

# Jack & the beanstalk



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Jack was a happy and fun young boy, though he and his mum were very poor. Jack liked to imagine exciting things and often pretended to be a superhero and dream that he had special powers. They had a lovable cow called Squirty Cream who they both adored, and whose milk they sold in the marketplace.

Unfortunately, one summer, her milk dried up! With much sadness, they decided that Jack should take Squirty to market to sell. They knew they would miss her very much, but they had no money for food, and nothing else to sell. As Jack made his way to market however, he met a very peculiar little fellow, who persuaded Jack to swap Squirty for some magic beans. The strange, pixie like character told Jack that the beans would bring him riches. When Jack got home and told his Mum that he had swapped Squirty for some beans, she was absolutely furious and threw the beans out of the window, into their garden.

Jack decided to sing a special song that he knew for making plants grow and miraculously, a really tall beanstalk grew in his garden. The bean seller had been telling the truth! Jack decided to climb the beanstalk in search of riches and adventure.

Up, up, up he climbed until he reached the very top.....

As he stepped up through the clouds, he saw a huge castle right in front of him and he noticed, with surprise, that on the roof sat a golden goose, surrounded by crabs. Jack was curious and excited about the golden goose but he needed a way to get up on to the roof. A cheeky monkey dashed past, gave Jack some money and then swung towards the castle. Jack went to the nearby village, near the seaside that was close to the castle. He found a shop, next door to the frozen food store Iceland. Luckily the shop sold ladders. He went in and was surprised to see that it was run by crabs, who were busily making the ladders and serving the customers.

Jack bought a ladder, which was quite expensive and headed back to the castle. He leaned the ladder up against the castle wall and started to climb. When he reached the roof, he realised that not only was there a golden goose and some crabs up there but also two fine horses.

Jack tried to grab the golden goose but, tragically, this made the goose die of shock. It was very sad but then the little sea of crabs parted and underneath them was another goose, the twin of the one that had died. The twin goose laid a golden egg for Jack, which he took down from the roof, leaving the goose in a bird cage on the roof to keep it safe.

Back down on the ground, Jack heard some very heavy footsteps and met a giant woman, who lived in the castle. The woman showed him into the castle kitchen and offered to help him make golden pancakes from the golden egg. Just as they started their baking however, a group of people arrived from the nearby Iceland shop and started chasing the crabs. The crabs thought they were being very clever and ran back towards Iceland and hid in one of the big freezers. However, the lid came down and they couldn't get out and ended up as frozen crabs.

Meanwhile, Jack enjoyed munching on the golden pancakes very much and then, after bidding everyone goodbye and grabbing the goose, he headed back to the beanstalk. However, the two headed Giant that owned the castle and the geese suddenly appeared and he was angry! He chased Jack all the way to the beanstalk and then down the beanstalk. When Jack got near the bottom he called to his Mum to bring an axe. She did exactly that, determined to help. Jack chopped and chopped and chopped until the beanstalk came crashing down, killing the two headed giant.

Jack and his Mum celebrated. The goose, who was very happy to be finally free of the terrible giant, told a brilliant joke and they all lived Happily Ever After!