



Jack and the Beanstalk

10. The bag of silver coins

Jack's heart was pounding as he hid inside the oven. What if the Giant found him! 'There aren't any little boys round here,' said his wife. 'What you can smell is all the lovely food I've cooked for your supper. It's on the table, ready and waiting!'



The Giant sat at the table with an enormous thud. Just one glance and Jack didn't feel hungry any more. Yuck! On the table were ten whole cows and a huge plate of goose liver. The Giant was a very noisy eater – and a very greedy one.



'Bring me my bag,' he said to his wife when he had finished. 'I want to count all my lovely money!' The bag was full of glinting silver coins. 'One, two, three, four...' counted the Giant. He carried on until he had finished. '...ninety nine, one hundred - that's the lot!' he said. 'I'm feeling rather dozy, I could do with a nice sleep now...'





Almost as soon as he had said it the Giant was snoring loudly. Jack clambered out of the oven. 'Who did he steal these coins from?' he asked. 'I don't know. He never tells me,' replied the Giant's wife. 'So I can never give the things he takes back to their owners.'

'Why don't I take them?' suggested Jack. 'I know lots of poor villagers who need money for food. That way, this stolen money will do some good.'



The Giant's wife looked at Jack. She didn't say anything, but she did give him a giant wink. 'Thanks!' said Jack. Jack picked up the bag and ran as fast as his legs would carry him - back to the beanstalk and all the way down.

True to his word, Jack gave everyone in the village five silver coins each. And there were five left over for him and Ma.



That night they ate meat stew with vegetables and beans for supper – just as Jack had dreamt. 'I'm so proud of you, Jack,' said Ma. 'And I'm sorry I didn't believe you. These silver coins will buy us food for weeks to come. But what are we going to do about that giant beanstalk in our garden?'

'I don't know, Ma,' said Jack. 'Let's wait and see, shall we?'