

# Horizons

# Phonics and Reading

## Reader 1





# The Ant and the Grasshopper

## Aesop's Fable

On a bright, sunny day a grasshopper chirped his favorite song. He enjoyed the long summer days when he could sing and hop. He loved singing in the grasshopper choir that met every night. The grasshopper also liked the summer months when he could dine on spikes of grass whenever he wished. As he sat in his favorite spot, the grasshopper noticed an ant hauling a large kernel of corn.

The grasshopper called out to the ant, "Why don't you come and rest for a while? It looks like you're working too hard on such a beautiful day."

The ant replied, "I'm sorry, but I have no time for rest. I need to store up food for the winter."

The grasshopper laughed, "Why worry about the winter? There's plenty of food for us to enjoy today. Come, join me."

The ant refused and continued to carry the large corn kernel to his nest. All day long the ant travelled back and forth bringing seeds to his nest while the grasshopper hopped and sang.

Before long the winter came and the grasshopper had no food to eat. He looked out of his cold home and saw that all his ant neighbors had plenty to eat. They had rooms filled with corn, beans, and nuts while he had none. Suddenly the grasshopper understood what the ant was trying to tell him on that warm, summer day. It is best to prepare for the needs of future days.

# John Newton



“Amazing Grace” is one of the most famous hymns ever written. John Newton wrote this hymn. He was born in England in 1725. His mother died when he was a young boy. Newton’s father served as a ship captain. At the age of 11, John Newton began sailing with his father. Later he worked as a captain on a slave ship. During that time, ships were sent from England and other countries with supplies to Africa. Once in Africa, slaves were placed on board the ship to be taken to England, the U.S., and other countries where they would be sold. The people from Africa

did not want to leave their homes and villages. They were captured and forced on the ships. The passage from Africa was terrible, and many Africans died on the journey.

On one voyage, John Newton's ship encountered a terrible storm. He prayed to God to keep him and those aboard the ship safe. Soon the storm calmed and the danger passed. John Newton had not prayed to God or followed him for many years. Instead, he lived a life which went against the Bible's teachings. The sea captain began studying the Bible. He turned to God and asked for His forgiveness for the many sins he committed.

John Newton returned to England and continued to study scripture. He quit work as a sea captain, and he began studying to become a minister. As a minister he was known for his excellent sermons. Many people came to hear him preach. In his old age, Newton published an article stating that he was sorry for being a part of the slave trade. He worked with others to end slavery in England.

Newton wrote many songs that were used at his church services. "Amazing Grace" is the best known of the hymns he wrote. In the song he remembered the life of sin he led before he came to Christ. He rejoiced that God saved him, and he now belonged to Him.

# Amazing Grace

By John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who call'd me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

# The Princess Who Slept On A Pea

By Hans Christian Andersen

Once a time there was a Prince who wanted to wed a Princess, but she should be a real Princess. So he travelled about all over the world to find such a Princess, but everywhere there was something in the way. Princesses there were in plenty, but whether they were real Princesses, he could not make out, as there was always something that was not quite in order about them. Therefore, he came home again and was quite sad, for he longed so much for a real Princess.

One evening, a heavy storm arose. It thundered and lightened, and the rain poured down; it was quite frightful. There was then a knocking at the town gate, and the old King went to open it.

It was a Princess standing outside at the gate. But alas, what a state she was in because of the rain and the terrible storm! The water ran down from her hair and her clothes, in at the top of her shoes and out at the heels. But she said that she was a real Princess.

“Well, we shall soon learn it,” thought the old Queen, but without saying one word.

She went into the bedroom, took all the sheets off the bed and laid a pea on the bottom of the bedstead.

Then she took twenty mattresses, laid them on the pea and finally placed twenty more eider—down quilts on top of the mattresses.



On the top of all these, the Princess was to lie all night.

In the morning she was asked how she had slept.

“Oh, terribly badly,” said the Princess. “Not a wink have I slept the whole night. Heaven knows what there must have been in the bed! I lay on something very hard so that I am black and blue all over my body! It is quite horrible!”

Now, they saw well that she was a real Princess, as she had felt the pea through twenty mattresses and twenty eider-down quilts. Nobody but a real Princess could be so sensitive.

So the Prince took her for his wife, for now he knew that he had a real Princess, and the pea was put into a cabinet of curiosities, where it is still if no one has taken it away.

You see, this is a true story!





# Horizons

## Phonics and Reading Reader 2



# The Grain of Wheat

## Traditional Folk Tale

A little red hen was out where the grass grew. She scratched. She stood on the left foot and kicked the dirt with her right foot. Then she stood on the right foot and kicked the dirt with her left foot. That is the way hens scratch. Every time she scratched she looked to see what she had dug up. She dug up a grain of wheat.

“Hello,” she said, “what is this? Oh, I see; it is a grain of wheat. It is good to plant.”

“Here, duck. Here, goose,” she said. “Will you plant this wheat?”

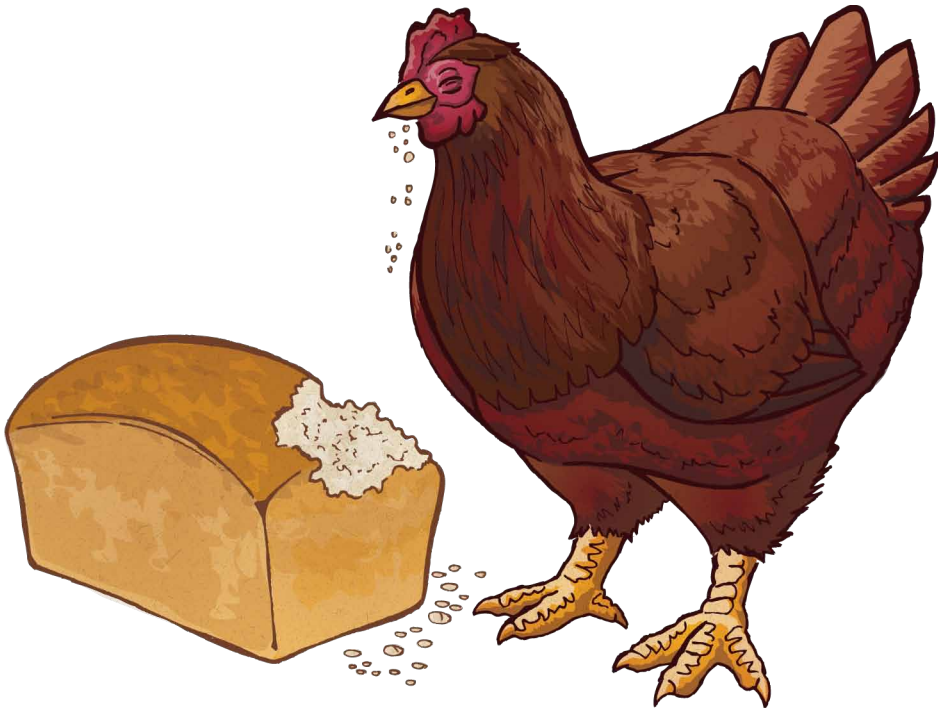
“No; too much work,” said the duck and the goose.

“Then I will plant it,” said the little red hen. And she scratched a hole in the ground and put in the grain of wheat. She put some dirt over it. The rains came, the sun shone, and the wheat came up. More rains came, and the sun shone more, and the wheat plant grew, and fine wheat was formed.

“Here, duck; here, goose,” said the little red hen. “Will you take this wheat to the mill and have it made into flour?”

“No, too much work,” said the duck and the goose.

“Then I will take it to mill,” said the little red hen. And she went to the mill with it. She came home from the mill with the flour, and she said, “Here, duck; here goose; will you make some bread with this flour?”



"No, too much work," said the duck and the goose.

"Then I will make the bread," said the little red hen. And she made the bread. It was very good.

Then she said, "Here, duck; here, goose. Will you eat some of this bread?"

"Oh, yes," said the duck. "Oh, yes," said the goose. "We will."

"Oh, no," said the little red hen. You will not. It would be too much work. I will eat it."

She did eat it. She ate it all. They got none.



# Jack and the Beanstalk

## Traditional Folk Tale

### The Beans are Planted

In the days of King Alfred, a poor woman lived in a country village in England. She had an only son, Jack, who was a good-natured, lazy boy. She was too easy with him. She never made him work, and soon there was nothing left but their cow. Then the mother began to weep and to think that she had brought up her boy very badly.

“Lazy boy!” she said. “You have at last made me a beggar. I have no money to buy a bit of bread. We cannot starve. “We must sell the cow, and then what shall we do?”

At first Jack felt very badly and wished he had done better. Soon he began to think what fun it would be to sell the cow. He begged his mother to let him go with the cow to the nearest village. She was not very willing. She did not believe Jack knew enough to sell a cow, but at last she gave in.

Jack went off with the cow. He had not gone far when he met a butcher.

“Where are you going with your cow?” asked the butcher.

“I am going to sell it,” said Jack. The butcher held his hat in his hand and shook it. Jack looked into the hat and saw some strange looking beans. The butcher saw him eye them.

He knew how silly Jack was, so he said to him, “Well, if you wish to sell your cow, sell her to me. I will give you all these beans for her.”

Jack thought this a fine bargain. He gave the butcher the cow and took the beans. He ran all the way home and could hardly wait to reach the house. He called out to his mother to see what he had received for the cow.

When the poor woman saw only a few beans, she burst into tears. She was so disgusted that she threw the beans out of the window. She did not even cook them for supper. They had nothing else to eat, and they went to bed hungry.

Jack awoke early the next morning and thought it very dark. He went to the window, and he could hardly see out of it. It was covered with something green. He ran downstairs and into the garden. There he saw a strange sight. The beans had taken root and grew toward the clouds. The stalks were as thick as those of trees. They were wound about each other. It was like a green ladder, and Jack at once wished to climb to the top.

He ran in to tell his mother, but she begged him not to climb the beanstalk. She did not know what would happen. She was afraid to have him go. Who ever saw such beanstalks before?

Jack had set his heart on climbing, and he told his mother not to be afraid. He would soon see what it all meant. So up he climbed. He climbed for hours. He went higher and higher, and at last he reached the top.



## Jack and the Beanstalk

### Jack Captures a Hen

At the top of the stalk, Jack looked around. He had never seen such a place before. There was not a tree or plant; there was no house or shed. He could not see a living person. Jack sat down on one of the stones. He wished he were at home again. He thought of his mother. He was hungry, and he did not know where to get anything to eat. He walked and walked, and he hoped he might see a house. He walked all day. When the sun set he arrived at a giant's house. He went up to it, and he saw a plain woman by the door. This was the giant's wife. Jack spoke to her and asked her if she would give him something to eat and a place where he could sleep.

"What!" she said. "Do you not know? My husband is a giant. He is away now, but he will be back soon. Sometimes he walks fifty miles in a day to see if he can find a man or a boy to capture. He will jail you if he finds you here."

Jack was afraid, but he would not quit. He asked the giant's wife to hide him somewhere in the house. She was a kind woman, so she led him in. They went through a great hall and some large rooms. They came to a dark passage, and they went through it. They came to a room where a table was set. Jack sat down and began to eat. He was very hungry and soon forgot his fears. While he was eating, there came a loud knock at the outside door. It was so loud that the whole house shook. The giant's wife turned pale.

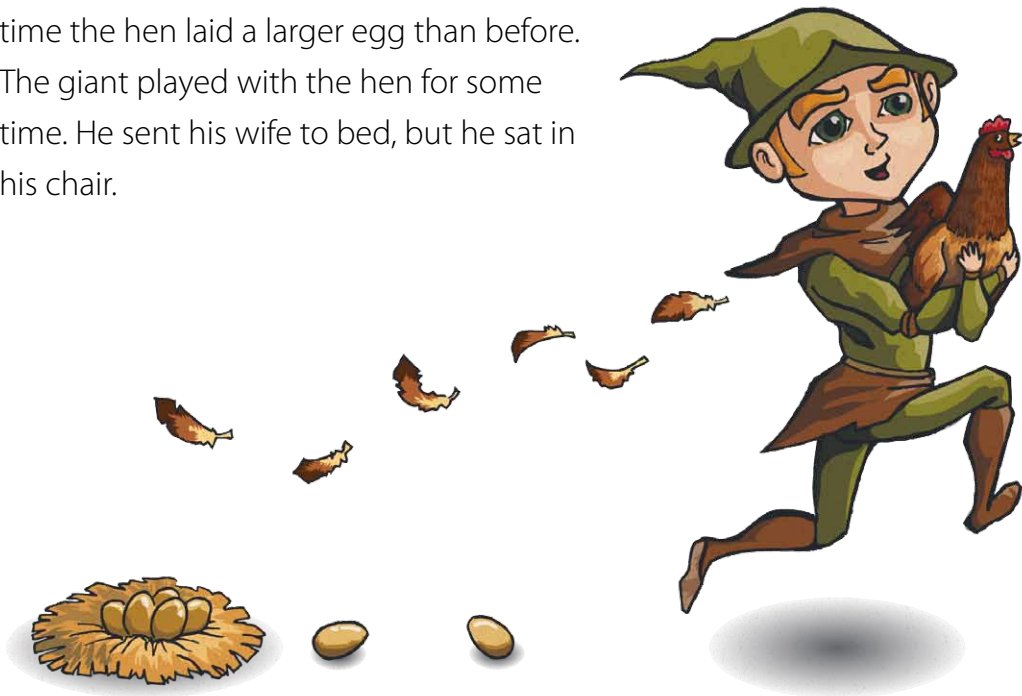
“What shall I do?” she cried. “It is the giant. He will kill you and me too! What shall I do?”

“Hide me in the oven,” said Jack. There was no fire under it, and Jack lay in the oven and looked out. The giant came in and scolded his wife, and then he sat down, ate, and relaxed for a long time. Jack thought he never would finish.

At last the Giant leaned back in his chair and called out in a loud voice, “Bring me my hen!” His wife brought a beautiful hen and placed it on the table.

“Lay!” roared the giant, and the hen laid an egg of solid gold.

“Lay another!” The hen laid another. Each time the hen laid a larger egg than before. The giant played with the hen for some time. He sent his wife to bed, but he sat in his chair.



# Tree Squirrel



Tree squirrels are common animals found throughout the world. Only the continents of Australia and Antarctica do not have tree squirrels. There are over 300 varieties of squirrels, but tree squirrels are the most common of them. Tree squirrels come in a variety of colors including red, brown, and gray.

These squirrels have proven very adaptable at living in a variety of settings. They have found ways to live in cities and other places with few trees. However, their natural homes are in trees. They have also become

comfortable eating foods gathered from humans as well as nature. A squirrel's natural diet consists of nuts, seeds, berries, and tree bark. A squirrel will accept food presented by people. Squirrels are extremely clever at gathering food. They especially like to find ways to eat out of bird feeders.

Squirrels have sharp teeth that continue to grow throughout their lives. This explains why they constantly gnaw and chew on objects. This is a way to keep their teeth short. They have only four front teeth. Squirrels also have an excellent sense of smell. This enables them to find the food that they have buried. A squirrel's body is between 8 to 10 inches in length. The tail of a squirrel is about the same length. A squirrel uses its tail to balance as it runs across trees and fences. The tail can also be used as an umbrella to shade the squirrel from the sun or rain. Additionally a squirrel can use its tail as a flag giving signals to other squirrels. A squirrel also communicates through a series of chirps. The chirps are used to greet other squirrels or to warn them of danger.

Sometimes squirrels can cause problems for their human neighbors. Some squirrels chew through wires causing electrical problems. Other squirrels dig up flower bulbs or seeds which have been planted. This creates landscape problems for people. Some squirrels make their way into house attics. They make comfortable nests in these attics. Squirrels and people have learned to live together. However, people need to make sure that their homes are protected from these common neighborhood creatures.