

Horizons

Phonics and Reading Reader 2



The Grain of Wheat

Traditional Folk Tale

A little red hen was out where the grass grew. She scratched. She stood on the left foot and kicked the dirt with her right foot. Then she stood on the right foot and kicked the dirt with her left foot. That is the way hens scratch. Every time she scratched she looked to see what she had dug up. She dug up a grain of wheat.

“Hello,” she said, “what is this? Oh, I see; it is a grain of wheat. It is good to plant.”

“Here, duck. Here, goose,” she said. “Will you plant this wheat?”

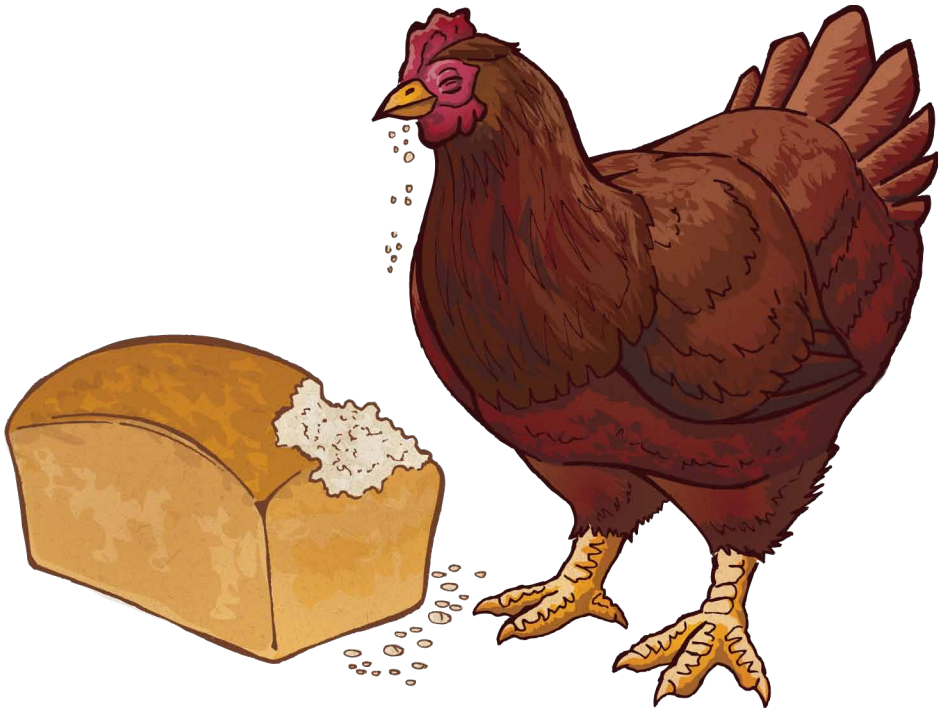
“No; too much work,” said the duck and the goose.

“Then I will plant it,” said the little red hen. And she scratched a hole in the ground and put in the grain of wheat. She put some dirt over it. The rains came, the sun shone, and the wheat came up. More rains came, and the sun shone more, and the wheat plant grew, and fine wheat was formed.

“Here, duck; here, goose,” said the little red hen. “Will you take this wheat to the mill and have it made into flour?”

“No, too much work,” said the duck and the goose.

“Then I will take it to mill,” said the little red hen. And she went to the mill with it. She came home from the mill with the flour, and she said, “Here, duck; here goose; will you make some bread with this flour?”



"No, too much work," said the duck and the goose.

"Then I will make the bread," said the little red hen. And she made the bread. It was very good.

Then she said, "Here, duck; here, goose. Will you eat some of this bread?"

"Oh, yes," said the duck. "Oh, yes," said the goose. "We will."

"Oh, no," said the little red hen. You will not. It would be too much work. I will eat it."

She did eat it. She ate it all. They got none.



Jack and the Beanstalk

Traditional Folk Tale

The Beans are Planted

In the days of King Alfred, a poor woman lived in a country village in England. She had an only son, Jack, who was a good-natured, lazy boy. She was too easy with him. She never made him work, and soon there was nothing left but their cow. Then the mother began to weep and to think that she had brought up her boy very badly.

“Lazy boy!” she said. “You have at last made me a beggar. I have no money to buy a bit of bread. We cannot starve. “We must sell the cow, and then what shall we do?”

At first Jack felt very badly and wished he had done better. Soon he began to think what fun it would be to sell the cow. He begged his mother to let him go with the cow to the nearest village. She was not very willing. She did not believe Jack knew enough to sell a cow, but at last she gave in.

Jack went off with the cow. He had not gone far when he met a butcher.

“Where are you going with your cow?” asked the butcher.

“I am going to sell it,” said Jack. The butcher held his hat in his hand and shook it. Jack looked into the hat and saw some strange looking beans. The butcher saw him eye them.

He knew how silly Jack was, so he said to him, “Well, if you wish to sell your cow, sell her to me. I will give you all these beans for her.”

Jack thought this a fine bargain. He gave the butcher the cow and took the beans. He ran all the way home and could hardly wait to reach the house. He called out to his mother to see what he had received for the cow.

When the poor woman saw only a few beans, she burst into tears. She was so disgusted that she threw the beans out of the window. She did not even cook them for supper. They had nothing else to eat, and they went to bed hungry.

Jack awoke early the next morning and thought it very dark. He went to the window, and he could hardly see out of it. It was covered with something green. He ran downstairs and into the garden. There he saw a strange sight. The beans had taken root and grew toward the clouds. The stalks were as thick as those of trees. They were wound about each other. It was like a green ladder, and Jack at once wished to climb to the top.

He ran in to tell his mother, but she begged him not to climb the beanstalk. She did not know what would happen. She was afraid to have him go. Who ever saw such beanstalks before?

Jack had set his heart on climbing, and he told his mother not to be afraid. He would soon see what it all meant. So up he climbed. He climbed for hours. He went higher and higher, and at last he reached the top.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Jack Captures a Hen

At the top of the stalk, Jack looked around. He had never seen such a place before. There was not a tree or plant; there was no house or shed. He could not see a living person. Jack sat down on one of the stones. He wished he were at home again. He thought of his mother. He was hungry, and he did not know where to get anything to eat. He walked and walked, and he hoped he might see a house. He walked all day. When the sun set he arrived at a giant's house. He went up to it, and he saw a plain woman by the door. This was the giant's wife. Jack spoke to her and asked her if she would give him something to eat and a place where he could sleep.

"What!" she said. "Do you not know? My husband is a giant. He is away now, but he will be back soon. Sometimes he walks fifty miles in a day to see if he can find a man or a boy to capture. He will jail you if he finds you here."

Jack was afraid, but he would not quit. He asked the giant's wife to hide him somewhere in the house. She was a kind woman, so she led him in. They went through a great hall and some large rooms. They came to a dark passage, and they went through it. They came to a room where a table was set. Jack sat down and began to eat. He was very hungry and soon forgot his fears. While he was eating, there came a loud knock at the outside door. It was so loud that the whole house shook. The giant's wife turned pale.

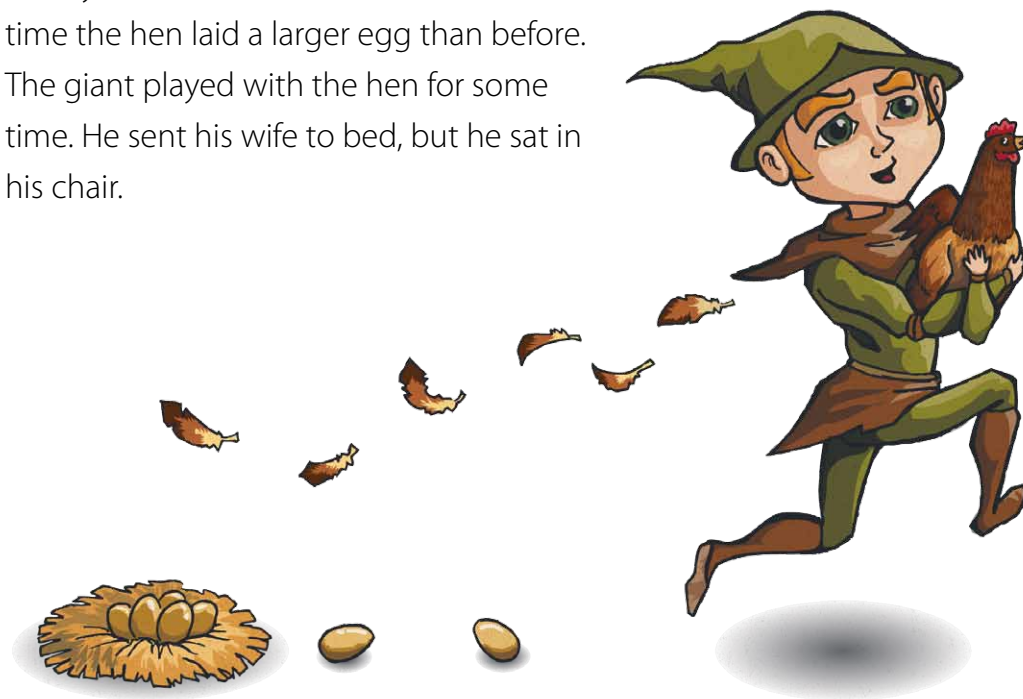
“What shall I do?” she cried. “It is the giant. He will kill you and me too! What shall I do?”

“Hide me in the oven,” said Jack. There was no fire under it, and Jack lay in the oven and looked out. The giant came in and scolded his wife, and then he sat down, ate, and relaxed for a long time. Jack thought he never would finish.

At last the Giant leaned back in his chair and called out in a loud voice, “Bring me my hen!” His wife brought a beautiful hen and placed it on the table.

“Lay!” roared the giant, and the hen laid an egg of solid gold.

“Lay another!” The hen laid another. Each time the hen laid a larger egg than before. The giant played with the hen for some time. He sent his wife to bed, but he sat in his chair.



Soon he fell asleep, and Jack crept out of the oven and seized the hen. He ran out of the house and down the road. He kept on until he came to the beanstalk and climbed down to his old home.

Jack and the Beanstalk

The Giant's Money-Bags

Jack's mother was very glad to see him. She was afraid that he had come to some ill end.

"Not a bit of it, mother," said he. "Look here!" and he showed her the hen. "Lay!" he said to the hen, and the hen laid an egg of gold. Jack and his mother now had all they needed. They had only to tell the hen to "lay," and she laid her golden egg. They sold the egg and had money enough.

Jack longed to make another trip up the beanstalk to see if he could find more expensive objects. He had told his mother about the giant and his wife. His mother begged Jack not to climb the beanstalk again. She said the giant's wife would be sure to know him, and he never would come back alive. Jack said nothing, but he put on some other clothes. He stained his face and hands another color. One morning, he rose early and climbed the beanstalk a second time.

He went straight to the giant's house. The giant's wife was again at the door, but she did not know him. He begged for food and a place to sleep.

She told him about the giant.

She said, "There was once a boy who came just as you have come. I let him in, and he stole the giant's hen and ran away. He was very angry.

No, I cannot let you come in." Jack begged so hard that at last she let him in. She led him through the house, and he saw just what he had seen before. She gave him something to eat, and she hid him in a closet. The giant came along in his heavy boots. He was so big, that the house shook.

He sat by the fire for a time. Then he looked about and said, "Wife, I want to be entertained. You let that boy steal my hen. Bring me something."

"What shall I bring?" she asked meekly.

"Bring me my bags of money." She tugged two great bags to the table. One was full of silver and one was full of gold. The giant sent his wife to bed. Then he untied the strings, emptied his bags, and counted his money.

Jack watched him and thought, "that money would make my mother's life better."

Soon the giant was tired. He put the money back into the bags, and he tied the strings. Then he went to sleep. He had a dog to watch his money, but Jack did not see the dog. When the Giant was sound asleep, Jack left his hiding place and laid hold of the bags. Suddenly, the dog barked, and Jack thought his end had come. But, the giant did not wake. Jack saw a bit of meat, and he gave it to the dog. While the dog was eating, Jack took the two bags and was off.

Jack and the Beanstalk

The Harp

It took two whole days before Jack could reach the beanstalk because the bags were very heavy. He climbed down with them. When he came to his house, the door was locked. No one was inside, and he knew not what to do.

After a while he found an old woman who showed him where his mother was. She was very sick and at a neighbor's house. His mother had been made ill by Jack's trip. Now that he had come back, she began to get well. Soon she was in her own house again.

Jack said no more about the giant and the beanstalk. For three years he lived with his mother. They had money enough, and all seemed well. Jack could not forget about the beanstalk. His mother tried hard to amuse him, and she tried to find out his thoughts. He did not tell her for he knew she didn't want him to go.

At last he could bear it no longer. He changed his appearance again and prepared to climb the beanstalk. One bright summer morning, very early in the day, he climbed the beanstalk once more. The giant's wife did not know him when he came to the door of the house. He worked hard to make her let him in.

This time he was hidden in the copper boiler. The giant again came home and was in a great rage. He wanted his supper right now! When supper was over, the Giant told his wife to bring his harp. Jack peeped out of the copper and saw a most beautiful harp.

The giant placed it on the table, and said, "Play!" Jack never heard such music as the harp played. No hands touched it. It played all by itself. He thought he would rather have this harp than the hen or all the money. Eventually the harp played the giant to sleep. Jack crept out and seized the harp.

He was running off with it when someone called loudly, "Master! Master!"

It was the harp, but Jack would not let it go. The giant started up, and he saw Jack with the harp.

"Stop, you rascal!" he shouted. "You stole my harp!"

"Catch me if you can!" said Jack. He knew he could run faster than the giant. Jack came to the beanstalk. The harp was all the while playing music.

Now Jack said, "Stop!" The harp stopped playing. He hurried down the beanstalk with the harp. There sat his mother, by the cottage, weeping.

"Do not cry, mother," he said. "Quick, bring me a hatchet! Make haste!" He knew there was not a minute to spare. The giant was already coming down. He was half-way down when Jack took his hatchet and cut the beanstalk down, close to its roots. Over fell the beanstalk, and down came the Giant upon the ground. He died instantly, and that was the end. The beanstalk never grew again. Jack, his mother, the hen and the magic harp lived happily ever after.

Song from the Suds

By Louisa May Alcott

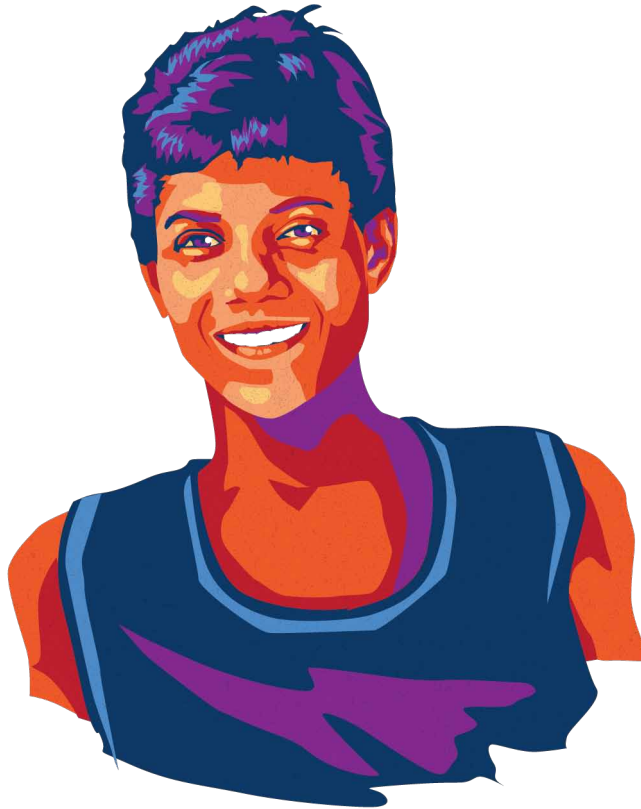
Queen of my tub, I merrily sing,
While the white foam raises high,
And sturdily wash, and rinse, and wring,
And fasten the clothes to dry;
Then out in the free fresh air they swing,
Under the sunny sky.

I wish we could wash from our hearts and our souls
The stains of the week away,
And let water and air by their magic make
Ourselves as pure as they;
Then on the earth there would be indeed
A glorious washing day!

Along the path of a useful life
Will heart's-ease ever bloom;
The busy mind has no time to think
Of sorrow, or care, or gloom;
And anxious thoughts may be swept away
As we busily wield a broom.

I am glad a task to me is given
To labor at day by day;
For it brings me health, and strength, and hope,
And I cheerfully learn to say-
"Head, you may think; heart, you may feel;
But hand, you shall work always!"

Wilma Rudolph



Wilma Rudolph was once considered the fastest woman in the world. In 1960 she won three gold medals at the Olympic Games. She won the 100 meter, 200 meter and 4x100 meter relays. Her childhood gave no hint that she would one day become a great runner.

Wilma Rudolph was born in Tennessee in 1940 the 20th of 22 children to her parents. Her family was poor and African-American. At this time in many places in the United States, blacks and whites lived, worked and

went to school separately. Her father worked hard in the rail yard and as a handyman. Her mother cleaned and did laundry for white families. Wilma was born a small and sickly child. She caught many childhood diseases. Only one black doctor served the many families living in the area. When Wilma contracted polio, her left leg was affected. The doctor told the family that she would probably never walk again. Wilma's family was determined to help her walk.

The only place where Wilma's leg could be treated was a black university hospital located 50 miles from their home. Twice a week for two years Wilma and her mother made the trip to this hospital. There Wilma was fitted for a leg brace and received therapy to strengthen her leg. Eventually the whole family took part in helping Wilma with her therapy. By the age of 12 the treatment for her leg was completed, and Wilma began playing basketball like her older sister.

Coaches who saw Wilma play basketball recognized her abilities as a runner. At the age of 16, she completed in the 1956 Olympics and received a bronze medal. She was the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic team and still in high school. After high school she received a scholarship to the University of Tennessee. There she studied to be an elementary school teacher and ran track. She participated in the 1960 Olympics where she won her three gold medals. Wilma went on to teach school, coach track, and raise four children. She died of cancer in 1994.

Wilma Rudolph overcame many obstacles to become a celebrated Olympic athlete. Despite their poverty, Wilma's parents made sure that she should get the treatment she needed in order to walk. As a black child in the south, Wilma did not receive the medical or educational advantages that children of white families received. Wilma made the best of her circumstances. She did not let these difficulties keep her from becoming a world-famous runner.

Tree Squirrel



Tree squirrels are common animals found throughout the world. Only the continents of Australia and Antarctica do not have tree squirrels. There are over 300 varieties of squirrels, but tree squirrels are the most common of them. Tree squirrels come in a variety of colors including red, brown, and gray.

These squirrels have proven very adaptable at living in a variety of settings. They have found ways to live in cities and other places with few trees. However, their natural homes are in trees. They have also become

comfortable eating foods gathered from humans as well as nature. A squirrel's natural diet consists of nuts, seeds, berries, and tree bark. A squirrel will accept food presented by people. Squirrels are extremely clever at gathering food. They especially like to find ways to eat out of bird feeders.

Squirrels have sharp teeth that continue to grow throughout their lives. This explains why they constantly gnaw and chew on objects. This is a way to keep their teeth short. They have only four front teeth. Squirrels also have an excellent sense of smell. This enables them to find the food that they have buried. A squirrel's body is between 8 to 10 inches in length. The tail of a squirrel is about the same length. A squirrel uses its tail to balance as it runs across trees and fences. The tail can also be used as an umbrella to shade the squirrel from the sun or rain. Additionally a squirrel can use its tail as a flag giving signals to other squirrels. A squirrel also communicates through a series of chirps. The chirps are used to greet other squirrels or to warn them of danger.

Sometimes squirrels can cause problems for their human neighbors. Some squirrels chew through wires causing electrical problems. Other squirrels dig up flower bulbs or seeds which have been planted. This creates landscape problems for people. Some squirrels make their way into house attics. They make comfortable nests in these attics. Squirrels and people have learned to live together. However, people need to make sure that their homes are protected from these common neighborhood creatures.