

ENGLISH — READING · Y1–Y3

Readers' Theatre

Jack and the Beanstalk

Use readers' theatre

Quick guide for teachers

- No memorisation needed — pupils read from the script
- No costumes or props required — just voices
- Works in a guided reading group (7 pupils) or as a class with doubled roles
- Practise once, then perform to another class or at the start of a literacy lesson
- Great for fluency, expression, and comprehension all at once
- Roles: NARRATOR 1, NARRATOR 2, JACK, MOTHER, MARKET MAN, GIANT, CHORUS (2+ pupils)

Script — Scene 1: The Cow and the Beans

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time, a boy named Jack lived with his mother in a small cottage. They had very little money left — only their old cow, Bessie. MOTHER: Jack, we have no food left and no money. You must take Bessie to market and sell her. JACK: But Mother — Bessie is our last thing of value. MOTHER: I know. But if we don't sell her, we will go hungry. Now go. NARRATOR 2: On the way to market, Jack met a strange old man. MARKET MAN: Boy! That's a fine cow. I'll trade you five magic beans for her. JACK: Magic beans? Are they really magic? MARKET MAN: Plant them tonight and see what grows by morning. CHORUS: Jack traded the cow — for five small beans.



Script — Scene 2: The Beanstalk

NARRATOR 1: When Jack got home without the cow, his mother was furious. MOTHER: BEANS? You sold our only cow for BEANS? [She threw them out of the window.] JACK: But Mother, they're magic! NARRATOR 2: That night, while Jack slept, the beans began to grow. And grow. And grow. CHORUS: A great green beanstalk — stretching up through the clouds! JACK: [looking up] I have to climb it.

Script — Scene 3: The Giant's Castle

NARRATOR 1: At the top of the beanstalk was an enormous castle. Jack crept inside. GIANT: [booming] FEE FI FO FUM! I smell the blood of an Englishman! JACK: [hiding] Don't let him find me... NARRATOR 2: Jack found the Giant's golden harp and golden eggs — and he grabbed them and ran! GIANT: Come back, thief! CHORUS: Down the beanstalk — faster than the wind! JACK: Mother! Fetch the axe! NARRATOR 1: Jack chopped the beanstalk. Down tumbled the Giant. And Jack and his mother were never hungry again. CHORUS: The end!

