

In this lesson, children will explore the traditional tale of Jack and the Beanstalk through fun musical games, songs, and rhymes.

## Activity Guide

Explain to the children that this time in Music we will be going on a magical adventure with a boy called Jack.

*"Jack lived in a small house with his mum and his cow, Daisy. They didn't have much money as a family, and so Mum asked Jack to take Daisy the cow to market to sell, so off Jack went..."*

### **Starting and Stopping: Marching to the Pulse**

Using a handheld percussion instrument such as a woodblock or a hand drum, ask the children to march to market, marching to the beat and freezing when they hear the music stop. You could extend this task by inviting children to come up and play the instrument instead of the class teacher.

*"Finally, Jack arrived at the busy market with Daisy. A strange, old man offered to buy Daisy for five magic beans. Jack wasn't sure what to do, but in the end, he decided to sell Daisy and take the five magic beans home to his mum"*

### **Singing: Five Magic Beans**

Sing the song below as a class with actions (provided in video lesson). You could choose to use egg shakers to tap the pulse (representing a magic bean) if you wish.

*Five magic beans  
For Daisy the cow  
Five magic beans  
What will happen now?*

*"Jack arrived home with his five magic beans to show Mum. Mum was not happy at all. What would she do with five magic beans? She was so cross, that she threw them out of the window and she and Jack went to bed"*

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### **Listening: Lullaby**

Ask the children to lie down on the floor with their eyes closed and listen to a lullaby. Either use the one provided in the video lesson, sing your own, or find one online that suits your children.

*"As Jack slept, the shoots appeared in the ground from the magic beans. A beanstalk grew and grew and grew until it reached the sky"*

### **Responding to pitch: Growing beanstalks**

Using a piano or set of chime bars, play an ascending pattern (from bottom to top) and ask children to grow towards the ceiling like a beanstalk as the pitch ascends. Invite children to play the chime bars for you as the others move.

*"Jack couldn't believe his eyes the next morning. He wanted to see where the beanstalk led, so he climbed the beanstalk until he reached the top"*

### **Singing: Climbing the beanstalk**

Ask the children to sing the ascending scale to the words: Jack is climbing up the beanstalk (as demonstrated in the video) while pretending to climb.

*"When Jack got to the top, he could see a huge castle. He tiptoed inside and the first thing he heard was the giant's footsteps going Fee fi fo fum. Fee fi fo fum"*

**Instruments:** Split the class into two groups – the giant's heavy footsteps and Jack's tiptoes. Question the children about the two different sounds – what sort of sound do we need to represent a tiptoe? What sort of sound do we need to represent a heavy giant's footstep? Ask children to choose an instrument from a selection of classroom percussion and decide whether their sound is like a giant's footstep or Jack's tiptoes. Practise with each section in turn, playing 'Fee fi fo fum' (as crotchets/one beat notes) and



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'tiptoe, tiptoe, tiptoe, tiptoe' (as quavers/pairs of half-notes) as demonstrated in the video. Assign a conductor to direct the class – pointing at the team which should play. Appraise performance throughout the activity – addressing dynamics and accuracy of rhythm played.

*"Jack saw the giant's money on the table, so he stole it and climbed back down the beanstalk"*

### **Singing: Climbing the beanstalk**

Ask the children to sing the descending scale to the words: Jack is climbing down the beanstalk (as demonstrated in the video) whilst pretending to climb down.

*"Soon they'd spent all of the money, so Jack climbed back up the beanstalk to see what else he could find"*

### **Singing: Climbing the beanstalk**

Ask the children to sing the ascending scale to the words: Jack is climbing up the beanstalk (as demonstrated in the video) while pretending to climb.

*"He tiptoed through the castle to see the magic hen sitting in the corner"*

**Instruments:** Point to the 'tiptoe' group of instruments as they play their tiptoe music

*"The giant heard Jack and came stamping after him"*

**Instruments:** Point to the 'Fee fi fo fum' group of instruments as they play their stomping music

*"Jack climbed down the beanstalk as fast as he could"*



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### **Singing: Climbing the beanstalk**

Ask the children to sing the descending scale to the words: Jack is climbing down the beanstalk (as demonstrated in the video) while pretending to climb down.

*"As he reached the bottom, he found a huge axe to chop down the beanstalk"*

### **Chant: Chop Chop Chop**

Children chant the following rhyme while showing actions:

*Chop chop chop  
Chop chop chop  
Never stop! Never stop!  
Chop chop chop*

*"The giant came tumbling to the ground with a crash"*

### **Instruments: CRASH!**

Use the class instruments to get louder and louder and louder and then a big CRASH! (one final strike). See if the class can follow your conducting gestures (as demonstrated in the video)