



# Aldar-Kose's Cloak

## About the story

This is a folktale from Kazakhstan, where Aldar-Kose (pronounced 'Kosa') is the national trickster. The story of tricking a rich man of his clothes by claiming a holey garment is magically warm can be found across Europe.

## Getting to know the story

After sharing the story with the children, use the following activities to help the children embed the key elements prior to telling it.

### Discuss

- Compare this story to 'Ragamuffin and his Delicious Nail Soup'. How are the main characters and plot similar? Most cultures have a 'trickster' figure who outwits the others. What other examples are there in folktales?
- Ask: why does Aldar-Kose not take the man's money?

### Story behind the story

- As a class, create a story of how the rich man plays the same trick on someone else.

## Retelling the story

- This story is a good early tale because it is simple to learn. Chant the opening rhythmically.
- The flowchart breaks down the story into its key components.
- Helen East writes, "I imagine Aldar-Kose cool and calm, lolling in his saddle, so I usually lean back in my chair when I tell for him, whereas the rich man, by contrast I make all jittery and twitchy, eager to grab a bargain. That affects how their voices come out." Ask the children to try out Helen East's techniques.
- Once learned, the story could be embellished by claiming that the cloak has magical properties that keep it warm. Build up the beginning to emphasize how cold Aldar-Kose is and how slowly his horse travels.

## From telling into writing

- Try modernising the story with a modern trickster who manages to gain something by deceit.

