

# “Jack”

For Symphonic Wind Band or Brass Band, and Narrator

Duration: 15 min

Music by Jon Gorrie

Traditional fairytale text adapted by Jon Gorrie

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Bar	Text
9 – 16	Once upon a time there was a boy named Jack. Jack lived with his mother in their small cottage in the countryside.
25 – 29	They were very poor, and they never had enough to eat.
34 – 42	Jack also had a pet cow, Milky-White, whose milk he often took to the market to sell. However, one day, Milky-White stopped giving milk, and Jack’s mother didn’t know what to do.
43 – 52	“I know!” said Jack with a tear in his eye, “I’ll take Milky-White to the market and sell her. I’ll miss her terribly, but we need money for food.” So, with that, Jack left for the market, with Milky-White, and a heavy heart.
57 – 60	Jack hadn’t got far, when he met a strange looking man on the road.
61 – 92	“Good morning!”, said the strange man. “Good morning to you”, said Jack. “Off to the market?” asked the strange man. “Yes, I’m going to sell my cow”, replied Jack.  “I’ll buy her”, said the strange man, “I’ll give you 5 beans for her”. “5 beans, for a whole cow? No thank you – I’m not a fool”, said Jack.  “Ah, but these are magic beans.”, said the strange man. “Plant them, and they’ll grow a giant beanstalk right up to the sky. And if they don’t work, I’ll bring you your cow back.”

“Magic beans you say? It’s a deal!”, said Jack, who gave the man Milky-White, took the beans, and skipped happily back home to his mother.

108 – 126 “Mother, mother!”, cried Jack, “You’ll never guess what I got for Milky-White!”. “Five pounds? Ten? It can’t be twenty?” she asked excitedly. “Wrong, wrong, and wrong again!” said Jack. “Look! I got these beans! They’re magical and...”

“What!?” Jack’s mother exclaimed. “Selling a cow for just 5 beans?! You silly boy, you got duped!” And with that, Jack’s mother threw the beans out the window, and sent Jack to bed without any supper.

128 – 134 Night fell, and something wondrous started to happen.

135 – 158 In the morning, Jack woke up and ran to the window. He couldn’t believe what he saw: There outside, a giant beanstalk, thick and green, had grown from the beans his mother threw out the window the previous night. The beanstalk went up as far as the eye could see, all the way up to the sky. That strange man told the truth after all!

160 With his mother still asleep, Jack crept outside, looked up at the beanstalk, and knew there was only one thing to do. Climb.

161 So Jack climbed,

165 and climbed,

169 – 172 and climbed, until he at last reached the sky.

173 When he got there, Jack found a long, wide road, and started to walk.

174 Jack walked,

178 and walked,

182 – 185 and walked, until he came to a huge house.

194 Standing at the doorstep was a huge woman. “Good morning, ma’am”, said Jack politely. “Could you be so kind as to give me some breakfast?” For he was famished. “If it’s breakfast you want, it’s breakfast you’ll become if you’re not careful”, the huge woman said.

202 “My husband is a giant you know, and he likes nothing more than boys on toast for breakfast. You’d better leave now, before he gets here.” “Oh, please ma’am, do give me something to eat. I’ve had nothing since yesterday morning – I’m starving!” said Jack.

210 “Oh alright then, but make it quick”, the huge woman said, as she took Jack into the kitchen and gave him some bread and cheese, and a jug of milk. Jack was almost finished when the whole house began to shake with the sound of giant footsteps.

218 Jack quickly hid in a huge chest, filled with bags of gold coins, when he saw an enormous, ugly giant enter 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.”

219 “Nonsense, dear,” said his wife. “You’re dreaming. Or perhaps you smell the scraps of that little boy you liked so much for yesterday’s dinner. Go wash and tidy up. By the time you come back your breakfast will be ready for you.”

227 “It’s safe to come out now, boy”, whispered the huge woman, who then turned around to start preparing the giant’s breakfast.

231 However, looking at the gold in the chest, Jack couldn’t help himself. He grabbed as many of the bags of gold as he could and started to tip-toe towards the front door. But Jack had been greedy and took too much gold. One of the bags slipped out of Jack’s fingers and hit the floor with a thud.

- 239 Jack froze, hoping he'd not been seen. But it was no good. The giant's wife had heard the noise! She swivelled around and spotted Jack trying to sneak away with the gold. "Stop! Thief!" she cried!
- 240 Jack ran as fast as he could away from the house, carrying as much gold as he could carry, with the giant rushing after.
- 248 Jack ran and ran, but the giant got closer and closer
- 257 By the time Jack reached the beanstalk, the giant was only seconds away. Jack began to climb down as quickly as he could.
- 263 Moments later, the giant leapt onto the beanstalk, which shook with his weight, and the giant began climbing down after Jack.
- 269 Jack climbed and climbed, and when he could see his house, called out, "Mother! Mother! Bring me an axe!"
- 275 Jack's mother came rushing out with axe in hand, but froze with fear when she saw the huge angry giant climbing down through the clouds chasing after Jack.
- 281 Jack reached the ground, took the axe, and chopped, chopped, chopped at the beanstalk, which began to topple over.
- 289 The giant fell out of the sky and crash landed in a nearby field, stone dead.
- 290 Jack showed his mother the bags of gold, which was more than enough for them to live on for the rest of their lives. As they were counting the gold coins, the strange looking man arrived at the cottage, with Milky-White. "Good morning, Jack" said the strange looking man. "Ah, I see you've planted the beans... and slain that mean, ugly giant! To say thank you and well done, here's your cow back." The strange man walked off, and Jack, his mother, and his pet cow Milky-White lived happily ever after.