



Jack & the Beanstalk



Once upon a time, there was a young boy called Jack, who lived on a small farm with his mother. They worked hard but were very poor. Jack and his mother had an old cow called Betty. One day, she stopped producing milk and Jack's mother said they would have to sell her.

«Jack, you must go to the market and sell Betty, but make sure to ask for at least ten gold coins in exchange!»

«Yes, mum» Jack replied, «Ten gold coins».

[How much is 10?]

On his way to the market, Jack met an old man who offered to buy Betty.

«Hello Jack, where are you off to?»

«I'm going to market, to sell my cow». Jack replied,

«Is that so! « said the man. «If you would like, I can show you a way to become very, very rich! I'll buy your cow in exchange for these beans. ». The man showed Jack the beans. Jack was angry at first; he thought the man was playing a joke. His mum had told him to bring back at least ten coins! But the man explained that these were magic beans:

«When you plant the beans, they will grow up to the sky and a huge surprise will be waiting for you at the top. »

Jack, amazed and impressed, decided to take a chance, and off he went with the beans. Back at the farm, he showed the magic beans to his mother, who was naturally very annoyed and upset because they still didn't have any money.



That night, Jack's mother threw the beans out of the window. She did not believe her son's story and was angry that he had been duped by the old man.

«I should have sold the cow myself!» she thought.



The next morning, Jack got up bright and early to prepare his mother's breakfast and to help her with her jobs on the farm, in the hope that she would be less angry. But - something was blocking the light at the kitchen window.

Jack ran outside to see what it was. A huge beanstalk was growing in the garden. He couldn't see the top because the plant rose up into the sky and disappeared among the clouds. «Unbelievable!» thought Jack. «The old man was telling the truth! »



So Jack took his courage in both hands. His curiosity got the better of him and he started to climb the plant. He climbed from branch to branch, from leaf to leaf, higher and higher without stopping, until he reached the blue sky. There, Jack found himself in front of a magnificent castle!

«WOW, what is this? Who could live so high in the sky?» he wondered.



Jack knocked on the huge door in front of him. «Knock knock. Is anyone at home?» called Jack, curious but scared.

The door opened and a very large woman appeared. Feeling a little afraid, Jack asked the woman if he could have something to eat and drink because he was hungry and thirsty from climbing so far! The giantess let him in, delighted to have some company in her lonely castle.



Jack & the Beanstalk



The enormous woman began to cook a feast for Jack, who looked very, very small in such a huge castle, where all the furniture towered above him. The giantess explained to him that her husband was an ogre and that he would have to hide or the giant would make Jack his next meal.

Suddenly her husband entered the room! «Fee, fi, fo, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman!» And the giant began to look around to find where it could be coming from. His wife quickly tried to convince him that the smell was from the sheep he had just brought home.

«Sit down in your chair, I'll cook you a delicious dinner right away» said the giantess.



His wife set about preparing a gargantuan meal for the giant, consisting of a large leg of lamb, cheese, grapes, cakes, and more. Jack was hiding under the table along with a hen and a huge bag of coins brought back by the giant.

[Can you see Jack?]



When night fell, the giant, exhausted after so much food, went to bed with his wife. Jack waited until they were sound asleep and crept out of his hiding place. He grabbed the hen and the bag of gold coins and began to tiptoe towards the door.

Unfortunately for him, the hen began to cluck. The giant heard it and opened one eye.



Jack made a run for it, keeping tight hold of the hen and the bag of coins, and began to climb quickly down the beanstalk. Hearing the giant yelling and stomping around, Jack quickened his pace.



At the bottom, Jack hastily put down the hen and the bag of gold coins and grabbed an axe. He hacked and chopped at the foot of the giant beanstalk so that the giant couldn't follow him.

Crraacck! The beanstalk crashed to the ground, and the giant with it. It was over! Jack was saved.



Jack gave the hen to his mother along with the bag of gold coins. She was delighted.

They found that by stroking the hen every morning, she laid a golden egg. The hen was magical, too!

Jack and his mum were finally able to eat to their hearts' content and never had to struggle for money again.