

Jack and the Beanstalk

An English Folktale

A Reader's Theatre Script Adapted by Lisa Blau

Reader #1

Reader #2

Reader #3

Jack

Mother

Giant

Little Man

Giant's Wife

<http://www.lisablau.com/freescripts.html>

Reader #1:

Once upon a time long, long ago there lived a young boy named Jack.

Reader #2:

Jack lived in a small cottage with his mother. They were very poor.

Reader #3:

One day Jack's mother said to him...

Mother:

Oh, Jack. Whatever will we do? We haven't any money for food. You will have to go to town and sell our cow. It is the only way that we'll be able to eat.

Jack:

Very well, mother.

Reader #1:

So, Jack took the cow and walked toward the town.

Reader #2:

He hadn't gone far when he met a strange little man.

Little Man:

Say...young lad...where are you going with that cow?

Jack:

I'm going to town to sell the cow so we can buy some food.

Little Man:

Ah...but the town is so very far away...I will gladly buy the cow from you.

Jack:

What price will you pay me for my cow?

Little Man:

I have no coins, but I have something far better than money. If you give me your cow, I shall give you some magic beans!

Jack:

Well, I don't know if I should. My mother told me to go to town and sell the cow.
Little

Man:

But, lad! Think how proud your mother will be when she learns that you have some magic beans!

Jack:

Very well then. Here is the cow. Please let me have your magic beans.

Reader #3:

So, the deal was made. Jack walked home with his sack of magic beans. His mother would be so proud of him for making such a good deal.

Mother:

Well, Jack. Did you get a good price for our cow?

Jack:

Yes, I did. I got this sack of magic beans!

Mother:

What? You foolish, foolish boy! How could you have done such a thing? Now we have no food to eat, whatever will we do?

Reader #1:

Jack's mother sent him to bed without any supper and she threw the bag of magic seeds out the window.

Reader #2:

In the morning when Jack awoke there was a huge beanstalk growing outside his window.

Jack:

Wow! Look at this beanstalk! Why it seems to touch the clouds!

Reader #1:

Jack decided to climb up the beanstalk.

Reader #2:

He climbed and climbed and climbed.

Reader #1:

At last he reached the top. He was in a magical land.

Reader #2:

Jack found a large, beautiful castle. He knocked on the door. A woman opened the huge door.

Giant's Wife:

Who are you? What do you want, boy?

Jack:

I'm Jack. I've just climbed up the beanstalk. I'm very hungry. Could you spare some food for me, kind woman?

Giant's Wife:

Very well, come in...but be careful. My husband is a mean and grumpy giant. He will not be happy to see you.

Reader #3:

Jack went into the kitchen and the Giant's wife fed him a good meal.

Reader #2:

All at once the floor began to shake and a loud voice roared...

Giant:

FE-FI-FO-FUM! I smell the blood of an Englishman! Be he alive or be he dead, I'll grind his bones to make my bread!

Giant's Wife:

Oh, heavens! The giant has returned! Quick, hide here in the cupboard.

Reader #2:

Jack hid in the cupboard and watched what the giant did next.

Giant:

Wife! Wife! Bring me some food, my gold, my magic hen, and golden harp! Hurry, hurry! Do as I say.

Reader #1:

The giant ate and ate and ate. He counted his many bags of gold.

Reader #2:

Then the giant roared at the magic hen...

Giant:

Lay me ten golden eggs at once!

Reader #1:

And the magic hen did as the giant had ordered.

Giant:

Play magic harp, play!

Reader #2:

The Magic Harp began to play the sweetest music that Jack had ever heard.

Reader #1:

Soon the giant fell asleep. His loud snores shook the castle.

Reader #2:

Jack saw his chance to run away.

Reader #1:

But before he left, Jack grabbed the giant's sack of gold, his hen, and the magic harp.

Reader #2:

But as Jack picked up the magic hen, the hen cried out and woke the giant up.

Reader #1:

Jack ran as fast as he could out of the castle and across the clouds to the beanstalk.

Reader #2:

The giant ran after Jack. His great steps shook the ground.

Reader #1:

Jack scurried down the beanstalk. The giant was not far behind him.

Reader #2:

When Jack reached the ground he grabbed an axe and began to chop down the beanstalk.

Reader #3:

Hack! Hack! Hack! The axe flew across the beanstalk. At last the beanstalk fell to the ground and the mean and grumpy giant crashed down with it.

Reader #1:

That was the end of the magic beanstalk and the mean and grumpy giant. But it does not mean the end of our tale.

Reader #2:

Oh no! Our tale has the happiest of endings, for Jack and his mother now had all the money they needed.

Reader #3:

They also had a hen that laid golden eggs...

Reader #1:

And a harp to play the world's sweetest music...

Reader #2:

And they lived happily ever after.

All:

The end.