



## 2 First steps

Read the text together and then encourage the children to discuss the following questions.

### 1 Who is in the story?

*The characters in the story are Jack, Jack's mother, the old man and the giant. Some children may also mention the cow, the hen and the harp.*

### 2 What did Jack's mother do when she saw the beans?

*She threw them out of the window (and sent Jack to bed without any supper). You could challenge the children to tell you how they think Jack's mother was feeling when she acted in this way (e.g. upset, angry).*

### 3 What was unusual about the beans?

*They were magic. A giant beanstalk grew from them overnight. Usually it takes longer for a beanstalk to grow and it doesn't reach the clouds.*

## 3 Explore

- Ask the children to tell you what they know about plants. You could refer back to your discussions of the text in **Unit 15**. Allow the children time to compare what they know about plants in real life to what happens with the beanstalk in this story.
- Give each child a pot, some soil and a bean and guide them through planting and watering their own beanstalk. Encourage the children to care for these plants. Have a class competition to see who can grow the tallest beanstalk. (This activity could link to the **Where next?** speaking and listening task in **Unit 15**.)
- Discuss examples of magic objects in this text (e.g. beans, harp, hen, giant) and in other traditional tales (e.g. magic mirror in 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'; a magical fairy godmother in 'Cinderella'. You could link the discussion back to **Units 5, 6, 7, 9** and **10**, which all feature talking animals.

## 4 Skills focus

See pages 146 to 147

Use the information from the **Skills guide** and the relevant **Skills graphic** to introduce the skill of retrieval.

- 1 Model the skill using the **Unit 16 PowerPoint®** and the **Modelling retrieval** guidance on page 146.
- 2 The children could then attempt the optional **Retrieval** questions on page 150. This may be in small groups with adult support as needed.
- 3 Finally, the optional **Mix it up!** questions on page 151 offer practice in a range of comprehension skills. For guidance on introducing this new activity, see page 10.

Answers and marking guidance for all questions are included on pages 146 to 147.

## 5 Where next?

- **Speaking and listening task:** Explore the emotions of Jack and the giant through a 'hot seat' activity. In this activity, a child plays a character and is interviewed by the rest of the class or group. The children could take turns to sit in the 'hot seat' and answer questions in character. Questions to Jack might be: *Why did you hide in the cupboard? What made you take the hen and the harp? Do you think it was the right thing to do?* Questions to the giant might be: *How did you feel when you smelt a boy in your kitchen? What would you have done if you had seen him? Why did you chase Jack? Where have you been since Jack's mother cut down the beanstalk?*
- **Writing task:** Using the information from the activity above, the children could write some sentences to retell the story from Jack's or the giant's point of view.

### Reading list

#### Class reads

- ▶ *The Enormous Turnip* by Katie Daynes
- ▶ *The Gigantic Turnip* by Aleksei Tolstoy
- ▶ *Jack and the Jelly Bean Stalk* by Rachael Mortimer
- ▶ *Jim and the Beanstalk* by Raymond Briggs
- ▶ *Oliver's Vegetables* by Vivian French
- ▶ *The Smartest Giant in Town* by Julia Donaldson
- ▶ *Trust Me, Jack's Beanstalk Stinks! The Story of Jack and the Beanstalk as Told by the Giant* by Eric Braun

#### Independent reads

- ▶ *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Iona Treahy
- ▶ *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Barbara Vagnozzi
- ▶ *Hungry Plants* by Mary Batten

#### Non-fiction

- ▶ *The Amazing Plant Life Cycle Story* by Kay Barnham
- ▶ *Perfectly Peculiar Plants* by Chris Thorogood
- ▶ *Plant Facts* by Izzi Howell (Linked text: **Unit 15**)
- ▶ *Secrets of the Vegetable Garden* by Carron Brown
- ▶ *Wild Things: Over 100 Magical Outdoor Adventures* by Jo Schofield and Fiona Danks

#### Poetry

- ▶ *There Was an Old Giant Who Swallowed a Clock* by Becky Davies

#### Websites

- ▶ The BBC School Radio website tells the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' through 14 short video clips.