



STUDY GUIDE FOR

Jack

& the

Beanstalk

Adapted by Kevin M Reese

TO THE PARENT/TEACHER

This guide has been provided to help children benefit the most from experiencing a live theatrical event. The activities described herein are only suggestions. Please feel free to pick and choose the things that will most benefit your children in the time you have available. It is our hope that the performance is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience as well.

You will find that some of the activities contained in this guide are geared for younger, some for older children-- but there is something for everyone. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute any of the enclosed pages and activities for your personal use.

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Theatre Etiquette

1. Attending a theatrical performance is a social event. Just as the way you act (and behave) in church or temple is different than the way you act on the playground, there is certain behavior that is appropriate in a live theatre. Discuss with your children the types of behavior that is appropriate when they are members of an audience.
2. Explain that they need to act differently when they're watching a live play than if they're watching a movie in a theatre. Live actors can hear the audience's laughter and applause as well as their talking to their neighbor or rustling papers. And their responses-- appropriate or not-- really do affect the actors' performance. The end line is: How would they want to be treated if THEY were up on the stage.
3. Write to the actors. After you see the show, have your students write a letter to their favorite character or draw a picture of their favorite character or scene and send it to the theatre. The actors would LOVE to hear from your students. The actors may even have time to send a reply of some sort to your class (because of the volume of mail they receive, individual replies are probably not possible).
4. Audience Participation. Normally, audience members should never talk during the play--and especially not talk directly to the actors (it distracts other audience member and may even make the actors forget their lines). But the plays by KMR Scripts are unique in that we offer the audience special opportunities to participate in the production. They will probably not be asked to come onstage, but there are various times throughout the production where the actors will ask them questions or ask them to use their imaginations and pretend they are animals, trees, or people. At those times we encourage the audience to participate and/or answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). Over the years, this has become one of the hallmarks of KMR Scripts' productions.

[Note to Producing Organization: *Feel free to replace the KMR Scripts logo on the first page of this Study Guide with your own. You may also replace any mention of KMR Scripts on this page with your organization name. Do not change the copyright notices.*]

Activities & Discussion

Jack & the Beanstalk

1. **STORY CIRCLE.** Have the children make up their own version of Jack & the Beanstalk. Have them sit in a circle. Pick one child to begin the story and go clock-wise around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to add to the story. You may have to limit each child's contribution to one story event (some children are avid storytellers!).
2. **REVIEW.** Have the students write a review of the play. What were their favorite parts? Their least favorite? Did anything happen that they didn't understand or seemed confusing? Did they like the music or did it "get in the way of the story?" What did they think of the costumes and scenery? Help them understand that their opinions are most certainly valid and will most likely differ from that of others (and that is OK). Being able to objectively discuss their opinions and others' is a skill that will benefit them the rest of their lives.
3. **VISIT THE INTERNET.** If you have a computer at home or school and have access to the Internet, you can look at a special web site that is just for you! Kevin M Reese, the man who wrote the play, works for a company called **KMR Scripts**. They have a web site and there is a special area for kids. There are lots of fun things to do and you can even send the playwright a letter. You can find it by typing:

www.kmrscripts.com

Then click on the words; "Hey, Kids!" and it will take you to the Kids' area. You'll be surfing!

4. **CLASS PLAY.** Using the KMR Scripts production as a guide, have the class come up with their own version of JACK & THE BEANSTALK (or another fairy tale). Write the script, cast and rehearse the play and perform it for another class.
5. **DRAWING.** Draw a picture of their favorite character or event in the play or write a letter to their favorite character. Display it on the wall or bulletin board. Or, send it to theatre. The actors LOVE to receive mail from their audiences.
6. **DISCUSSION.**
 - A> Jack traded his only cow for five Magic Beans. What would you trade somebody for five Magic Beans?
 - B> The Peddler gave Jack a "money-back (or COW-back) guarantee" for the beans. Was Jack safe in taking the offer?
 - C> Jack escaped from the Giant by hiding behind a magic invisible coat. What would you do if you had a coat like that for one hour?
 - D> What do you think happened to the Giant after Jack and the Goose escaped?
 - E> The Golden Goose was afraid her family might not remember her. Do you think they remembered her when she finally returned to her home? What do you think they said?