**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

**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**

**lA 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 Fl 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.’**