

OPERA
CAROLINA

OPERA EXPRESS

*The Educational Touring Company of Opera Carolina
presents*



**Jack
and the
Beanstalk**

Adapted by John Davies

2009-2010 STUDY GUIDE

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Jack and the Beanstalk

Music by Gilbert & Sullivan
Adapted by John Davies

CAST

Jack B. Nimble <i>A capable young man</i>	Tenor
Mrs. Nimble <i>Jack's mother</i>	Soprano
Giant's Wife <i>A long suffering woman</i>	Mezzo-soprano
Giant <i>A large, dishonest man</i>	Bass
Trouble Man <i>A dust man and entrepreneur</i>	Bass

Production Staff

Stage Director	Chad Calvert
Set Designer	Tim Parati
Costume & Properties Designer	Peter Smeal

Opera Carolina Staff

Director of Education & Community Relations	Teresa Robertson
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Music & Dialogue

This version of *Jack and the Beanstalk* features songs and ensembles from six Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. They are: *Princess Ida*, *The Yeoman of the Guard*, *Ruddigore*, *Gongoliers*, *Iolanthe*, and *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Please contact Opera Carolina if you would like to know the specific songs selected by Mr. Davies.

SCENE I:

Dialogue #1

“I’ll tell you a story”

Jack’s song

Dialogue #2

“Jack lived with his mother”

Mother’s Song

Dialogue #3

“Dear Jack, said his mother.”

SCENE II:

Trouble Man Song

Dialogue #4

“Well, it’s about time”

Trouble Man & Jack Duet

Dialogue #5

“Jack’s mother was not”

SCENE III:

Mother & Jack Duet I

“Now Jack, am I to understand”

Dialogue #6

“All through the countryside”

Mother & Jack Duet II

“I thought I heard thunder”

Dialogue #7

“There’s a place in the sky”

Dialogue #8

“Hear ye, hear ye”

SCENE IV:

Giant’s Song

Giant & Wife Duet I

“Oh, why am I moody and sad?”

Jack & Wife Duet

Dialogue #9

“It’s very clear”

Giant & Wife Duet II

“Come out, come out”

Dialogue #10

“I’ve looked here”

Quartet

Dialogue #11

“My story’s done”

Giant & Jack Duet

Dialogue #12

“I’m very calm

Giant & Wife & Jack Chase

SCENE V:

Dialogue 13

“Jack Benimble climbed below”

Giant

“I fell on my head”

Dialogue 14

“Oh, now I remember”

Jack & Mother

“Just a moment, we know you”

Dialogue 15

Epilogue

The Story of the Opera

Scene I: Jack's Magic Garden

Our story begins with the introduction of our main character, Jack B. Nimble. He describes the many famous Jack's that we all know and love. For example, we have Jack O. Lantern, Lumber Jack, Jack of Spades, or Jack and Jill. Jack continues with his story and tells us that he is always prepared, especially if he meets a giant.

Next we meet Jack's mother and their cow Snickers. Unfortunately, Snickers is old and has no milk. Jack's mother tells Jack to take Snickers to town and sell her for money to buy food. On the way to town, Jack meets a strange man.

Scene II: The Road to Town

The strange man on the road to town is the Trouble Man. He tells Jack that anyone can put their troubles into his sack and he will never give them back. The Trouble Man also will give you a bean or two for your troubles. As the Trouble Man observes Snickers, he decides that he will buy the old cow and pays Jack five beans. Jack questions this form of payment but the Trouble Man tells him that the beans are worth more than money. When Jack tells his mother what he has done, she is very unhappy with him.

Scene III: Inside Mom's House

Jack's mother tells him that the Trouble Man has cheated him. She also reminds him that he should never talk to strangers. Jack is very sorry that he has made this mistake. Jack and his mom go to bed after his mom throws the beans in the backyard.

Many things happen during the night, particularly behind Jack's cottage. The magic beans begin to grow and they are making a lot of noise. Jack and his mom wake to feel the whole house shaking and are very afraid. Jack goes outside to check out the problem.

Scene IV: Inside the Cloud Castle

Jack and his mother discover that the beans have grown into a giant beanstalk. Jack decides to explore the beanstalk and there he meets the Giant.

The Giant thinks that he smells the blood of an Englishman. Jack and the Giant's wife hide while he sings his song. Then, Jack sneaks away. The Giant tells his wife how bad he is and wonders why. After that, he goes to his treasure chest and leaves his wife alone.

Jack returns and begs the Giant's wife for food. The wife gives it to him and tells him to leave quickly as the Giant can smell him. Jack hides in many places but the Giant can still smell him. The Giant's wife tells the Giant that no one is there and that he is in fact stupid. The Giant still believes that someone is around.

The Story of the Opera continued...

Jack disguises himself with a sheet over his head and reveals himself to the Giant. Jack makes scary sounds and uses a stick for a sword as he introduces himself as “Sir Smarty Pants.” He tells the Giant to give him a piece of gold. The Giant confesses to Jack that he stole the gold and proceeds to tell Jack his story.

The Giant confesses that he stole a golden chicken from a farmer named Squire B. Nimble. This man had a pretty wife and a baby boy named Jack. The Giant’s wife and Jack are shocked at the Giant’s confession. Jack tells the Giant that *his* name is Jack. The Giant chases Jack and they threaten to harm each other.

Jack sneaks up to the Giant and asks him to step aside so that he can leave. The Giant moves aside and then realizes what he has done. He proceeds to chase Jack a second time.

Scene V: Terra Firma (on the ground)

Jack is back at home. He gives the beanstalk forty whacks with his ax and it comes tumbling down. The Giant also falls to the ground.

The Giant does not remember his name or why he lived in the sky. Suddenly, his memory does come back and he remembers that he was really mean he was to people. He also now realizes that he is all alone.

Jack and his mother approach the Giant and he begs for forgiveness and understanding. They don’t want to give it to him but eventually they do. The Giant promises to be a good Giant and follow the golden rule – *You must treat other people the way that you would want other people to treat you.*



IMPORTANT OPERA TERMS

ARIA	A song in an opera sung by one person.
BARITONE	The middle male voice range below tenor, above bass.
BASS	The lowest male voice range. A "bass-baritone" is a bit higher.
CHORUS	In opera, a group of singers who sing together; also a piece of music sung by such a group of singers.
COMPOSER	A person who writes musical works.
CONDUCTOR	A person who leads and coordinates a group of musicians, playing instruments and/or singing.
COSTUMES	Clothing worn by the performers that describes the historical era, the social rank, and the personality of the character wearing it.
DESIGNER	The person in charge of creating the sets, costumes, props, or lighting of an opera or play
ENSEMBLE	A song in an opera that is sung by more than one person: "duet" = two people, "trio" = three people, "quartet" = four people, etc.
LIBRETTO	The text or words of an opera (the Italian word for "little book"). The person who writes a libretto is called a "librettist."
MEZZO-SOPRANO	The middle female voice range, below soprano and above contralto.
OPERA	A drama expressed in music, in which the characters sing instead of speaking all or part of the time, usually accompanied by an orchestra.
Overture	A piece of music performed by the orchestra at the beginning of an opera, operetta, ballet, or musical, which often contains important tunes that will appear later in the work.
PROPS	Articles, other than costumes or scenery, used as part of a play or opera (short for "properties"). Furniture and the like are "set props;" anything that performers pick up or hold (fans, knives, brooms) are "hand props".
RECITATIVE	A style of operatic writing that approximates the rhythms and contours of normal speech; usually accompanied by simple chords in the orchestra or on a keyboard instrument.
SCENE	A part of an opera or play, with a fixed setting & continuous flow of time.
SET	The surroundings or location where a theatrical action takes place. Also called "scenery."
SOPRANO	The highest female voice range, above mezzo-soprano.
STAGE DIRECTOR	A person who decides how to tell the story of the play or opera.
TENOR	The highest male voice range, above baritone.



Investigate Opera

Opera was first created in Florence, Italy in 1597. The name of the first opera was *Eridice* by composer Jacobo Peri. Because opera was first popular in Italy, many of the words associated with it are from the Italian language. **Opera**, a word that literally means "work," is a play that is sung throughout and is accompanied by an orchestra. Operas are sung throughout for many reasons. The two most important reasons are (1) to show off the beauty of the human voice and (2) when people sing together (a **duet**) they can express different feelings at the same time.

As in a play, **designers** must be called in to create the costumes, lights, sets, and make-up. As the actual performance approaches, the singers get to wear their new costumes and perform in front of the newly crafted **scenery** in a **rehearsal**.

In opera, the **composer** sometimes writes both the words and the music, but usually someone else writes the words. The person who writes the words is the **librettist**. Often the words are adapted from a story or play, such as *The Three Little Pigs*. **John Davies** wrote the opera adaptation of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Mr. Davies used music written by **Gilbert and Sullivan**.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The person who writes the music is the _____.

The adaptation of *Jack and the Beanstalk* was written by _____.

The person who writes the words to an opera is called a _____.

Opera was first created in _____.

The person who creates the costumes and sets is a _____.

A _____, is when two people are singing together.

A play that is sung throughout is an _____.

The music for this version of *Jack and the Beanstalk* was written by _____ and _____.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT BEFORE THE OPERA

1. What is a fairytale? How is a fairytale different from "real life?"
2. Read *Jack and the Beanstalk* story. Ask the students to discuss the story and its characters. How would they tell the same story?
3. Discuss the differences between an opera and a play; a concert and a music video; watching a live performance and watching a performance on television.
4. What part does an audience play in an opera? What are some of the characteristics of a good audience?

SUGGESTIONS FOR QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

An integral part of our visit to your school is involving the students in the performance. There will be a short question and answer period immediately following the show. Teachers are requested to prompt students into thinking of questions to ask before the date they are scheduled to see the opera. Students should be prepared to ask their questions in a voice loud enough to be heard by everyone. Listed below are some sample questions.

What made you decide to become a singer?

What exercises do you use to warm up your voice and keep it in shape?

How do you learn the opera?

How much did you rehearse?

What is your favorite type of music?

Where did the set and props come from?

Who made the costumes?

How do you sing so loudly?



You Be The Author

In the past, the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* has been rewritten many times and in several different languages. Now is your chance to be the author. Be as creative as you want in rewriting the story. You must, however, follow these guidelines in your story:

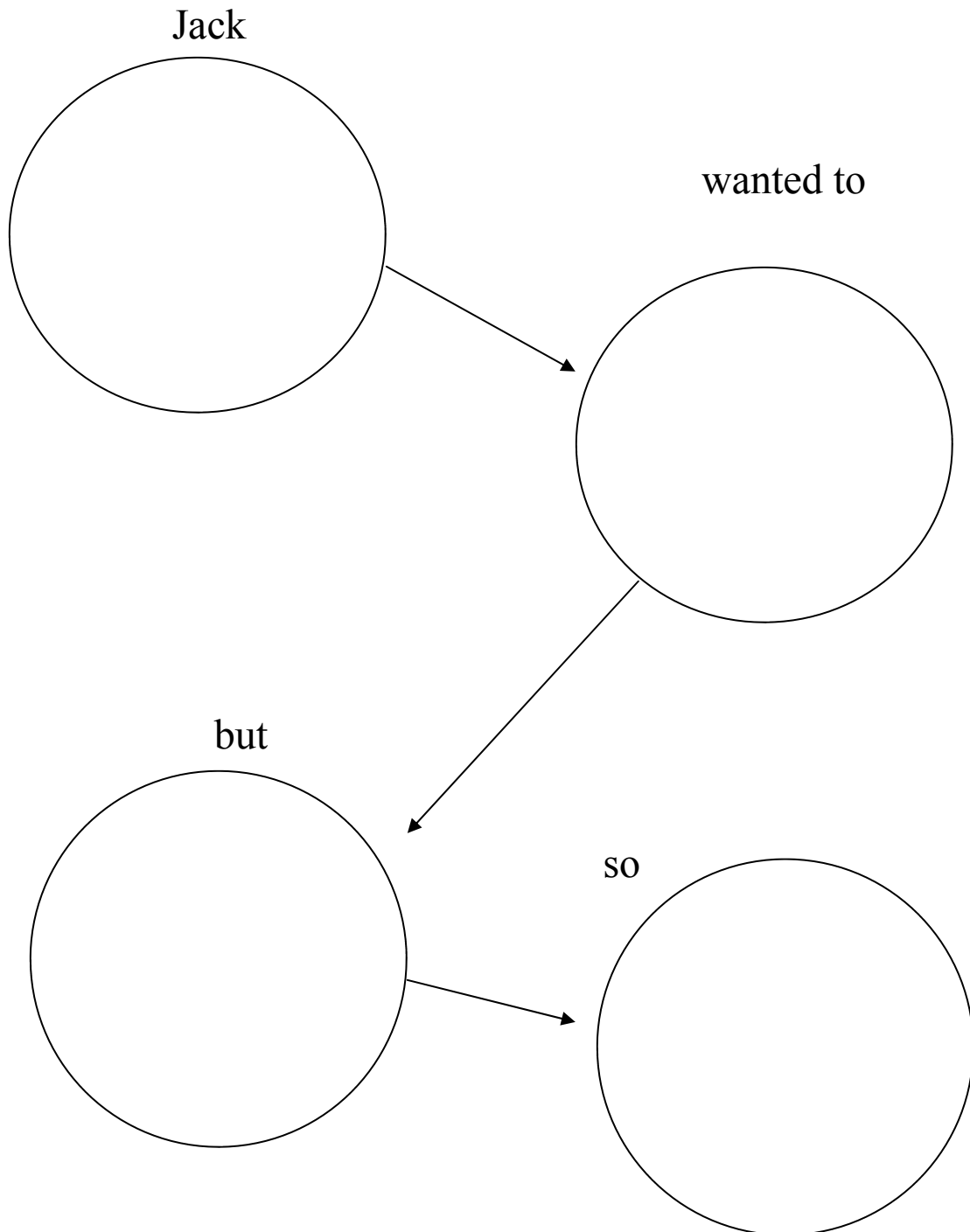
You must add the character Jackqueline, Jack's younger sister.
Your story must have Jackqueline climbing the beanstalk with Jack.

Jack and the Beanstalk

By _____

Story Pattern

In the opera *Jack and the Beanstalk*, Jack's mother tells Jack to sell their cow, Snickers. Use the story pattern below to detail what happens to Jack when he leaves home to sell Snickers.



Brace Map

The Giant

Complete the brace map by filling in the blanks about The Giant's character attributes.

looks

says

The Giant

acts

feels

Grow a Beanstalk in Your Classroom

- Activity:** Create a beanstalk in the classroom with leaves that represent each child and his/her height.
- Materials:** A trunk for the beanstalk, leaf pattern, construction paper in various leaf colors (orange, red, brown, gold), a yard stick (more than one if possible), and a life-size “giant”.
- Lesson:** Tell the students that today everyone is going to help create a beanstalk in the classroom. Each student will partner with another student to measure height so that the student’s name/height can be written on a leaf. Next, the students will line up from shortest to tallest and place their leaves on the trunk of the beanstalk.

Ask students how tall they think a “giant” should be. Let the majority rule in the final decision. Create a life-size “giant”.



Music Activity: Jack's Song

Objective: To learn the melody of the first song in *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Procedure: Teach the students the melody below. You also may have fun with this melody by speaking in rhythm using different character traits for Jack, i.e. Jack is a southern, Jack is shy, Jack is sneaky, etc. Then trying singing it with those various character traits and discuss the various elements of music, i.e. tempo, dynamics, etc. that help communicate those same traits.

Note: This melody is Gama's song from *Princess Ida*, a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta.

Jack:

Jack's Song



If you give me your at ten tion, I will tell you who I am— My



name is Jack Be nim ble and I'm known through out this land. I am a fam ous fel low, as you



ve ry soon shall see.— For ev' ry Jack in this whole world is named af ter me.