Join Jack as he climbs a giant beanstalk to a magic castle in the clouds and discovers a golden harp, a hen that lays golden eggs, and a GIANT! Preschoolers will love cheering Jack on in this exciting fairy tale.

Meet the Writer

Vicky Shiotsu

Like the brave little duck in her favorite fairy tale, The Ugly Duckling, children’s author, Vicky Shiotsu, followed her dreams, leaving her native British Columbia for Los Angeles. Vicky recalls biking to the library each week as a child to pick up a new volume of fairy tales. Now enjoying a fulfilling writing career, she loved penning these new takes on her old favorites.

Meet the Illustrator

Valeria Cis

Illustrator Valeria Cis’ studio looks out over her garden in the Argentinian city of Rosario. Perhaps the view inspired her favorite drawing in Jack and the Beanstalk—the one where Jack is looking through the window at the giant beanstalk growing in his own garden.
The Gift of Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to your child is fun for you both. Plus, it’s the best way to encourage a lifelong love of reading and promote the skills necessary for school success. Here are some tips.

Begin at the Beginning

- Set aside a special time to read aloud each day and stick to it.
- Choose a comfortable spot: the couch, your child’s bed, a picnic blanket under a shady tree, a “reading hideaway” created by throwing a sheet over the table, etc.
- Vary the reading materials: different genres (fairy tales, fiction, non-fiction, poetry), children’s magazines on topics from nature to sports, joke and riddle books, newspapers and comics, etc.
- Invite your child to help plan your reading routine.

Experience the Fun

- Read slowly and with expression. Use different character voices.
- Talk about the pictures.
- Stop to answer your child’s questions. Discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary.
- Encourage your child to chime in on repetitive phrases, complete rhymes, and predict what might happen next.
- Follow the words with your finger to reinforce important reading basics, such as text is read from left to right.

A Family Library

Your neighborhood library is a treasure! But a home library demonstrates the value of books to your family. Used book stores, garage sales, and flea markets are all great places to pick up inexpensive books that your family will treasure for years!

Favorite Fairy Tale Activities

Here are some hands-on activities to spark enthusiasm for learning and get your child excited about reading.

Hungry as a Giant

Giants have giant-sized appetites. Have your child plan, illustrate, and write or dictate a story about a meal—breakfast, lunch, or dinner—that would please a giant. Provide paper and markers. Discuss what the giant might like. For example, the giant might eat 1,000 pancakes, 300 sausages, and a bathtub full of orange juice for breakfast.

Giant Steps Measuring

Trace a large free-form footprint onto construction paper or a manila folder and cut it out. Encourage your child to find items around the house that are the same length as, that are shorter than, and that are longer than the footprint.

A Beanstalk of My Own

Lima beans are easy and fun to observe growing. Provide a clear plastic cup filled about two-thirds with soil. Soak some lima beans overnight for quick sprouting. Have your child poke holes in the soil and plant 3–4 lima beans. Water the beans and keep the soil moist but not wet. Once the beans have sprouted, add a small cut-out construction paper castle and some cotton ball clouds to a straw or bamboo skewer and stick them in the soil for the beanstalks to climb. For some super science learning, encourage your child to keep a daily journal with illustrations of the progress of the beanstalks.
Once upon a time, a boy named Jack lived with his mother. The two were very poor.

One morning, Jack’s mother said, “Jack, we have no money. You must take our cow to the market and sell her.”
On his way to the market, Jack met a man. The man wanted to buy the cow.

“What price will you give me?” asked Jack.

“I will give you three magic beans,” said the man.

Jack took the beans and gave him the cow.
When Jack got home, his mother asked, “Jack, how much money did you get for the cow?”

Jack showed her the magic beans. His mother became angry and threw the beans out the window. Poor Jack!
The next morning, Jack woke up and looked out the window. His mouth opened wide with surprise. A gigantic beanstalk had grown from the magic beans!
Jack began to climb the beanstalk.
Up, up, up he went. When he reached the top, he saw a beautiful castle.
Jack walked up to the castle and went inside. He saw a huge table set for dinner. He also saw a hen and a golden harp.
Suddenly, Jack heard a loud voice. "Fee, fi, fo, fum! I smell the breath of an Englishman!"

Jack ran and hid inside a cupboard. An angry-looking giant stomped into the room.
The giant could find no one in the room, so he sat down at the table. Then, he quickly gobbled up his meal.

After he finished, the giant pointed to the hen and roared, “Lay!”

Plop! The hen laid a golden egg.
The harp began to sing. Soon, the giant was fast asleep.

Next, the giant pointed to the harp and roared, "Sing!"
Jack jumped out of the cupboard. He grabbed the hen and the harp and ran out the door. The giant woke up. He saw Jack and started to chase him.
Jack ran to the beanstalk and began climbing down as fast as he could.

“Mother, get the ax!” called Jack as he reached the ground.

Jack’s mother got an ax. She chopped down the beanstalk before the giant could come down.
Nobody ever saw the giant again. And with the magic hen and the golden harp, Jack and his mother lived a long and happy life.