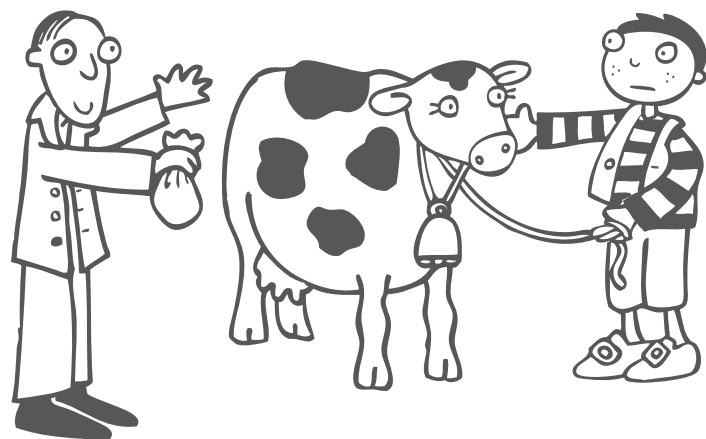# Jack and the Beanstalk

Retell this favourite traditional story with your children

Once upon a time there was a boy called Jack who lived with his mother in a tiny, old cottage in the country. They were very poor and had hardly any money to live on. The most valuable thing they owned was their cow, Daisy, so at least they always had milk to drink – even when there was no food on the table. But, one day, Daisy had no more milk to give and Jack's mother said that they would have to sell her.

'Take her to the market and make sure you get a good price for her,' she said to Jack.

Poor Jack was sad to see Daisy go, but he knew that they had no choice, so off he went. On his way, he met a kind old man who asked him where he was going. When Jack explained that he was going to the market, the old man offered to buy the cow in return for five beans.

'These are not just ordinary beans, they are magic! If you plant these, you will never be poor again,' promised the old man. Jack thought about it and then agreed. But when he returned home with no money and just five beans, his mother was furious.

'Now we have nothing at all to live on!' she cried. She sent Jack to bed without any supper and threw the beans out of the window.

When Jack woke up the next morning, he noticed a huge beanstalk shooting up past his window. He dressed quickly, climbed out of his window and started to clamber up the beanstalk. Up and up he went, higher and higher, until he disappeared into the clouds and found a winding path...