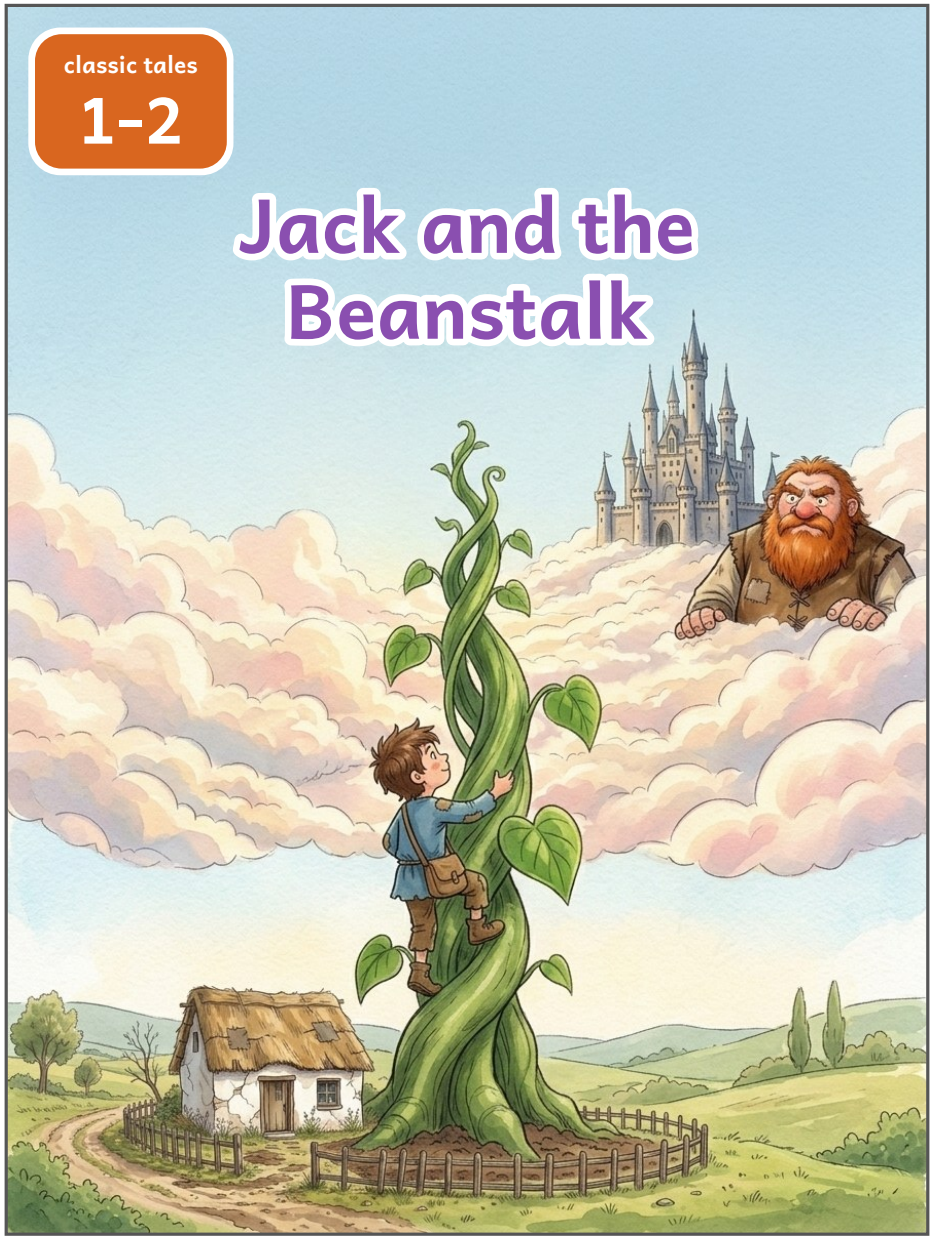
classic tales
1-2

Jack and the Beanstalk



A Classic Tales Reader • Grades 1-2

Printable Scholar Readers

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Once upon a time, a boy called Jack lived with his mother. They were very poor. All they had was one old cow called Milky-White.

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On the way to market, Jack met a funny old man. “I’ll swap you five magic beans for your cow,” he said. “It’s a deal!” said Jack.

“Beans? Oh, Jack! You silly boy!” cried Mother. She threw the beans out of the window, and Jack went to bed without any supper.

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But that night, the beans grew into a giant beanstalk. In the morning, Jack climbed, and he climbed, right up to the sky.

At the top, a long road led to a castle. “My husband is a giant!” said the giant’s wife. “Quick, hide in the oven!”

Thump! Thump! Thump! The giant came home. “Fee-fi-fo-fum! I smell the blood of an Englishman!”

After breakfast, the giant counted his gold until he fell asleep. Jack crept out, took a bag of gold, and climbed back down.

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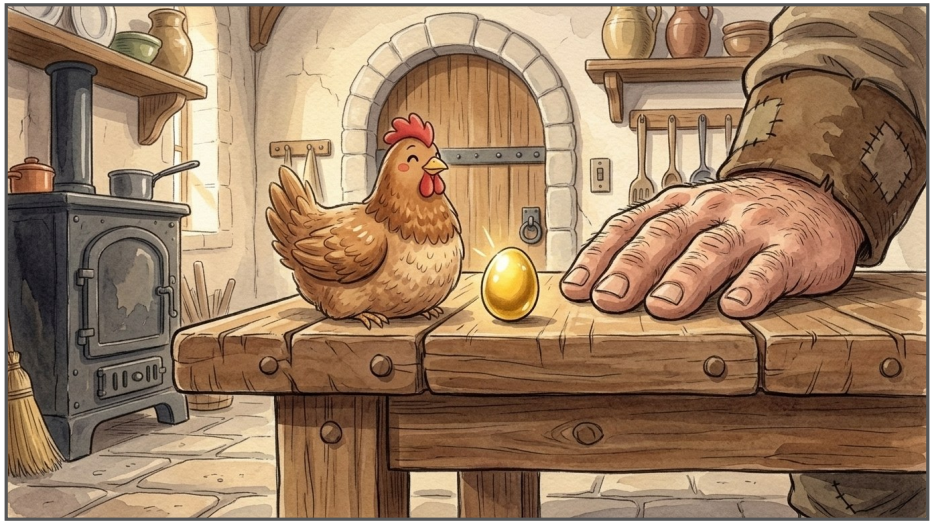

When the gold ran out, Jack climbed up again. This time he took the giant's hen, which laid eggs of solid gold.

The third time, Jack took the golden harp. But the harp cried out, "Master! Master!" The giant woke up and chased him!

cut

"Mother! Bring me the axe!" Jack chopped down the beanstalk, and the giant was never seen again. Jack and his mother lived happily ever after.

Talk About It

1. Why was Mother cross with Jack?

2. How did the giant's wife help Jack?

3. Was it right for Jack to take the giant's things? Why or why not?

Words to Know

beans • beanstalk • giant
castle • hen • harp

Read me 3 times!

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