

KentuckyRepertory**Theatre**
at horse cave



The State Repertory Theatre of Kentucky

***Jack and
The Wonder
Beans***

*by Larry E. Snipes
from the book by
James Still*

**Activity
Book**

A decorative border of handprints in various shades of red and pink surrounds the text. The handprints are arranged in a roughly rectangular pattern, with some appearing as solid colors and others as outlines.

Jack and the Wonder Beans

**Adapted by Larry E. Snipes
from the book by James Still**

Jack and his mother are very poor and they are forced to sell their cow. Jack, however, sells it to a gypsy who gives him three magical beans, which later produce a giant beanstalk reaching up to the sky.

This story, set in Appalachia, is a wonderful retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk. The play is filled with traditional folk melodies and calls for audience participation.

Enjoy Jack's adventures as he climbs the beanstalk, escapes being cooked up in a stew and steals the gold and a chicken that lays golden eggs.

**Which KERA Academic Expectations
relate to our program?**

**1.3, 1.4, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 2.16,
2.23, 2.24, 2.25, 2.26, 6.2, 6.3**

ACTIVITIES

Find at least three different versions of “Jack and the Beanstalk.” Compare them to see how they are different. Fill out a table like the one below. **

(Besides books, 3 different versions of the story can be found at: www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0328jack.html)

	1.	2.	3.
First sentence in the story.			
People and animals in Jack's family.			
Setting: Where did they live?			
What and how many (beans) were traded for the animals?			
What did the giant's wife give Jack?			
What did the giant chant?			
What things did Jack take?			
What did Jack's family do with the gold?			
Solution: How did the story end?			
Last sentence in the story.			

** taken from www.k12.hi.us/~lysakamo/folktales/jackandthebeanstalk.htm

The page is framed by a red border containing several handprints in white and red. The word "Activities" is centered at the top of the white text area.

Activities

Illustrate some of the picturesque speech used in the play. Here are some examples for such speech which describe the giant:

“feet like cornsleds”

“hands like hams”

“fingernails to match bucket lids”

Jack’s mother “sizzled like a red-hot horseshoe in the cooling tub” ***

Make up chants just like the Giant’s. Here’s a couple of examples:

Fee, fie, foe, fum,
I smell the blood of a friendly chum.
Be he happy or be he sad
I’ll hug his neck, and he’ll be glad.

Fee, fie, foe, fum,
I smell the blood of an English chum.
Be he alive or be he dead.
If he ain’t nice, I’ll cut off his head. ***

*** from Anne Newlun, www.ferrum.edu/applit/studyg/Teach4Jacks.htm

Activities

Because the story is set in Appalachia, there are many words and phrases that come from that part of the country. Here is a list of words used in the play (with definitions, your teacher can provide you later). Can you tell what each term means? Discuss with your teacher before coming to see the play.

(Provided by Larry E. Snipes, Lexington Children's Theatre)

WORD	DEFINTON
SASS	vegetables
SASS PATCH	vegetable garden
CRUMBLE-IN	bread crumbled in a bowl of milk and sprinkled with sugar
TADWHACKER	small child
POKE	sack or bag
SHIKE-POKE	bag of bones
GEE-HAW WHIMMY-DIDDLE	toy whittled from the prong of a tree limb also, anything of small worth

Does your family plant a garden? Have you bought packets of seeds for that garden? Suppose there were really such things as magic beans. Design a seed packet for Jack's



Activities

Can you make up your own Appalachian phrases? For instance, for the word “beautiful” we might say “pretty as a picture.” Below are some ideas. Come up with your own word or phrase for each idea or come up with other words and ideas and create phrases for them. *

COMMON PHRASE:	YOUR PHRASE:
BEAUTIFUL (pretty as a picture)	
SMART (sharp as nails)	
RAINING HARD (raining cats and dogs)	
WELL-BEHAVED (good as gold)	

Set designers and costumes designers draw pictures of how they want things to look. Imagine that you are the scene designer or costume designer. Draw a picture of the Giant’s castle. Draw pictures of one of the characters in the play, but wearing different clothes than what the actors wore.

* Larry Snipes, Lexington Children’s Theatre



For Discussion

Jack had to sell his cow which was something he didn't want to do. He had to make a sacrifice. Have you ever had to give up something or do something that you weren't happy about because it was the best thing to do? Discuss in class or write a story of your experience.

Jack is helpful to his mother, the carpenter and the chicken lady. As a class, talk about the helpful things that you do for others.

When Jack gets the bag of gold back home, his mother says that the gold came from the bank and must be returned. Would it be difficult for you to return the gold? How do you think the giant got that gold? Make up a story of how the giant stole the gold.

Why Kentucky Rep?

Since its inception, Kentucky Repertory Theatre has been devoted to arts education. Our mission statement reads in part:

Kentucky Repertory Theatre exists:

To facilitate, through involvement and education, the cultural growth of the region by making creative theatre experiences accessible to students and adults, and to encourage the development of theatre artists.

We have 33 years experience working with students, teachers, and schools to create meaningful theatre experiences both in the classroom and at the Theatre.

We believe in the power of the arts to affect children's lives and work to make those meaningful experiences come alive for each child.

For more information about Kentucky Rep and its education programs, please call (270) 786-1200.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports Kentucky Repertory Theatre with tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.