

# Jack and the Beanstalk: Part 2

by **Joseph Jacobs** *from English Fairy Tales*

*Jack traded the family cow for magic beans. The beans grew overnight all the way to the sky. Jack climbed the beanstalk and found the house of an ogre and his wife. There he stole a bag of gold from the ogre. He and his mother lived on the gold for while until it ran out.*

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At last they came to the end of that so Jack made up his mind to try his luck once more up at the top of the beanstalk. So one fine morning he got up early and got on to the beanstalk, and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed until at last he got on the road again and came to the great big tall house he had been to before. There, sure enough, was the great big tall woman a-standing on the door-step.

“Good morning, mum,” says Jack, as bold as brass, “could you be so good as to give me something to eat?”

“Go away, my boy,” said the big, tall woman, “or else my man will eat you up for breakfast. But aren’t you the youngster who came here once before? Do you know, that very day, my man missed one of his bags of gold.”

“That’s strange, mum,” says Jack, “I dare say I could tell you something about that but I’m so hungry I can’t speak until I’ve had something to eat.”

Well, the big tall woman was so curious that she took him in and gave him something to eat. But he had scarcely begun munching it as slowly as he could when thump! thump! thump! they heard the giant’s footstep, and his wife hid Jack away in the oven.

All happened as it did before. In came the ogre as he did before, said: “Fee-fi-fo-fum,” and had his breakfast of three broiled oxen. Then he said: “Wife, bring me the hen that lays the golden eggs.” So she brought it, and the ogre said: “Lay,” and it laid an egg all of gold. And then the ogre began to nod his head and to snore until the house shook.

Then Jack crept out of the oven on tiptoe and caught hold of the golden hen, and was off before you could say “Jack Robinson.” But this time the hen gave a cackle which woke the ogre, and just as Jack got out of the house he heard him calling: “Wife, wife, what have you done with my golden hen?”

And the wife said: “Why, my dear?”

But that was all Jack heard, for he rushed off to the beanstalk and climbed down like a house on fire. And

when he got home he showed his mother the wonderful hen and said, “Lay” to it; and it laid a golden egg every time he said “Lay.”

Well, Jack was not content, and it wasn't very long before he determined to have another try at his luck up there at the top of the beanstalk. So one fine morning, he got up early and went on to the beanstalk, and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed until he got to the top. But this time he knew better than to go straight to the ogre's house. And when he got near it he waited behind a bush until he saw the ogre's wife come out with a pail to get some water, and then he crept into the house and got into a large copper pot. He hadn't been there long when he heard thump! thump! thump! as before, and in came the ogre and his wife.

“Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman,” cried out the ogre; “I smell him, wife, I smell him.”

“Do you, my dearie?” says the ogre's wife. “Then if it's that little rogue that stole your gold and the hen that laid the golden eggs, he's sure to have got into the oven.” And they both rushed to the oven. But Jack wasn't there, luckily, and the ogre's wife said: “There you are again with your fee-fi-fo-fum. Why of course, it's the laddie you caught last night that I've broiled for your breakfast. How forgetful I am, and how careless you are not to tell the difference between a live one and a dead one.”

So the ogre sat down to the breakfast and ate it, but every now and then he would mutter: “Well, I could have sworn——” and he'd get up and search the larder and the cupboards, and everything, only luckily he didn't think of the big copper pot.

After breakfast was over, the ogre called out: “Wife, wife, bring me my golden harp.” So she brought it and put it on the table before him. Then he said: “Sing!” and the golden harp sang most beautifully. And it went on singing until the ogre fell asleep and commenced to snore like thunder.

Then Jack lifted up the pot lid very quietly and got down like a mouse and crept on hands and knees until he got to the table when he got up and caught hold of the golden harp and dashed with it towards the door. But the harp called out quite loud: “Master! Master!” and the ogre woke up just in time to see Jack running off with his harp.

Jack ran as fast as he could, and the ogre came rushing after and would soon have caught him, only Jack had a head start and dodged him a bit and knew where he was going. When he got to the beanstalk the ogre was not more than twenty yards away when suddenly he saw Jack disappear, and when he got up to the end of the road he saw Jack underneath climbing down for dear life. Well, the ogre didn't like trusting himself to such a ladder, and he stood and waited, so Jack got another start. But just then the harp cried out: “Master! master!” and the ogre swung himself down on to the beanstalk which shook with his weight. Down climbs Jack, and after him climbed the ogre. By this time Jack had climbed down and climbed down and climbed down until he was very nearly home. So he called out: “Mother! mother! bring me an axe, bring me an axe.” And his mother came rushing out with the axe in her hand, but when she came to the beanstalk she stood stock still with fright for there she saw the ogre just coming down below the clouds.

But Jack jumped down and got hold of the axe and gave a chop at the beanstalk which cut it half in two. The ogre felt the beanstalk shake and quiver so he stopped to see what was the matter. Then Jack gave

another chop with the axe, and the beanstalk was cut in two and began to topple over. Then the ogre fell down and broke his crown, and the beanstalk came toppling after.

Then Jack showed his mother his golden harp, and what with showing that and selling the golden eggs, Jack and his mother became very rich, and he married a great princess, and they lived happy ever after.

## Questions

1. When Jack climbs the beanstalk, the text says, “and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed and he climbed until at last he got on the road.” Why do you think it says “he climbed” over and over again?
  
2. Jack took a bag of gold, a goose that laid golden eggs, and a golden harp from the ogre. Which of these do you think is the best thing for Jack and his mother? Explain why you think it is the best.
  
3. The story says the ogre “commenced to snore like thunder.”
  - A. What does *commenced* mean?
  
  - B. Explain what “to snore like thunder” means.

**Vocabulary List**

Each of the vocabulary words below are used in the reading passage. As you read the passage, pay attention to context clues that suggest the word's meaning.

1. scarcely
2. cackle
3. larder
4. commenced
5. quiver

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**Context Clues**

Using context clues from the sentences in the passage, underline the correct meaning of the word in boldface.

1. "But he had **scarcely** begun munching it as slowly as he could"  
a. oddly; strangely    b. carefully or reluctantly    c. barely; just    d. silently or quietly
2. "But this time the hen gave a **cackle** which woke the ogre"  
a. cry or squawk    b. blue egg    c. flap; shake    d. jump or leap
3. "he'd get up and search the **larder** and the cupboards"  
a. pots or pans    b. cloth bag    c. butter holder    d. pantry or food shelves
4. "the ogre fell asleep and **commenced** to snore"  
a. attempted or tried    b. began; started    c. failed or ceased    d. wanted; desired
5. "The ogre felt the beanstalk shake and **quiver** so he stopped"  
a. crumble; break    b. cry; moan    c. bite or snap    d. tremble or shiver