

Fairy Tale

# Jack and the Extreme Stalk

by Yvonne Morrin  
illustrated by Scott Pearson



Mc  
Graw  
Hill

PAIRED  
READ

Stone Soup

# STRATEGIES & SKILLS

## Comprehension

**Strategy:** Make Predictions

**Skill:** Sequence

## Vocabulary

brainstorm, flattened,  
frantically, gracious, muttered,  
official, original, stale

## Vocabulary Strategy

Synonyms

Word Count: 1,309



**Education**

Copyright © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written consent of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., including, but not limited to, network storage or transmission, or broadcast for distance learning.

Send all inquiries to:  
McGraw-Hill Education  
Two Penn Plaza  
New York, New York 10121

ISBN: 978-0-02-119133-8  
MHID: 0-02-119133-6

Printed in the United States.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QLM 15 14 13 12 11 10

A



Essential Question

Where do good ideas come from?

# Jack and the Extreme Stalk

by Yvonne Morrin  
illustrated by Scott Pearson

**Chapter 1**

An Experiment with Beans ..... 2

**Chapter 2**

A Castle in the Clouds..... 6

**Chapter 3**

A Marvelous Machine..... 11

**Respond to Reading** ..... 16

**PAIRED  
READ**

**Stone Soup** ..... 17

**Focus on Genre** .....20

# An Experiment with Beans

There once was a boy named Jack, who lived with his mother in a small cottage in the country. They didn't have much money, but they lived a happy, simple life.

One day, Jack's mother said, "Jack, it's your birthday soon, and I would like you to buy something special." She put a small pile of coins into Jack's hand.

Jack knew that his mother must have saved for a long time to be able to give him this money. He set off for market, determined to buy something special for both of them.



At the market, Jack saw a man who was selling beans. Jack wondered whether he should buy some beans. He needed to be sure that the beans would all sprout and then grow strong and tall.

Jack decided to brainstorm some ideas. As he was thinking, Jack noticed that the man was selling bags of fertilizer too. This gave him an idea. Fertilizer would help the beans to grow.



When Jack returned home, carrying beans and bags of fertilizer, his mother was surprised. However, she knew that her son was extremely inventive.

Jack went into the field and dug some holes in the soil. He planted the beans and then sprinkled them with different types and amounts of fertilizer. He placed a label in front of each planted bean.

When Jack woke up the next morning, he was excited. He grabbed a ruler and ran outside.

He wanted to measure and record the growth of his beans. A few of them had sprouted already! But one bean had grown into a mighty beanstalk stretching up all the way into the clouds! It had been fed with all of the fertilizers.





Control

Fertilizer  
**A**

fertilizer  
**B**

fertilizer  
**C**

fertilizer  
**A+B**

fertilizer  
**A+C**

fertilizer  
**B+C**

fertilizer  
**A+B+C**

# A Castle in the Clouds

The mighty beanstalk gave Jack another idea. He had always wondered how clouds worked. So he grabbed his toolkit and his notebook, and he began to climb. As he moved from leaf to leaf, Jack stopped to take notes about the weather.

When he finally made it to the top of the beanstalk, he was astonished to see a castle come into view.

Jack wondered what held the castle up in the clouds. Maybe it was a magic castle.







Curious to discover more about the mysterious castle, Jack crept up to the door and peered in. There he saw a gigantic man as tall as a house. He was wringing out wet clothes into a bucket and sighing loudly.

On a table next to the giant sat a hen in a basket, clucking quietly to herself.

“Everything’s wet again, Henrietta,” the giant muttered to the hen. Then the giant saw Jack, and he froze as stiff as a statue. He was not used to visitors.

“Hello,” Jack said, trying to be friendly. “I’m not surprised everything’s wet when you’re living in the clouds.”

The giant slumped in his chair. “Tell me about it!” he groaned. “I can’t get any of my laundry dry, so I have to wear wet clothes all the time! Even my food is wet. My bread goes moldy before it goes stale!”

Then the giant remembered his manners. “My name is Gog,” he said.

Gog was lonely, living with only a hen, so he was pleased to have an unexpected visitor. He was a very gracious host. He offered Jack tea and cakes and showed him all around the castle. The giant even had an exercise room.





As the pair wandered through the dark, damp castle, Gog pointed out many strange and magical things. Jack was particularly fascinated by the hen because it laid golden eggs.

While they walked, Jack told Gog about his life, ending with the story of growing the beanstalk. Gog sighed at this.

“I’d love to have a garden,” he told Jack, “but the clouds up here block out all the sun!”

Jack looked at one of the golden eggs. Then he looked up at the skylight. Jack thought for a moment, wondering how he could help the giant. Then he got out his notebook and pencil and sat down to brainstorm.

“I’ve got it!” he cried at last. Gog looked down at Jack’s sketch, but he couldn’t figure out what it was meant to be.



# A Marvelous Machine

Jack asked the giant for permission to build his machine. Then he got to work. First he searched the castle to gather all the materials and tools he needed. Gog simply stood by and watched, puzzled.

Jack worked so frantically that soon he had created a marvelous contraption, an original machine never seen before.

“What is it?” asked Gog.

“It’s a machine that will solve all your problems,” said Jack.

“But what does it do?” asked Gog.

“Well,” said Jack, “I’ve moved Henrietta’s nest into the rafters, so watch what happens when she lays a golden egg.”



Before long, Henrietta laid an egg. The egg rolled down a ramp connecting the nest to Jack's machine. The egg crashed into a coiled spring.

"See how the spring wobbles back and forth?" said Jack.

"Mmmm," said Gog, still unsure of what was going on.

"Well," continued Jack, excitedly pointing at the spring, "the movement of the spring turns these gears, and the gears turn this pole!"

"Right ...," said Gog.

"And the pole turns the fan, which I made out of flattened cooking pots," said Jack.

"And the fan will blow the clouds away!" cried Gog.



Jack and Gog climbed onto the roof. The machine was working perfectly, and for the first time in years, the giant could feel the warmth of the sun. Steam began to roll off his clothes as they dried in the heat.





Gog was so grateful to Jack for inventing such a wonderful contraption that he gave him two big sacks full of golden eggs to take home. Then Jack remembered that his mother might be worried about him, so the two said good-bye. The giant invited Jack to return to the castle any time as his official problem solver.

# Respond to Reading

## Summarize

Summarize the story of *Jack and the Extreme Stalk*. Use your graphic organizer to help you keep the sequence of events in order.



## Text Evidence

1. How can you tell this story is a fairy tale? Identify two features that tell you this. **GENRE**
2. What event starts Jack on his bean-growing experiment? **SEQUENCE**
3. What is a synonym for *contraption* on page 11? Use clues in the sentence to figure it out. **SYNONYMS**
4. Write about the steps Jack took to solve the giant's problem. **WRITE ABOUT READING**



## Compare Texts

Read about how a young man found a clever way to make soup.

# Stone Soup

One evening, a husband and wife were discussing what to cook for dinner when they heard a loud knock on their door. They opened the door and saw a young man holding a pot and a stone.

“I’m extremely sorry to disturb you,” the young man said politely, “but I was wondering if I could draw some water from your well? I am planning to make stone soup.”

“You can’t make soup from a stone!” the wife scoffed, shaking her head.

“I can!” replied the young man, smiling slyly. “Would you like me to show you how?”



The couple invited the young man in, and the wife filled a pot with water and positioned it over the fire. The young man carefully placed his stone in the water. “Ah ...,” the young man said, sniffing the air. “Stone soup smells lovely!”

Then the young man scooped up some liquid with a ladle and tasted it. “Not bad,” he said, “although an onion would make it taste better!”

The husband swiftly sliced an onion and added it to the soup.

After a few more minutes, the young man tasted the soup. “Getting there,” he said, “although a potato would improve the flavor!”

The wife added a chopped potato.

Once again, the young man tasted the soup.

“Pretty good,” he said, “although a carrot would make it perfect.”

The husband hastily added a sliced carrot to the soup.





The young man tasted the soup again, and finally he declared it just right. After he had dished the soup into three bowls, all three sat down to eat.

“Delicious!” declared the wife, although she was clearly puzzled and amazed.

“Delicious!” the husband agreed, although he too was clearly puzzled and amazed. “Who would have thought you could make soup from a stone?”



## Make Connections

What was the young man’s idea for making soup?

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How is the character in *Stone Soup* similar to Jack in *Jack and the Extreme Stalk*, and how is he different from Jack? **TEXT TO TEXT**

# Focus on Genre

**Fairy Tales** Fairy tales are stories with imaginary characters and settings. They usually take place in the past. Fairy tales are not realistic and can include talking animals and magical events.

**Read and Find** *Jack and the Extreme Stalk* is a version of the familiar fairy tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The author has added some new details to the story. The familiar features include a magical beanstalk, a giant, and a hen that lays golden eggs.

## Your Turn

Choose a traditional fairy tale that you know. Change the setting and characters to make them more modern. Make a two-column chart. In one column, list the features of your traditional fairy tale. In the other column, list the ways these have been used in your modern fairy tale. Some can be the same; some can be different. When you have filled in the chart, create a title for your new fairy tale.

Traditional Fairy Tale	Modern Fairy Tale

## Literature Circles

### Fiction

# Thinkmark

### Characters

Who are the main characters in each story?

Who are the other characters?

What characteristic does Jack have that makes the plot possible?

### Sequence of Events

What happened in *Jack and the Extreme Stalk*?

What happened first, then, next ... finally?

### Plot

What was the giant's problem?

How did Jack solve the problem?

What is the end result for each character?

### Author's Purpose

What is the author's purpose for writing *Jack and the Extreme Stalk*?

### Make Connections

What connections can you make to *Jack and the Extreme Stalk*?



Grade 4 • Unit 1 Week 1

[www.mheonline.com](http://www.mheonline.com)

The McGraw-Hill Companies

