

WHAT'S THE STORY?

THERE was at one time a boy named Jack who lived on a quiet farm in England with his mother and father and their prized possession, a cow named Daisy. Jack lived a happy life and every day he would help his father as he worked around the farm, especially when it came to feeding and caring for Daisy.

But bad times came and the farm began to wither. The farmer tried hard to keep his little farm going but it was all too much and soon he fell ill. As his health became worse, the farmer told Jack to do him one favor: "Work hard and never give up!" And with that he passed away. Jack and his mother tried desperately to keep the farm going but it was all too much. Soon, all that was left of any value was Daisy. It became a question of whether to sell Daisy at the market or starve. It was a sad decision to make, but Daisy had to be sold.

On the way to the market, Jack ran into a strange-looking peddler who suggested Jack trade with him. If Jack would give him Daisy, the peddler would give Jack a handful of beans.

Magic Beans! If Jack were to plant them by the light of a full moon, they would grow and produce a tremendous bounty of food.

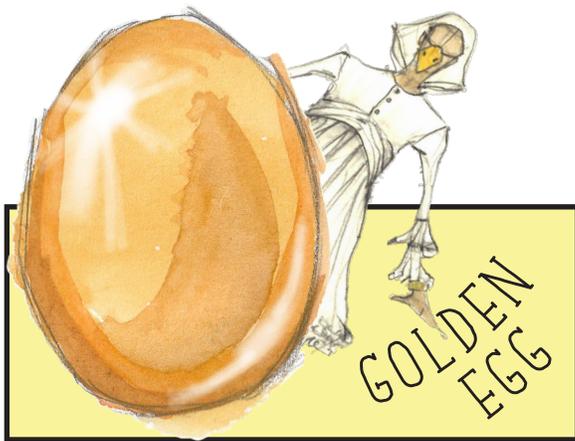
The trade was made and Jack raced home to his mother. She couldn't believe her ears! Beans? Jack traded the cow for a bunch of beans?! Angrily, she threw the beans out the window. And Jack sadly crawled into bed.

THERE was a full moon that night and the beans took root and grew and grew! The next morning, Jack and his mother couldn't believe what they saw: there was now a gigantic beanstalk on the farm that reached into the clouds! Any beanstalk, no matter how tall, must have some delicious beans sprouting from it, thought Jack. So he grabbed a basket and promised his mother he would climb the beanstalk and gather as many beans as he could. This way they could make some delicious bean soup. So Jack climbed. And climbed. And climbed some more.

Amazingly, Jack climbed all the way to the top. And in the clouds he saw a gigantic castle! Perhaps there is some food in there, Jack thought. Quickly he ran to the castle and quietly slipped in. The Castle was huge— and the kitchen was warm and smelled of wonderful baked goods. But before he could grab anything to eat, the door flung open and in rushed a Cook, a Maid, and a Valet.

The three servants were startled to find Jack there. They begged him to leave as the castle was ruled by a horrible Ogre and Jack was in danger. Jack pleaded with them for help. But





alas, they could not help because they were themselves trapped there. The Cook was once the Keeper of the Magic Harp; but the Ogre stole the harp and made the Cook a prisoner. The Maid was once the Keeper of the Magic Purse; but the Ogre stole the purse and made the Maid a prisoner. The Valet was once the Keeper of the Goose that laid Golden Eggs; but the Ogre stole the goose and made the Valet a prisoner. All seemed hopeless.

JACK, however, remembered his father's words: "Work hard and never give up!" and he came up with a plan. If the servants could feed the Ogre enough that he falls asleep, they could take back the treasures and escape down the beanstalk.

Suddenly, a rumbling sound emerged from outside the room. The Ogre was approaching! Jack barely made it into hiding just before the Ogre burst in the room.

**Fee-fi-fo-fum,
I smell the blood of an Englishman,
Be he alive, or be he dead
I'll grind his bones to make my bread.**

The Ogre was very hungry. So they fed him a giant strawberry which made the Ogre fall asleep. Then, Jack was able to get the Magic Purse and the Goose. But just as he was taking

back the harp, he tripped which made the harp crash to the ground. The Ogre awoke with a roar and began chasing Jack and the servants about. All seemed lost until Jack had a great idea. He collected the chains the servants wore as prisoners and put them all in the basket that he had carried with him up the beanstalk. The jingling noise they made in the basket sounded just like the coins found in the Magic Purse. Bravely, Jack stepped forward to meet the Ogre and presented the basket to him. The Ogre, hearing the jingling, thought the basket was filled with treasure and let Jack and the servants go.

Quickly, they all scrambled down the beanstalk. And just in time! For the Ogre soon discovered that he had been tricked. But before he could get to the beanstalk and climb down, Jack reached the bottom and chopped the beanstalk down!

THE OGRE was trapped in the clouds, the servants were saved, and the stolen treasure recovered. Jack's mother invited the former servants to live with them, and they agreed to share their treasure and save the farm. And the first thing Jack did was to buy back Daisy the cow and together they all celebrated. Jack had taken to heart what his father said: "Work hard and never give up!"

