

Characters

Jack (M)	Eldest son
Alice (F)	Daughter
Jacob (M)	Son
Violet (F)	Daughter
Ben (M)	Son
Mother (F)	Jack's widowed mother.
Ogre 1 (M/F)	An Ogre who lives at the top of a bean stalk
Ogre 2 (M/F)	Another Ogre who lives at the top of a bean stalk
Ogre 3 (M/F)	Another Ogre who lives at the top of a bean stalk
Cow (M/F)	Who is exchanged for the magic beans.
Magical Old Person (M/F)	Who gives Jack the magic beans.
Night (M/F)	Who declares the night.
Owl/s (M/F)	Who calls/call in the night.
Dawn (M/F)	Who announces the dawn.
Cockerel/s (M/F)	Who greets/greet the dawn.
*Hen (M/F)	Who lays golden eggs.
*Harp (M/F)	Who sings or plays beautiful tunes.
*Broad Bean Stalks x 3	That grow overnight from the magical sprouting beans.
*Can be props or played by an actor	

Scene 1

(Mother enters. Looking worried and wringing hands. Children any amount enter skipping happily.)

Mother: Oh Children, whatever are we to do? We're so poor, we don't even have mice!

Alice: I like mice. Why don't we have mice?

Mother: Because we've hardly got any food Alice! We can't feed ourselves never mind mice! I'm afraid Grumpy the cow will have to go.

Jacob: Go where?

Mother: To market of course Jacob.

Jack: **(Puzzled)** But Grumpy gives us lovely creamy milk mum. And you churn butter and make cheese with it.

Mother: Since this drought, the grass has been so bad, that I'm having to buy hay for her to eat. I can't afford it anymore. **(Point to pretend market in the distance)** You're the eldest Jack; take her to market and get the best price that you can. **(Cries and wipes her tears on her apron.)**

(Jack looks sad.)

Violet: Can we go too?

Mother: Yes Violet. **(Cross because she's sad)** Now, get out from under my feet all of you. **(Exits.)**

Cow: **(Enters)** Moo.

Ben: Hello Grumpy.

Cow: Moo. Hello Ben. I'm grumpy because I'm hungry. Moo. Moo.

Jack: I'm sorry, but we've got to take you to market Grumpy. I hope you get a kind owner who will feed you well.

Cow: Me too. Moo.

(Jack & Cow exit.)

Scene 2

(Magical Old Person enters with bag of beans. Children and Cow enter.)

Magical Old Person: **(Goes and looks at Cow. Admiringly)** Hmm, that's a fine cow.

Cow: **(Looks proud)** Moo. I know.

Magical Old Person: Where are you taking her?

Jack: Mother can't afford to feed her. We're going to market.

Magical Old Person: **(Takes a small handful of beans from bag.)** I'll give you these beans for your cow.

Cow: Oh yummy! Moo. Moo. **(Tries to eat beans.)**

Magical Old Person: **(Holds beans where Cow can't eat them.)** I mean I'll pay you these beans in exchange for your cow.

Cow: **(In a grumbly way)** Moo! I'm hungry. Moo!

Alice: Beans aren't much money for a cow.

Jacob: **(A bit worried)** Mother says we have to get the best price, Jack.

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Magical Old Person: **(In a magical voice)** Ah – ah – but these are magical beans. If you're clever, or wise, you will make your fortune with these beans.

Jack: I don't think I'm very clever.

Magical Old Person: I'll test you. Let me think. – Ah yes – which is the heaviest, a kilogram of feathers, or a kilogram of apples?

Jack: **(Smiles)** I know the answer! It's apples, because apples are heavier!

Violet: Yes, apples are heavier!

Magical Old Person: **(Shakes head)** No. They both weigh the same because they both weigh a kilogram! Never mind, you'll have to try and be wise. Will you take the beans?

Jacob: **(To Jack)** Let's take them Jack. The Magical Old Person says they will make our fortune!

Jack: Alright.

(Magical Old Person hands Jack the handful of beans. Jack takes beans into his hand.)

Ben: **(Pats Cow sadly)** Goodbye Grumpy. I hope that you'll be happy, and have nice food.

Cow: **(Sadly)** Moo. Me too Ben. Goodbye everyone. Moo.

(Children all pat Cow sadly. Magical Old Person & Cow exit. Jack looks at beans in hand. Pretends to wipe a tear from his eye. Sniffs. Children all exit.)

Scene 3

- Mother:** **(Enters)** I hated sending Grumpy to market, but now the children will be able to eat for a little while. I wonder how much money they got for her? **(Looks towards entrance.)** Oh, here they come!
- (Children enter happy and excited.)**
- Jack:** Mother, we've sold Grumpy. Guess what we got for her – oh you'll never guess!
- Alice:** Guess Mother!
- Mother:** **(Excited)** Ooh, let me think. Fifty pounds? She's a fine cow.
- Jacob:** **(Shakes head)** Nothing like that Mother.
- Mother:** Oh well, perhaps that is a little high in today's market. Um – thirty pounds? I hope you didn't accept any less than that, for she is a very fine animal.
- Violet:** We didn't get money Mother – but something else.
- Ben:** Something really special!
- Mother:** Was it gold? **(A little suspicious)** Jack, tell me what you got for Grumpy.
- Jack:** **(Opens hand to reveal beans.)** Look Mother – magic beans!
- Mother:** **(Stares at beans in dismay.)** You're joking Jack. Please tell me that you're joking!
- Jack:** No Mother. They're really special. The Magical Old Person said if we're clever or wise, they'll make our fortune, and we'll be rich! **(Puts beans into Mother's hand.)**
- Mother:** **(Takes beans. Stares at them. Starts to wail loudly)** Oh save us! How can beans make our fortune!
- Ben:** Don't cry Mother. **(Looks at beans)** Look they've started sprouting already! It must have been Jack's tears.
- Mother:** This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard of! Go to bed all of you without any tea!
- Jack:** We don't have anything to eat anyway Mother.
- Mother:** You're quite right. Magic beans indeed! You've been fooled! These beans are going straight out of the window! **(Throws beans offstage.)** Now go to bed all of you! **(Exits upset.)**
- (Children exit, downhearted.)**
- Night:** **(Enters.)** Night falls.
- Owl/s:** **(Enter. Hoot loudly. Turn heads, this way and that)** Twit twoo. Twit twoo. Twit twoo.
- (Night exits. Owl/s exit.)**
- Dawn:** **(Enters. Stretches happily with arms out.)** Morning wakes.

Cockerel/s:

(Enter. Crow loudly, raising heads and flapping arms.) Cock a doodle doo. Cock a doodle doo. Cock a doodle doo.

(Cockerel/s exit. Dawn exits. Beanstalks enter side of stage, arms by sides. Slowly extend arms upwards, straight and high in air, as if growing.)

Scene 4

- Jack:** (Enters. Stops amazed. Stares upwards at beanstalks. Shouts for the rest of family.)
Come quick! Come quick!
- Children:** (Enter. Stop and stare at beanstalks. Crane necks, as if beanstalks are touching the sky. Call) Mother! Mother!
- Violet:** Look! Look at the bean stalks!

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- Jack:** (Points upwards) The tops are in the clouds!
- (Mother enters. Stops and stares at beanstalks. Gaze travels upwards. Scratches head. Goes to one beanstalk. Picks, or pretends to pick a bean. Looks at it.)
- Alice:** (Picks or pretends to pick a bean from same beanstalk. Looks at it) They're nice fat beans.
- Mother:** They're called broad beans. (Sighs) Well, they're not going to make us rich, (cheering up) but at least I can make a pie.
- Ben:** (Picks, or pretends to pick a bean from a different beanstalk. Show Mother.) This bean is different. It's long and thin.
- Mother:** (Looks at bean Jack has picked.) Well, I never. That's a runner bean!
- Alice:** (Picks, or pretend to pick a bean from the other beanstalk) Look Mother! Long pink beans!
- Mother:** (Stares at bean in Alice's hand) This is a borlotti bean! Whatever next!
- Jacob:** I know a joke about beans! 'I say, I say, what do you call a bean that's been eaten?'
- Children:** Um, er, er -
- Jacob:** A 'has been!'
- Violet:** I know one! 'What sort of beans do marathons?'
- Children:** Runner beans!
- Mother:** Come along. You can help me prepare the beans. We'll make pies and enjoy a good bean feast!
- Children:** Hurrah! Hurrah!
- (Mother exits. Children exit hopping and skipping with happiness.)

Scene 5

(Mother enters carrying a 'pie'. Jack enters. Carefully carrying a 'pie'. Ben enters. Carefully carrying a 'pie'. Children enter, excitedly eying the pies. One child is carrying a teddy bear. SFX. Sound like thunder. Produced by a child swirling marbles around in a metal biscuit tin. Mother & Children listen to sound, puzzled.)

Alice: **(Listening, Puzzled)** Is it thunder?

(SFX. Louder thunder. If needed, a second child could use a second tin with marbles to increase volume.)

Mother: **(Listening)** It sounds like we're in for a storm.

(Beanstalks sway & keep swaying.)

Jacob: **(Points)** Look – the beanstalks are swaying!

Jack: Ogres! Ogres are climbing down the beanstalks!

Violet: **(Frightened shouts)** Ogres! Horrible ogres!

(Ogres enter in ogre type way. Make ogre type noises. Look scary. Snatch all the pies. One ogre also snatches the teddy bear. Exit. Children look up into beanstalks.)

Ben: They're climbing up the beanstalks again!

(Beanstalks stop swaying when ogres have exited.)

Mother: **(Shocked)** What bad luck! Ogres have moved into the tops of the bean stalks! Whatever can we do?

Alice: We can make some more pies?

Jacob: They'd steal them again!

Jack: I'm going to climb up and see what's going on! I'm the eldest.

Violet: No, don't Jack, they'll eat you!

Ben: But we'll starve if we don't do something!

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Jack: Ben's right. We'll starve if we don't fight back! I'll go when they've eaten the pies and they're sleepy.

Jacob: That's a good idea.

Mother: It's wise.

Alice: Let's sing to give us courage.

(Children sing 'We are the Champions' written by Freddie Mercury. Lyrics adapted. Sing to usual tune.) Beans are the champions, my friend

And we'll fight the ogres till the end
Beans are the champions
Beans are the champions
No time for losers
Cause beans are the champions
Of the world.

Mother:

Be careful Jack.

(Jack exits. Mother & Children exit.)

Scene 6

Mother: (Enters. Paces up and down anxiously.) Jack's been gone for hours. Oh, I am worried!
Oh -

(Beanstalks sway and keep swaying.)

Mother: (Looks up at beanstalks) The beanstalks are swaying. It's as if – as if – (doesn't finish sentence.)

(Children enter excitedly interrupting Mother. One is carrying a toy rabbit or similar.)

Alice: Mother! Jack's climbed down the beanstalk! He's back home!

(Beanstalks stop swaying.)

Jack: (Enters boldly, carrying sack of 'gold', a toy hen, and a toy harp.) I waited until the ogres had fallen asleep and climbed each beanstalk and – look what I've got! (Takes one gold coin from the sack and shows it. Keep hold of the gold coin.)

Alice: Gold!

Jacob: Why have you got the hen?

Jack: It's a very special hen, because it lays eggs of pure gold!

Violet: Wow!

Ben: And what's the harp for?

Jack: It plays beautiful music by itself. I heard one of the ogres say 'play' and it played.

Ben: (Orders harp) 'Play'.

(SFX. A snatch of beautiful harp music. Then a musical voice shouts loudly 'Master, Master'.)

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Alice: Why is the harp shouting that?

(SFX. Sound like loud thunder. Produced by a child swirling marbles around in a metal biscuit tin.)

(Beanstalks sway wildly and keep swaying.)

Mother: Oh no! The harp is calling for its master – an ogre!

Jacob: (Looking upwards) They're all coming back!

(Violet looks upwards and screams. Ogres enter in ogre type way. Make ogre type noises. Look scary. Snatch back the sack of gold, the hen, and the harp. One ogre also snatches the toy rabbit. Exit. Beanstalks stop swaying after Ogres exit.)

Mother: They've taken back everything! We can't even make anything with the beans, because the ogres will just steal them! Our lovely cow was sold for nothing. **(In despair)** Oh, it was all for nothing!

Jack: Cheer up Mother, you've just given me an idea. They haven't taken everything – look! **(Opens hand with gold coin left in)** I still have one gold coin in my hand! And I have a plan! **(Beckons to children)** Come on everyone!

(Jack & Children start to exit.)

Mother: Where are you all going?

Jack: **(Mysteriously)** Trust us Mother.

(Mother exits.)

Scene 7

(SFX. Clock ticking loudly.)

Mother: (Enters looking worried) Oh dear, where have my children got to?

(SFX. Clock ticking loudly. Children enter excitedly with Cow.)

Cow: Moo. Moo.

Alice: Look! We've got Grumpy back with the gold!

Mother: (Puts hands to her head in despair) Oh no. We're right back at the beginning Alice! We can't afford to feed Grumpy, and we don't even have any gold now!

Jacob: Yes, we can. (Points) We've got the beanstalks!

Violet: And Grumpy is hungry!

Ben: And she's cross now we've told her about the ogres.

Cow: Moo. Moo. Yes. Very cross. Moo.

Jack: (To Cow) Go on Grumpy. You know what you have to do.

(Cow runs at first beanstalk and pretends to butt it. Then runs at second beanstalk and pretends to butt it. The same with the third beanstalk. Beanstalks sway wildly and keep swaying. Cow pretends to start eating first beanstalk, then second, then third. SFX. Sound like loud thunder. Produced by a child swirling marbles around in a metal biscuit tin.)

Mother: Oh no! You've made the ogres angry. They're climbing down!

(Ogres enter. But instead of stealing anything, they look at Cow fearfully and flee for their lives! Beanstalks bend down. Heads and arms hanging down limply.)

Alice: The ogres were terrified of our cow!

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Mother: Well, it's good we've got rid of the ogres, (looking at beanstalks) but our lovely beanstalks are in ruins!

Jack: They're full of beans, that we can plant to grow more!

Mother: I think you're right Jack! They're obviously drought resistant beans, and don't mind being short of water.

Jacob: We can grow lots!

Violet: And sell them!

Ben: And Grumpy can eat them too!

Magical Old Person: **(Enters)** And so Jack, although he was not clever, was wise, using what he knew, to make use of.

Alice: **(To Magical Old Person)** And you were right. It has made our fortune!

Children: **(Together)** Hooray!

Mother: **(Together)** Hooray!

(All children and characters in the play enter and sing final song: 'We are the Champions' written by Freddie Mercury. Lyrics slightly adapted. Sing to usual tune. Or choose own apt song to finish.)

We've taken our bows
And our curtain calls
You brought us fame and fortune and everything that goes with it
We thank you all
But it's been no bed of roses
No pleasure cruise
We consider it a challenge before the whole human race
And we ain't gonna lose
(We're gonna go on and on and on and on)

Beans are the champions, my friend
And we fought the ogres till the end
Beans are the champions
Beans are the champions
No time for losers
Cause beans are the champions
Of the world!

The end