

## What to do today

**IMPORTANT** Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

### 1. Read a poem

- Read *Jack's Tale* by Judith Nicholls.
- Read the *Poetry Questions*. Think about your answers and then write them as clear sentences.

### 2. Learn about performing a poem

- Watch Michael Rosen's tips about performing a poem.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvV23xoZRkl>
- Use *Performing Notes* to make notes about what he says.

### 3. Prepare a performance

- Read *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Roald Dahl.
- Pick either of the poems and prepare a performance. Try to think about all of Michael Rosen's tips.
- Give your performance to somebody else. Ask them to give you feedback using the *Evaluation Sheet*.

### Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Film your performance and share it with somebody else.
- Find some more poetry by Judith Nicholls, Roald Dahl or Michael Rosen.  
You could start looking here:

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poet/judith-nicholls/>

<https://www.michaelrosen.co.uk/videos/>

<https://www.michaelrosen.co.uk/hypnotiser/>

<https://allpoetry.com/Roald-Dahl>

## Jack's Tale

*Judith Nicholls*

Sun rises before me,  
dazzles pathless flight.  
In the corner of each eye  
mists drift and fade,  
dissolve against a lightening sky;  
the tops of oaks sprawl  
like giant undergrowth below.  
*I dare not pause to gaze,  
I dare not fall!*

Behind, as if in smoke,  
the castle disappears.  
*My life is ruled by noise:*  
heart drums inside my chest,  
the giant thud of angry steps  
invades my ears.

Beneath one arm  
a squirming weight of feathers,  
crooked between waist and elbow,  
squawks our whereabouts into the dawn,  
scratches tales of panic into flesh.  
*All thoughts are on escape;  
all golden dreams have flown!*

Ahead, at last,  
green stalks emerge from cloud  
then cobwebs downwards,  
stitching earth to sky.  
I leap, grasp branches urgently  
with outstretched hand;  
half-slide, half fall  
to blessed earth below,  
to blessed land.



## Poetry Questions

What do you **like** about this poem?  
Is there anything you **dislike** about this poem?

What does this poem **remind** you of? Another poem? A different piece of writing? A person?

What **patterns** can you find in this poem?

What **puzzles** or questions does this poem raise?

## Performing Notes

<b>Roleplay Character and Stories</b>	<b>Tone and Emphasis</b>	<b>Speed and Pacing</b>
<b>Sound Effects</b>	<b>Expression and movements</b>	<b>Enthusiasm</b> -
<b>Rhyme and Repetition</b>	<b>Be silly</b>	<b>Perform the Story</b>

Titles taken from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvV23xoZRkl>

## Jack and the Beanstalk

Roald Dahl

Jack's mother said, 'We're *stony broke!*

Go out and find some wealthy bloke

Who'll buy our cow. Just say she's sound

And worth at least a hundred pound.

But don't you dare to let him know

That she's as old as billy-o.'

Jack led the old brown cow away,

And came back later in the day,

And said, 'Oh Mumsie dear, guess what

Your clever little boy has got.

I got, I really don't know how,

A super trade-in for our cow.'

The mother said, 'You little creep,

I'll bet you sold her much too cheap.'

When Jack produced one lousy bean,

His startled mother, turning green,

Leaped high up in the air and cried,

'I'm *absolutely stupefied!*

You crazy boy! D'you really mean

You sold our Daisy for a bean?'

She snatched the bean. She yelled, 'You chump!'

And flung it on the rubbish-dump.

Then summoning up all her power,

She beat the boy for half an hour,

Using (and nothing could be meaner)

The handle of a vacuum-cleaner.

At ten p.m. or thereabout,

The little bean began to sprout.

By morning it had grown so tall

You couldn't see the top at all.

Young Jack cried, 'Mum, admit it now!

It's better than a rotten cow!'

The mother said, 'You lunatic!

Where are the beans that I can pick?

There's not *one bean!* It's bare as bare!'

'No, no!' cried Jack. 'You look up there!

Look very high and you'll behold

Each single leaf is solid gold!'

By gollikins, the boy was right!

Now, glistening in the morning light,

The mother actually perceives

A mass of lovely golden leaves!

She yells out loud, 'My sainted souls!

I'll sell the Mini, buy a Rolls!

Don't stand and gape, you little clot!

Get up there quick and grab the lot!'

Jack was nimble, Jack was keen.

He scrambled up the mighty bean.

Up up he went without a stop,

But just as he was near the top,

A ghastly frightening thing occurred –

Not far above his head he heard

A big deep voice, a rumbling thing

That made the very heavens ring.

It shouted loud, 'FEE FI FO FUM

I SMELL THE BLOOD OF AN ENGLISHMAN!'

Jack was frightened, Jack was quick,

And down he climbed in half a tick.  
'Oh mum!' he gasped. 'Believe you  
me,  
There's something nasty up our tree!  
I saw him mum! My gizzard froze!  
A Giant with a clever nose!  
'A *clever nose!*' his mother hissed.  
'You must be going round the twist!'  
'He smelled me out, I swear it, mum!  
He said he *smelled* an Englishman!  
The mother said, 'And well he might!  
I've told you every single night  
To take a bath because you smell,  
But would you do it? Would you hell!  
You even make your mother shrink  
Because of your unholy stink!  
Jack answered, 'Well, if you're so  
clean  
Why don't *you* climb the crazy bean.'  
The mother cried, 'By gad, I will!  
There's life within the old dog still!  
She hitched her skirts above her knee

And disappeared right up the tree.  
Now would the Giant smell his mum?  
Jack listened for the *fee-fo-fum*.  
He gazed aloft. He wondered when  
The dreaded words would come . . .  
And then . . .  
From somewhere high above the  
ground  
There came a frightful crunching  
sound.  
He heard the Giant mutter twice,  
'By gosh, that tasted very nice.  
Although' (and this in grumpy tones)  
'I wish there weren't so many bones.'  
'By Christopher!' Jack cried. 'By gum!  
The Giant's eaten up my mum!  
He smelled her out! She's in his belly!  
I had a hunch that she was smelly.'  
Jack stood there gazing longingly  
Upon the huge and golden tree.  
He murmured softly, 'Golly-gosh,  
I guess I'll *have* to take a wash

If I am going to climb this tree  
Without the Giant smelling me.  
In fact, a bath's my only hope . . .'  
He rushed indoors and grabbed the  
soap  
He scrubbed his body everywhere.  
He even washed and rinsed his hair.  
He did his teeth, he blew his nose  
And went out smelling like a rose.  
Once more he climbed the mighty  
bean.  
The Giant sat there, gross, obscene,  
Muttering through his vicious teeth  
(While Jack sat tensely just beneath),  
Muttering loud, 'FEE FI FO FUM,  
RIGHT NOW I CAN'T SMELL ANYONE.'  
Jack waited till the Giant slept,  
Then out along the boughs he crept  
And gathered so much gold, I swear  
He was an instant millionaire.  
'A bath,' he said, 'does seem to pay.  
I'm going to have one every day.'

## Evaluation Sheet

<b>Roleplay Character and Stories</b>	<b>Tone and Emphasis</b>	<b>Speed and Pacing</b>
<b>Sound Effects</b>	<b>Expression and movements</b>	<b>Enthusiasm</b> -
<b>Rhyme and Repetition</b>	<b>Be silly</b>	<b>Perform the Story</b>

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## Michael Rosen's Tips for Performing Poetry - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

<b>Roleplay Character and Stories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- do different voices</li><li>- show different facial expressions for each character</li></ul>	<b>Tone and Emphasis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- vary volume</li><li>- use high &amp; low tones</li><li>- emphasise certain words</li></ul>	<b>Speed and Pacing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- change the speed</li><li>- build tension by slowing down</li><li>- show excitement or danger by speeding up</li></ul>
<b>Sound Effects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- use non-word utterances – <i>mmm</i>, <i>aargh!</i></li><li>- use sound effects</li><li>- make noises</li></ul>	<b>Expression and movements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- use your face, hands and whole bodies to tell the story</li></ul>	<b>Enthusiasm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- show you are enjoying it</li><li>- show that you are interested, and the audience will be too</li></ul>
<b>Rhyme and Repetition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- say repeating words/phrases differently each time to build up and engage the audience</li></ul>	<b>Be silly</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- be confident</li><li>- forget that it is you</li></ul>	<b>Perform the Story</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- lose yourself in the poem</li><li>- do a show</li><li>- be the narrator or the character</li><li>- try not to be self-conscious</li></ul>