

JACK of TALL TRADES

The story of Jack and the Beanstalk has been told to children all over the world for many centuries. The story of Jack and his triumph over the giant at the top of the beanstalk has become a familiar favourite, but where did the story come from?

Giant killers

One of the roots of *Jack and the Beanstalk* is an older folk tale called *Jack the Giant-Killer*. This tale has several similarities with the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, including a courageous and imaginative hero called Jack outwitting a lumbering giant. One of the giants in *Jack and the Giant Killer* was called Blunderbore, whose name is traditionally given to the giant in pantomime versions of *Jack and the Beanstalk*; another giant, the two-headed Thunderdel, was the first to cry "FE, FI, FO, FUM, I smell the blood of an Englishman!", an exclamation traditionally used in the panto today.

Jack the Giant-Killer was one of the tales told by the Vikings, who had invaded Britain between the 8th and 11th centuries. They also brought a lot of their own Norse mythology and folklore from Scandinavia to the story, which included tales of trolls, magical gods and, of course, giants. One such tale told of a giant who was impossible to kill because he had no heart in his body. Depending on which version of the story you read, the giant kept his heart hidden in a cave, a well at the end of the world, buried under a tree or inside a bird's egg. But the clever hero tricked the giant into revealing the whereabouts of the heart, and once the heart was destroyed the giant was killed.



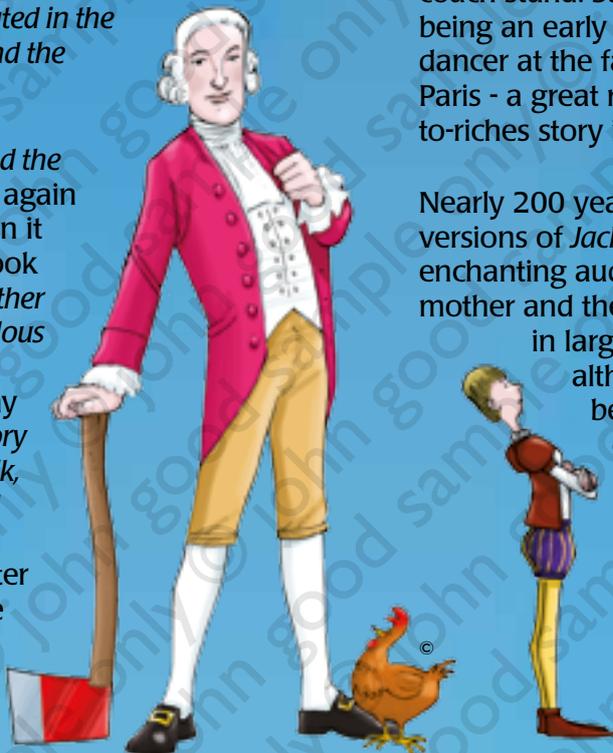
Planting the beanstalk

Jack and the Beanstalk combined many of these giant tales with stories from around the same time about a poor boy finding a giant plant that climbs up to the sky, which leads to untold riches and a battle against evil. The idea of a plant that climbs up to the heavens is at least as old as the biblical story of Jacob's Ladder and the Tower of Babel, and it featured in folk tales that stretch around the world.

In Norse mythology, there is a huge ash tree called Yggdrasill that stretches up to heaven, while cultures as diverse as the tribes of South Africa and the Native Americans have told stories of huge climbing plants. Instead of a beanstalk, the plant could be a banyan root, a liana, a giant cabbage or even a turnip! Why the beanstalk stuck isn't known, but it could be because it was regarded as a charmed and magical plant, not unlike white heather, shamrock or mistletoe.

At some point, the giant-killing and the beanstalk myths combined to create *Jack and the Beanstalk*, along with elements from other folk tales, such as the hen that lays golden eggs. But it wasn't until 1734 that Jack and his beanstalk first appeared in print, 23 years after *Jack and the Giant Killer* was first published. It appeared as a parody in a book called *Round About Our Coal-Fire: or Christmas Entertainments* in a chapter subtitled 'Enchantment demonstrated in the Story of Jack Spriggins and the Enchanted Bean'.

The full story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* didn't appear again in print until 1807, when it appeared twice: in a book called *The History of Mother Twaddle, and the Marvellous Achievements of Her Son Jack* and also a sixpenny booklet called *The History of Jack and the Bean-Stalk, Printed From the Original Manuscript, Never Before Published*. It was the latter that became the source for most retellings of the story.



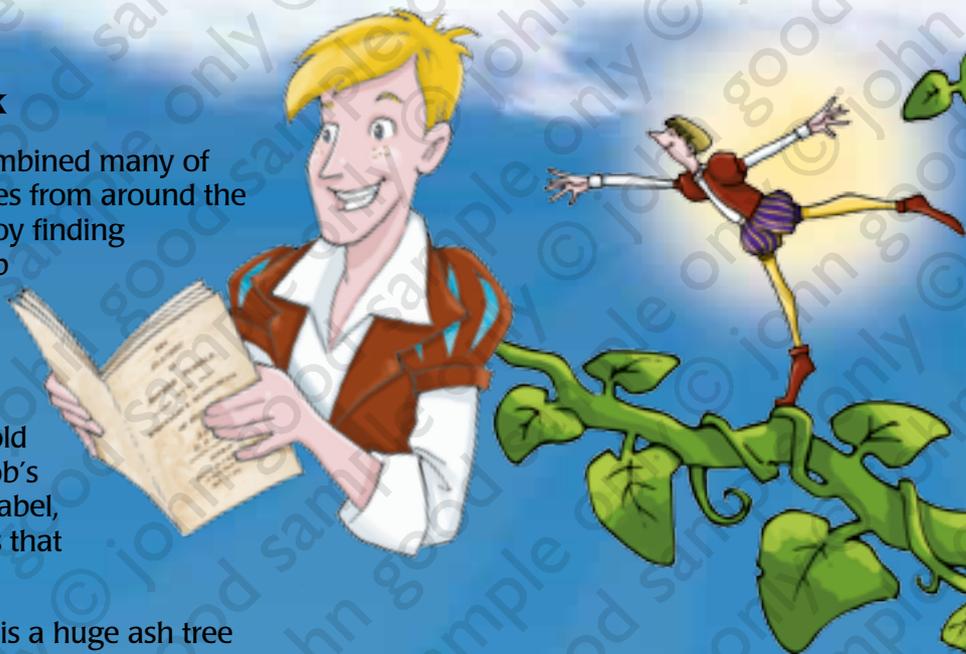
From page to stage

Although the seminal *Jack the Giant-Killer* was performed as a Christmas play by the famed actor-manager David Garrick in 1773, it wasn't until 1819 that the first pantomime version of *Jack and the Beanstalk* appeared, presented at the Drury Lane Theatre under the title *Jack and the Beanstalk; or, Harlequin and the Ogre*. This version was one of the first pantos to feature a female principal boy, Eliza Povey, as well as a tall beanstalk prop that reached from the stage floor to the theatre roof.

Povey refused to climb to the top of the beanstalk, so the task fell to a young boy named Sullivan, who worked at a nearby coach-stand. Stand-in Sullivan went from being an early 'stunt double' to principal dancer at the famous Académie Royale in Paris - a great real-life example of the rags-to-riches story in *Jack and the Beanstalk*!

Nearly 200 years later, the pantomime versions of *Jack and the Beanstalk* are still enchanting audiences and giving Jack, his mother and their cow a chance to shine in larger-than-life performances - although not as large as the beanstalk, which remains the constant emblem of a tale of brains over brawn that has found its way into the heart of British folklore.

Paul Bovey
© John Good



If you're a keen reader of fairy tales, you'll have noticed similar characters reappearing again and again throughout the stories: princes and princesses, wicked queens and dwarfs. One of the most noticeable types of fairy-tale characters are the giants, who are so big and tall that you couldn't fail to notice them!

Giants in stories are not only big and tall - they're pretty nasty too! With just a few exceptions (such as Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant), it seems as if the bigger they are, the more horrible they are! But then, as we know from *Jack and the Beanstalk* and older stories like that of David and Goliath, the bigger they are the harder they fall!

TALL TALES

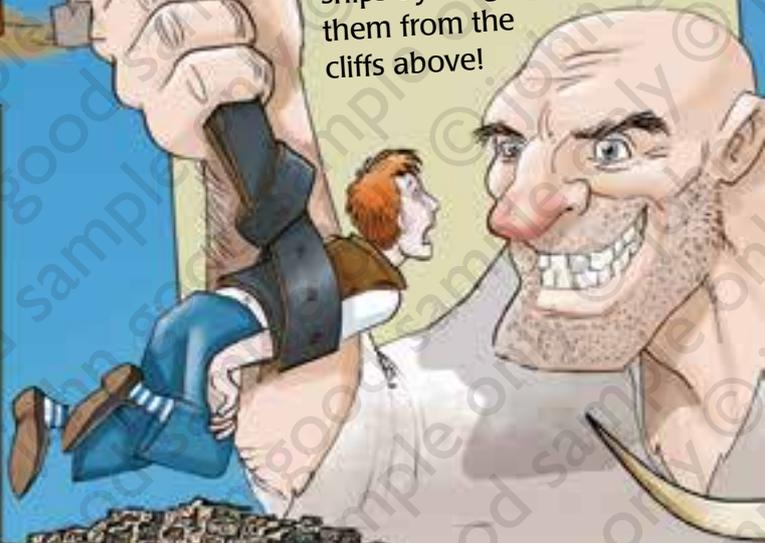
Jack the Giant Killer

One of the most famous slayer of giants was Jack, hero of the legendary story *Jack the Giant Killer*. This Jack was the son of a farmer and lived near St Michael's Mount in Cornwall. The area was terrorized by a giant called Cormoran, who stole the farmer's cattle. One day, Jack decided to lay a trap for the giant by digging a huge pit and covering it with sticks and earth. He then lured the giant into the trap and killed him. After conquering Cormoran, Jack went on to kill many more giants, including Galigantus and Blunderbore.



Cornish Nasties

Other ferocious giants said to stalk the Cornish coast include Wrath of Portreath, who would hide in a gorge and lie in wait for ships and fishing trawlers. Many a poor sailor or fisherman met their doom at the hand of Wrath, who carried them back for his supper in his belt. And when the water was too deep to wade in, Wrath would sink ships by slinging rocks on them from the cliffs above!



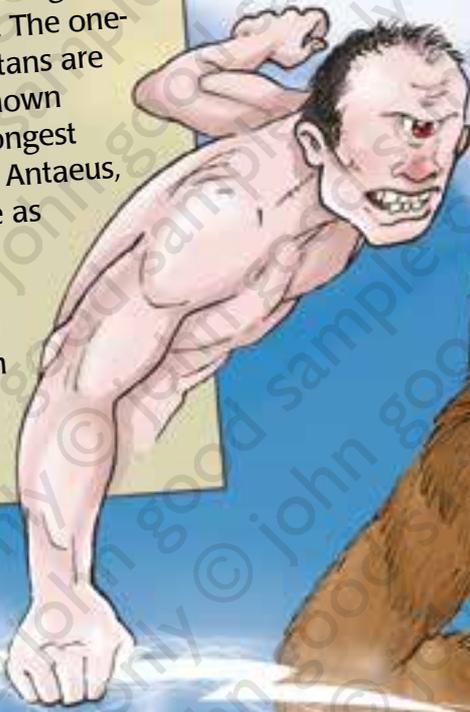
Making Steps

Stories about giants were often made up to explain the reasons behind land formations. One natural landmark said to be created by a giant is Giant's Causeway, a series of 'steps' of hexagonal basalt columns on the north coast of Northern Ireland. According to legend, the giant Fionn MacCumhaill built the causeway to help him cross the sea to the Hebridean island of Staffa (where there are similar rock formations).



Greek Giants

It's not just British folklore that features giants: there are examples all around the world, including ancient Greek mythology. The one-eyed Cyclopes and the Titans are some of the most well-known Greek giants; but the strongest giant in Greek myth was Antaeus, who remained invincible as long as he touched the earth. He was finally vanquished by the hero Hercules, who lifted him off the ground and crushed him!



Bigfoot or Big Fool?

Another giant character said to inhabit the forests of North America is the Sasquatch or 'Bigfoot'. He is said to resemble the yeti or Abominable Snowman, a native of Tibet. These giant hairy creatures have never been proven to exist, despite many sightings and evidence like giant footprints. Most of these have been considered hoaxes though, with many people believing it's just a man in a hairy suit!



A Tall Feller

In the US, the legendary Paul Bunyan combined the axe-wielding prowess of Jack with the strength and size of a giant. He was a different kind of jack, chopping down trees rather than beanstalks. His companion was Babe, a large blue ox, who drank water Paul had scooped out of the Great Lakes. After appearing in an advert for a lumber company, Paul became a hero to lumberjacks across America, and he's appeared in books, poems and even an operetta!



Record Breakers

Many real-life people have been called giants, although they're not as big as the giants of folklore. In fact, there are only ten confirmed or credible cases in history of humans growing to 8ft or more. According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the tallest living man is Sultan Kösen from Turkey, who measures 8ft 3in!

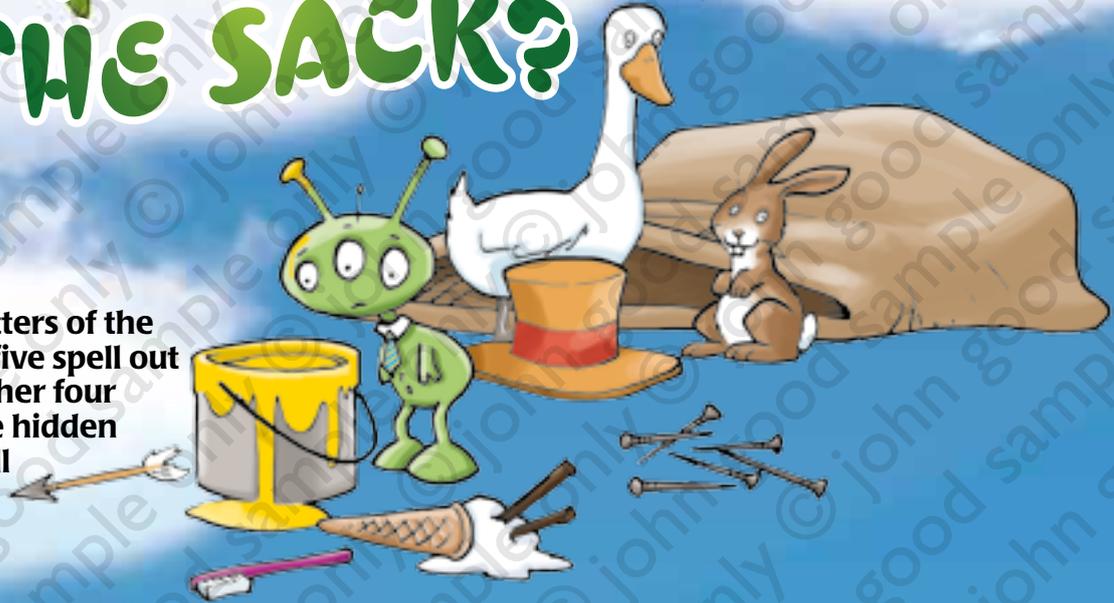


BEANSTALK

WHAT'S IN THE SACK?

The giant has something else in his sack! Can you tell what it is?

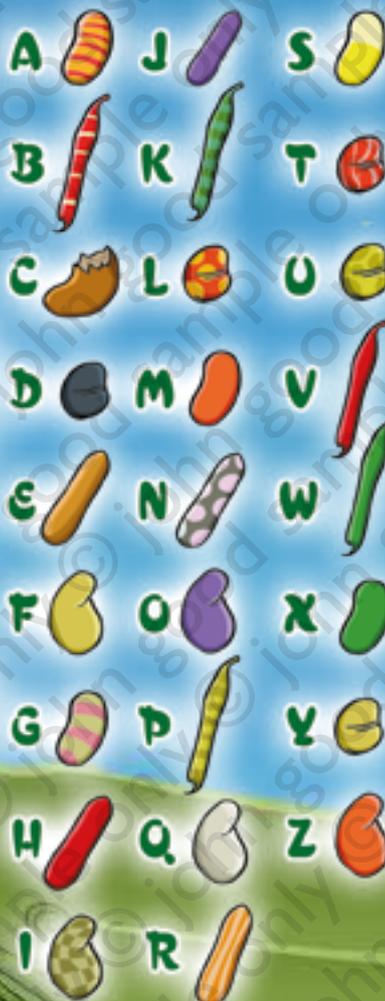
Take all the first letters of the nine things here - five spell out 'GIANT', but the other four letters spell out the hidden object - can you tell what it is?



BAFFLING BEANCODE!

Here's something a giant might say - but it's in code!

Can you work out the code and see what is being said in the box on the right?



BRAINTEASERS!

Try saying this six times FAST!

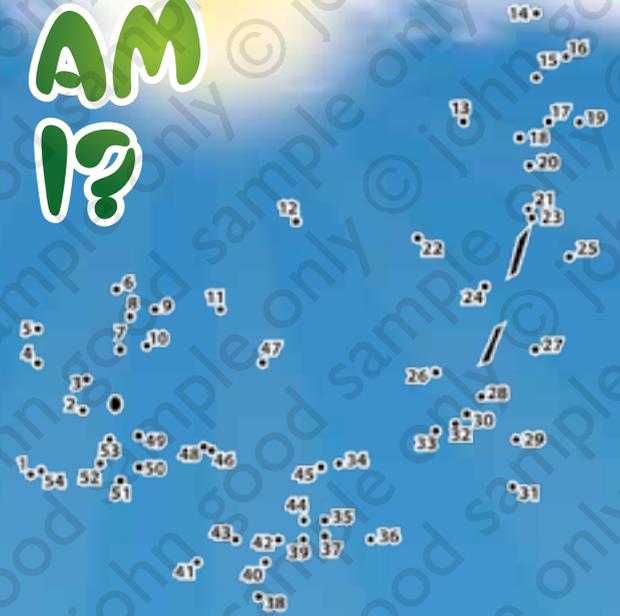
A big black bug bit a big black bean and the big black bean bled blood!

TONGUESTANGLES!



WHO AM I?

Caught sitting in the branches of the beanstalk - who is it?



MINI BEANSEARCH!

T O C I R A H G O
 U K H L K M A N T
 N K I R I O G U N I
 A Y C D O T Z M I
 E O K A N N N D P
 P S P I L E N C A
 N C E R G B Y C L
 C F A V A M I L R

Find all the beans in this wordsquare and you'll have five letters left over, which spell out ANOTHER type of bean!

- | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| ADZUKI | BLACK | CHICKPEA |
| FAVA | GREEN | HARICOT |
| KIDNEY | LENTIL | LIMA |
| MUNG | PEANUT | PINTO |
| RUNNER | SOY | |

TWISTED TENDRILS!

Which tendril leads to the harp?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES!

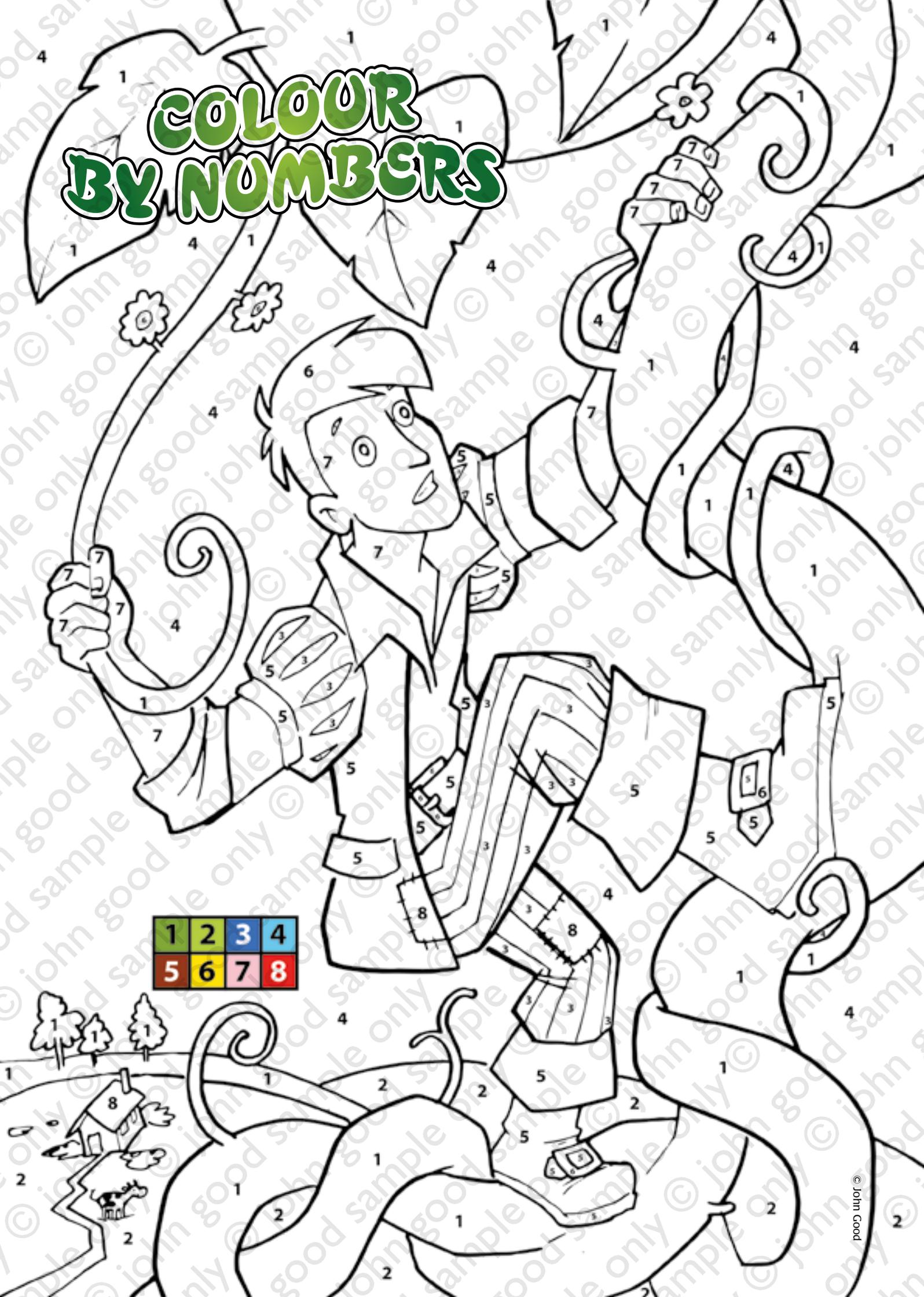
Can you find the TEN small differences between these two grumpy giants?



**COLOUR
ME IN!**



COLOUR BY NUMBERS



1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8



TWISTED TENDRILS!

Here's how to play: decide who is going first, take a coin and toss it. Heads move one square, tails two squares. When you land on a square with a green tendril, go up to where it ends. Squares with brown thorns take you down.

Who will be the first to get to the golden egg?

BLACK & WHITE

How many cows can you see?

Can you find the six black-and-white animals that aren't cows?



BEANSEARCH!

Can you find all the words in this wordsearch? They can go forwards, backwards and even diagonally! When you have found all the words, there will be a secret message left over - can you tell what it is?

(Here's a clue - it's what a hungry giant might say!)



JACK
MAGIC BEANS
BIG
AXE
HUNGRY

BEANSTALK
GIANT
MUM
SKY
FAIR

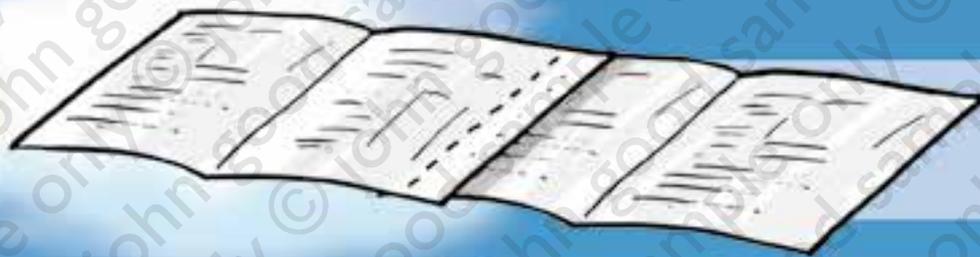
COW
CHICKEN
HARP
CHOP
BOY

DAISY
MARKET DAY
FALLING
TRICKS
ROOT

MAKE YOUR OWN BEANSTALK!

Here's how to make your very own beanstalk and it's quick and easy!

You will need: a newspaper, some sticky tape and a pair of scissors (you may want to ask a grown-up to help you).



Take the newspaper and spread it out like this (don't forget to overlap)...



Roll the newspaper up like this and stick it together.

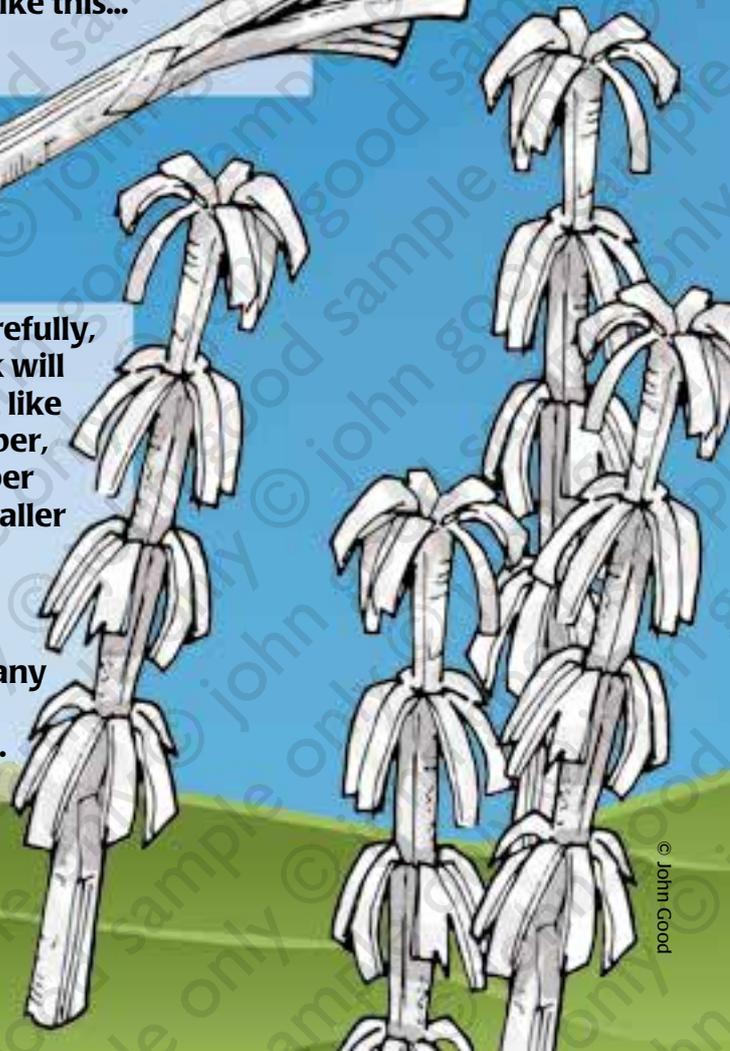
Cut about a third of the way down. Do this four times, like this...



The cut parts should dangle down, like this - now find the centre of the rolled-up tube and gently pull...

If you pull carefully, the beanstalk will telescope out like this! Remember, the more paper you use, the taller it'll be!

You can then paint the beanstalk in any colour you can imagine...



FE, FI, FO, FUN!

The giant loves to say: "FE FI FO FUM, I smell the blood of an Englishman!" But what if he said something different? Make up some different giantish rhymes!

**fe, fi,
fo, fum!**

**fi, fum,
fe, fo!**

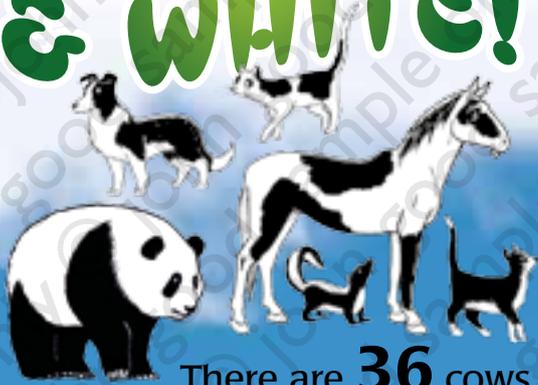
**fo, fe,
fum, fi!**

**fum, fo,
fi, fe!**

**fi, fo, fum, fe!
see if you can
rhyme like me!**

ANSWERS!

BLACK & WHITE!



There are **36** cows

BAFFLING BEANCODE!

I SMELL THE BLOOD OF AN ENGLISHMAN

WHAT'S IN THE SACK?

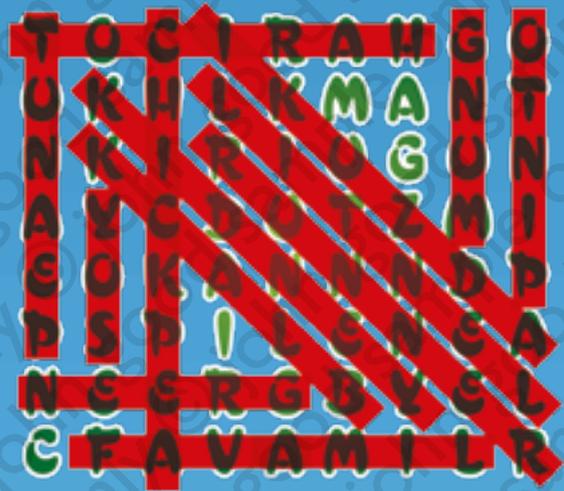
Hat, Alien (or Arrow), Rabbit, Paint

HARP

TWISTED TENDRILS!

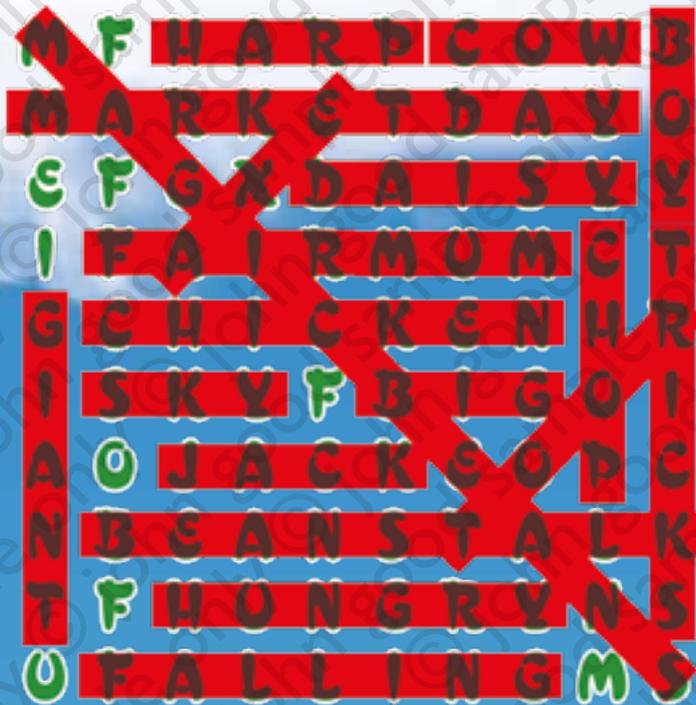


MINI BEANSEARCH!

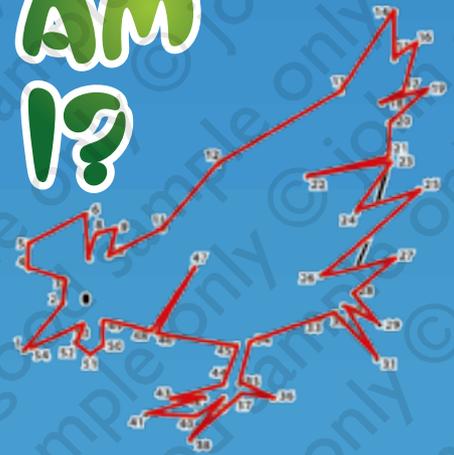


ANSWERS!

BEANSEARCH!



WHO
AM
I?



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

