

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK PLAY

The Jack and the Beanstalk play may simply be used as a reading of the story, or exploited further in a live 'stage' performance. In either case, the play provides children with a great opportunity to bring the story of Jack and the Beanstalk to life with their own creative interpretations, besides providing them with the chance to practice their speaking skills and improve their pronunciation.

Characters: Mum, Jack, (Daisy the cow), the stranger, the Giantess, the Giant

Resources: Play; mask or finger puppet templates; recording equipment

Props: Costumes, beans, beanstalk and castle collage/mural, cardboard hen, gold, harp, axe

- a) Elicit what happens at the very beginning of the story. Which characters are involved? Where are they? What are they doing?
- b) Give your children a copy of Scene 1. The children take the part of Jack, you are Mum. Read and practise your lines in turn. Now reverse roles. Encourage your children to take on the appropriate voices for each character and to do the appropriate actions and gestures. You may like to demonstrate with the masks or finger puppets.
- c) Next, ask your children to work in pairs and repeat their parts.
- d) What happens next in the story? Repeat stages a) - c) for each scene until all the children are familiar with each scene in the play.
- e) Your children may now like to practice the whole play in small groups, each taking a role. The children reverse roles for a second and third reading.
- f) Finally, you may like to encourage your children to 'perform' for the class (and/or their parents). Where children may be a little reticent or hesitant to take a role in the play, they may like to be stage 'directors' or designers, or be in charge of sound effects or any recording equipment.
- g) To simulate a 'stage', you may like to decorate your classroom and assign different 'roles' to different areas - Jack's house, the garden with the beanstalk rising through the clouds to the top of the sky and the castle, inside the castle doors.
- h) In addition to making their own masks, your children may like to dress in character, too. Jack would wear casual clothes; Mum might have an apron; the stranger might have a cloak; the giantess might have a giant-size apron; the giant might have big boots, a shirt, a waistcoat.