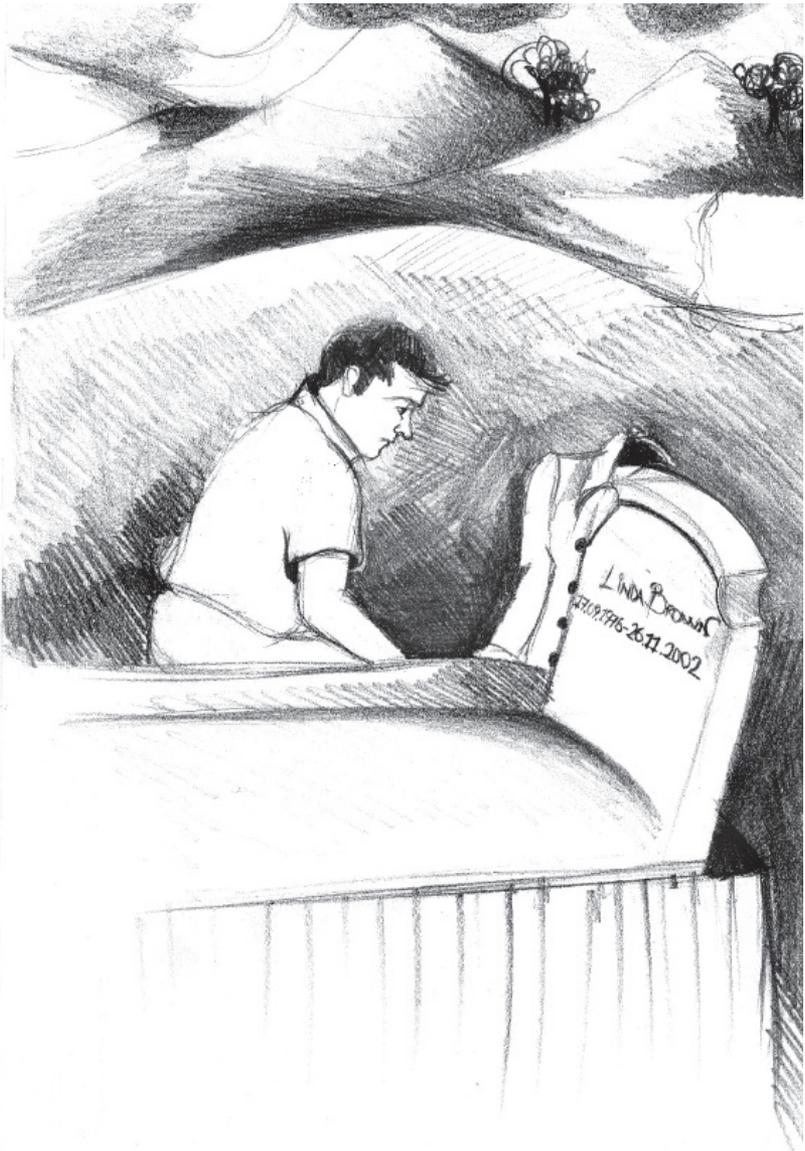
Ronald took a small package from his pocket and threw it on the table. “Don’t mistake me Dolly” he said. “Your wedding dress isn’t more important that you are to me. When you open that package you will understand what I mean.”

A scream of joy spread throughout the room. Tears started to spill down her cheeks. There were shoes in the package. She wanted to buy them for her wedding ceremony a year ago but they couldn’t afford to buy them.

After that, she brought her own gift for her husband and gave it to him. When Ronald opened the box, he started smiling in a bitter way.

“Dolly, dear! They are really nice but I sold my jacket to buy you the shoes.”

They stared at each other for a moment. Then, Ron said, “Honey, let’s start our dinner. Today should be our happiest day, shouldn’t it?”



His jacket is beside the headstone and this is very odd.

She doesn't answer his question; she just looks outside.

"My house is over there, on the corner of the street."

Jack stops the car near the house. He gets out of the car and opens the door for the mysterious girl. He holds her hand to help her out. Her hand is still like ice. He walks her up to the house. At the door he wants to kiss her but he is nervous of what her reaction might be. As they stand in front of the door she leans in and kisses Jack. Before Jack can say anything she goes in the house and shuts the door.

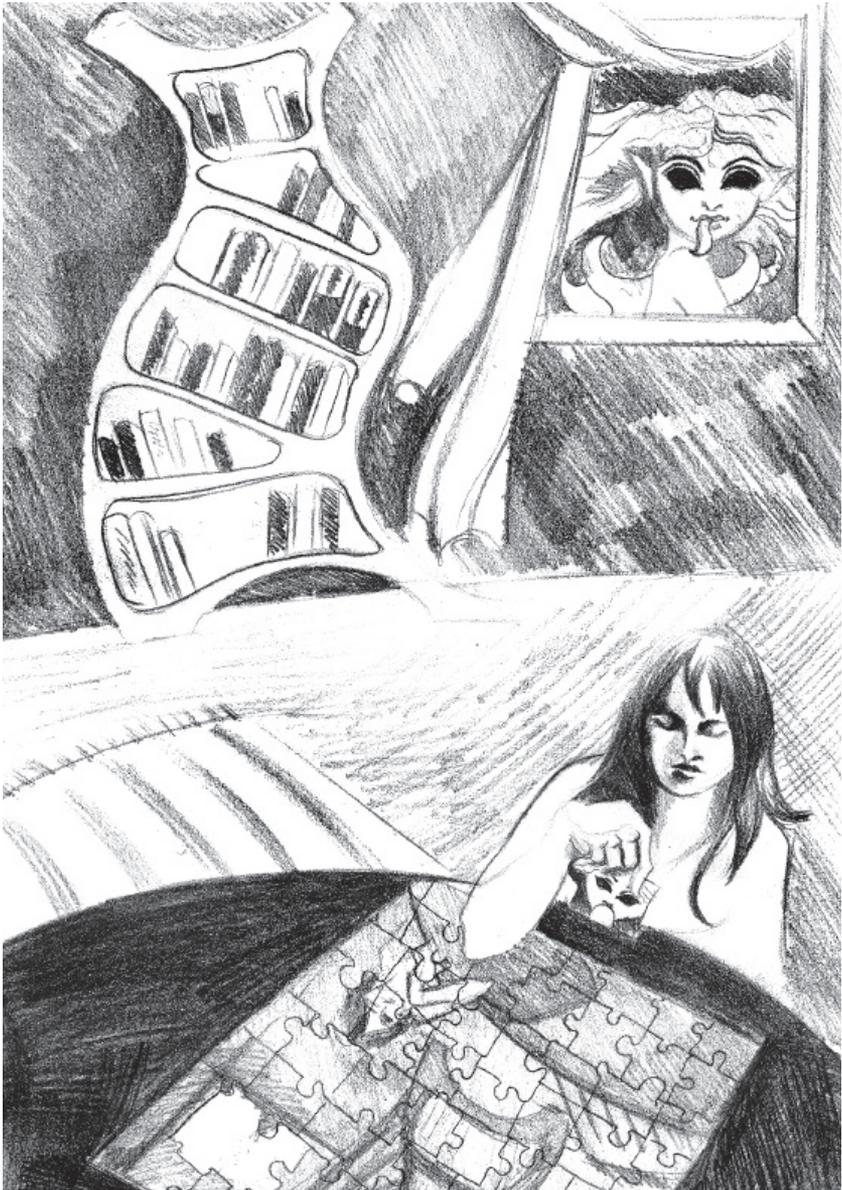
Jack stares after her; then, he turns and walks back to his car. After he starts the car, he remembers his jacket. "The girl is still wearing my jacket." he thinks.

He looks back at the house; it's dark and it's the middle of the night. He thinks, "Her parents may be asleep and I don't want to wake them up and get her in trouble." The jacket gives him a perfect excuse to see her again.

The next morning he drives back to the house and rings the bell. An old woman opens the door. She has the same dark hair and big bright green eyes as the girl.

"Excuse me. Can I talk to your daughter?"

"My daughter?" The woman's eyes fill with tears and she says: "Linda died two years ago in a car crash.



She saw that the young woman in the puzzle was herself.

Activities

The Fancy Dress Party

Before You Read

Answer the questions below.

1. Have you ever been to a fancy dress party? How was it?
2. Do people wear masks in their daily lives?
3. What is the most important thing in your life?

Look at the glossary of this story. Find the hidden words.

E O D M N I S E D U R B W C S	WORD LIST
T R E L I I S E A N H M E U C	
E F S R R A I C S O Y A T O U	CELLAR
E S E F E O S U T I H H C C N	CHAIN
E E R I E D O U D T T S E W E	FAULT
I I V D P R R E L N L T P L Y	ATTENTION
T R E I E S S U E E A O S T T	GENEROUS
N N D N E S E S M T E E E A I	MOVEMENT
N R E A E Y T N M T W P R R N	STINGY
R G N N G S D V E A S D E O U	OPPORTUNITY
E L T N R Y G G D I T P L E T	WITNESS
T I I M O V E M E N T N M T R	MURDER
W T L Y E E L B A U L A V D O	PRECIOUS
S Y R A L L E C I F A U L T P	RESPECT
E N E R E C R E T S S C W I P	WEALTHY
U I D E U E C H A I N E R C O	VALUABLE
R V E T E P R E C I O U S E V	DESERVE

After You Read

Read the story again. Complete the sentences below according to yourself.

1. I feel sorry for _____ because
_____.
2. I think _____ was right to
_____.
3. I think _____ was wrong to
_____.
4. I think _____ did a very good thing when
_____.
5. I think _____ did a very bad thing when
_____.

**Do you agree (A) or disagree (D) with these sentences?
Explain why.**

1. The only treasure is our own lives.
2. I can't imagine a world without money.
3. Some people are afraid of death.
4. Cellar is a good place for murder.
5. People should have fancy dresses in daily life.

While You Read

Read the story again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | √ | X |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Jamenah is the chief of the village. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Jamenah isn't kind to animals. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Snakes gather for a war council. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The people in the village dig a big hole in the village. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Snakes are determined to have their revenge. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The number of snakes is less than the people can imagine. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The snakes kill Jamenah. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. There is an agreement between snakes and people in the village. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Answer the questions below.

1. What does Jamenah do the rattlesnake?
2. What does the chief decide about the snakes?
3. Why do the snakes come to the village?
4. What do the people in the village do for the snakes?
5. What does the chief of all snakes want from the chief in the village?

Who did these? Write the names.

1. _____ hears a strange voice like hissing.
2. _____ holds its head and cuts its skin with his knife.
3. _____ make preparations for the battle.
4. _____ go straight into the flames.
5. _____ set the piles of wood on fire.
6. _____ crawl over the bodies of the dead ones.
7. _____ lifts her body out of the hole on the ground.

After You Read

Answer the questions below.

1. If you write the story again, how will you end it?
2. Who is your favourite character in this story? Why?
3. Do you think the story is real or not? Why?

**Do you agree (A) or disagree (D) with the quotation below?
Explain why.**

*“An eye for an eye would make the whole world blind.”
(Mahatma Gandhi)*

Fancy Dress Party

While You Read

Read the story again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | √ | X |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Dolores had three dollars and seventy cents. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Dolores lived with her family. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Mrs. Snow was a famous seamstress. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Dolores' wedding dress cost fifty dollars. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Dolores bought a pair of cufflinks for Ronald. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Ronald bought a bunch of flowers for Dolores. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Dolores was afraid because of Ronald's reactions. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Ronald sold his shoes to buy Dolores' present. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Answer the questions below.

1. Where did Dolores and Ronald live?
2. What was Dolores' only possession?
3. Where did Dolores buy his husband's present?
4. What time was it when Dolores was ready for their first anniversary?
5. How did Ronald react when he opened his present?

After You Read

Read the story again. Complete the sentences below according to yourself.

1. I feel sorry for _____ because
_____.
2. I think _____ was right to
_____.
3. I think _____ was wrong to
_____.
4. I think _____ did a very good thing when
_____.
5. I think _____ did a very bad thing when
_____.

Do you agree (A) or disagree (D) with the quotation below? Explain why.

*“To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.”
(David Viscott)*

The Strange Puzzle

Before You Read

Answer the questions below.

1. Do you like doing puzzles?
2. How do you think a puzzle can be strange?
3. Have you ever experienced a mysterious event?

Look at the glossary of this story. Find the hidden words.

E B D L R O E H X H E E O O T
S T E P L A D D E R C E D S T
C I P B H D V K P O R E C S X
T I N A S I R T N E R E A O L
A E E E I A A D V E S D R L L
M X T W K G I A P S E A D V R
R D W S U T A E Z S G H B E B
T T I R I B E T M F T S O S R
S S P O E K C O T L B T A E E
E U N N P R D E L B M E R T D
P D B O E M I T S A P U D P N
D E H V L N G A O S T E E L O
B S M E I S S V W X B K M D W
A R E S E M B L E O E T E K B
X S C W S L R T T R E T L M H
P G S E C D E M A T T E R R V
B B A N V I S I B L E C T V B

WORD LIST

TEXTURE
RUG
VISIBLE
DUST
WONDER
SHADE
PASTIME
SOLVE
CONDITION
SHOPKEEPER
RESEMBLE
CARDBOARD
TREMBLE
MATTER
STEPLADDER

While You Read

Read the story again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | √ | X |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The box of the puzzle was made of cardboard. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The puzzle was 500 pieces. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The pieces of the puzzle were in good condition. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Rose ate salad for the dinner. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The scene in the puzzle was the same as Rose's room. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Rose wanted to finish the puzzle but she couldn't. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Rose decided to buy the puzzle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The puzzle was very mysterious. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Answer the questions below.

1. Where did Rose find the puzzle?
2. What kind of a puzzle was it?
3. Why did Rose start to be scared?
4. What were the similarities between the scene in the puzzle and Rose's room?
5. What was on the last piece of the puzzle?

Fill in the paragraphs with your sentences according to the story.

1. Rose was happy to find a new pastime. _____

_____. Rose noticed that the wallpaper in the puzzle looked like the wallpaper of her own room.
2. The girl filled the puzzle inside the puzzle. _____

_____. It was there, too.

GLOSSARY

The Fancy Dress Party

attention (<i>n</i>)	the concentration of one's mind on something.
backyard (<i>n</i>)	an open area behind a house that is part of the homeowner's property.
cellar (<i>n</i>)	a room or rooms built underground, usually beneath a building.
chain (<i>n</i>)	a row of links, usually made of metal, that are joined together and used to pull, hold, or fasten something.
Cheers! (<i>interj</i>)	an expression used for showing happiness.
fancy dress (<i>n</i>)	a masked costume; it represents a particular period or class of a person.
fault (<i>n</i>)	something wrong with a thing or person.
generous (<i>adj</i>)	willing to give or share; not selfish.
high-pitched (<i>adj</i>)	of a sound, loud or sharp.
movement (<i>n</i>)	the act or manner of moving; motion.
murder (<i>n</i>)	the deliberate and unlawful killing of a person.
opportunity (<i>n</i>)	a chance for a better situation.

The First Anniversary

anger (<i>n</i>)	a strong emotion brought on by a person or thing that causes one great pain or trouble.
anniversary (<i>n</i>)	the date each year that is the same date on which a wedding or other important event happened.
ceremony (<i>n</i>)	a formal act or series of acts done in a particular way to honour a special occasion.
cufflink (<i>n</i>)	either of a pair of linked buttons or other small device inserted into the buttonholes of a cuff to keep it closed.
darling (<i>n</i>)	a person who is loved very much by the person speaking.
expense (<i>n</i>)	a cause of spending money or paying out.
footstep (<i>n</i>)	a single step with the foot, or the sound it makes.
horror (<i>n</i>)	a great and painful feeling of fear or shock.
package (<i>n</i>)	an object that is packed, wrapped, or boxed.
possession (<i>n</i>)	something that is owned.

An Angel on the Road

angel (<i>n</i>)	a spiritual being who acts as a servant or messenger of God.
asleep (<i>adj</i>)	sleeping.
author (<i>n</i>)	the writer of a book, play, story, or other written work.
beauty (<i>n</i>)	the quality of being pleasant or beautiful.
drum (<i>n</i>)	an instrument like a cylinder.
excuse (<i>n</i>)	a reason or explanation used to escape blame.
ghost (<i>n</i>)	the spirit of a person who has died.
graveyard (<i>n</i>)	an area of ground where dead people are buried; cemetery.
headlight (<i>n</i>)	a bright light on the front of a vehicle.
headstone (<i>n</i>)	a stone set at the head of a person's grave; tombstone.
heater (<i>n</i>)	a device that gives heat.
hill (<i>n</i>)	a raised area of land smaller than a mountain.
horrible (<i>n</i>)	causing a feeling of fear and horror.

to matter (<i>v</i>)	to be of importance.
to resemble (<i>v</i>)	to have a similar nature or have a likeness to.
to solve (<i>v</i>)	to find an answer to (a problem or the like).
to tremble (<i>v</i>)	to shake or quiver involuntarily, as from fear, exhaustion, or cold.
to wonder (<i>v</i>)	to be curious about something.
visible (<i>adj</i>)	able to be seen; perceptible through sight.

The Revenge of the Snakes

Look at the glossary of this story. Find the hidden words.

A T A **S I L E N C E** T R L N W
E R T N O S C O D H E G H N D
T E T **R N G U N R R F U R T N**
L V U **E N P V N E V T E A W A**
H A E **D E D A M O E V T L I T**
I O **E N C H A L L E N G E V S**
E **E V E H L S R N S E E T O T**
S V **U R F T E G S E I O Y N A**
R **A I R S V E E B O U R E A V**
E **R M U Y E L U M D H T N C E**
R **B O S R E R F E I H C V R C**
E S E **A S N T S M E T P E A U**
U E N **U T D N O E M L N W W R**
C E **S C E N E G R I A T T L A**
A L L R C O E E **C E U O T N L**
K R U R N R O P Y C O V L A L
C T N Q T O U R O I R R A W B

Look at the glossary of this story. Find the hidden words.

1.F 2.T 3.T 4.F 5.T 6.F 7.T 8.T

Answer the questions below.

1. He cuts its skin with a knife and burns it until it is dead.
2. He decides about fighting snakes.
3. Because they want to have their revenge.
4. They dig a great hole around the village and fill it with water and then, they cut piles of wood to burn.
5. She wants them to respect her people and not to name anybody Jamenah

Who said the sentences below? Write the names.

1. A villager
2. Jamenah
3. Villagers
4. Snakes
5. Villagers
6. Snakes
7. The chief of the snakes

The First Anniversary

Look at the glossary of this story. Find the hidden words.

U W C L N L A H I A N F N R C
E T F P E X P E N S E E A E O
A E L A O I R E E Y N N E A E
R A O E O S F A N N G E L G V
Y R E E I G S O O E E V O L T
R W N E R O M E R A M W M S S
A U N C L E M E S E R U O S Y
S P C A R C E E E S T A T T T
R E B E W P A H S N I P E C I
E T C C O A F R A W R O H G R
V S G E R C R O R R O H N S C
I T R A T K F S T O R E A P Y
N O E R H A O S D R O F F A R
N O E V T G I N W V A R U D M
A F T A E E A V U M I N J T B
T I S E A M S T R E S S F I E
G E K N I L F F U C U V N U A

Look at the glossary of this story. Find the hidden words.

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. T 8. §F

Answer the questions below.

1. They lived in Texas.
2. Her wedding dress.
3. She bought it in a shopping mall.
4. At eight o'clock.
5. He smiled in a bitter way.

Who said the sentences below? Write the names.

1. A villager
2. Jamenah
3. Villagers
4. Snakes
5. Villagers
6. Snakes
7. The chief of the snakes