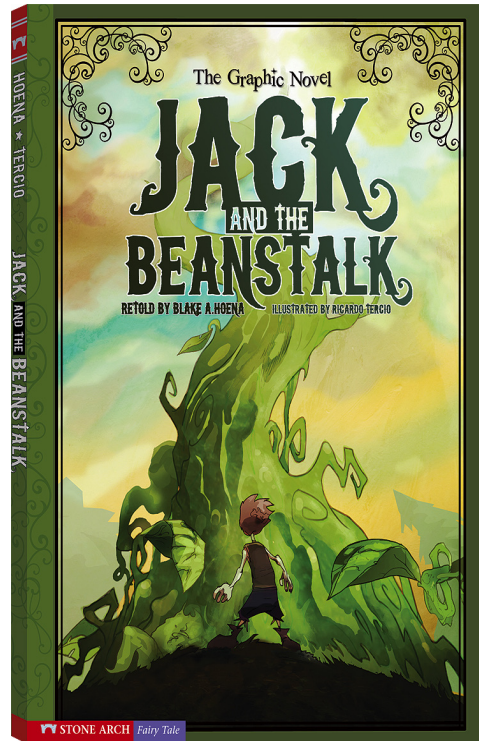




READER'S THEATER



Jack and the Beanstalk retold by Blake A. Hoena

Characters:

- Jack** — reads below grade level
- Mother** — struggling reader
- Old Man** — reads slightly below grade level
- The Giant's Wife** — reads at grade level
- Narrator** — reads above grade level

Genre: Fairy Tale

Ages: 8-13

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Narrator: Once upon a time, a boy named Jack lived with his poor, widowed mother in England. A man-eating giant had killed Jack's father some years ago. The giant stole everything the family owned, except for their cow, Milky White. Jack and his mother lived off the milk that Milky White produced. Until one morning . . .

Jack: Not a drop! Milky's bone dry! If we can't sell any milk, we won't have enough money for food. What will we do, Mother?

Mother: I hoped it wouldn't come to this, but we need to eat. We must sell old Milky White.

Narrator: Later that day, Jack headed off with Milky White in tow.

Old Man: Where are you off to this morning, young man?

Jack: I'm headed to market to sell the family cow.

Old Man: I could save you the trip. I'll swap you that old cow for these . . .

Jack: Beans?!

Old Man: They're not just any old beans. They're magic! If you plant them overnight, by morning they'll grow right up into the sky.

Jack: Really?

Old Man: If what I say isn't true, you can have your old cow back.

Narrator: As the sun set, Jack returned home . . .

Mother: So, how much did you get for Milky White?

Jack: You'll never guess.

Mother: Fifteen? Twenty? It couldn't be more than twenty.

Jack: Even better. I traded Milky White for these beans!

Mother: Beans?! How could you trade our only cow for five worthless beans?

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Jack: But, Mother, they're magic!

Mother: Foolish, boy! I'll show you magic. Watch these beans disappear!

Narrator: And with that, Mother threw the beans out the door and into the yard.

Jack: No!

Mother: Now get off to bed! There will be no supper tonight, thanks to you!

Narrator: But as Jack and his mother slept, something truly magical did happen. The next morning, Jack raced out the door.

Mother: And don't come home until you get that cow back!

Jack: Yes, Mother!

Narrator: Suddenly, Jack crashed into something with a loud "Thud!" As he gazed up, he saw a giant beanstalk stretching up through the clouds.

Jack: Oof! Wow! The old man spoke the truth! Where could this beanstalk possibly lead? I guess there's only one way to find out.

Narrator: And with that, Jack began to climb the beanstalk. When he reached the top, he couldn't believe his eyes.

Jack: A castle in the clouds! I hope someone's home, and I can get something to eat! I didn't have any supper last night or breakfast this morning.

Narrator: Jack raced up to the giant-sized front door and knocked loudly three times.

Giant's Wife: Hello?

Jack: Good morning, ma'am. Could you be so kind as to give me some breakfast?

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Giant's Wife: It's breakfast you want? Well, it's breakfast you'll be if my husband finds you. He's a fearful giant, and there's nothing he likes better than boys broiled on toast.

Jack: Please! I haven't had anything to eat since yesterday. I'm starving!

Giant's Wife: Oh, all right! Come along then. You better eat up quick before my husband comes home.

Jack: Yes, ma'am.

Narrator: Suddenly, a terrible rumble sounded from outside.

Giant's Wife: Oh, no! It's my husband!

Jack: What's happening?!

Giant's Wife: Quick, hide in the stove!

Narrator: Suddenly from across the room, Jack heard a voice yell, "FEE FIE FOH FUM! I smell the blood of an Englishman! Be he alive, or be he dead, I'll grind his bones to make my bread."

Giant's Wife: You probably just smell the scraps of that little boy you ate last night for dinner. Now sit down, and I'll make you some breakfast.

Narrator: After breakfast, the giant counted his gold. Soon, he began to nod off.

Jack: Now's my chance to get away! But first, I'll grab a bit of gold. This giant certainly has plenty to spare . . .

Will Jack make it out of the giant's house alive? Or will the giant wake up and find him before he can escape? To find out, read *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Graphic Novel* from Stone Arch Books.