



JACK & PHIL
SLAYERS OF
GIANTS
INC.

Study Guide

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By Charles Way

Produced by special arrangement
with Plays For Young Audiences



Columbus Children's
THEATRE

About the Fairytale

“Jack & Phil Slayers of Giants INC.” is a contemporary take on the classic English fairytale, “Jack and the Beanstalk”. This story was officially published in the 1800s, however, some researchers believe the story originated more than 5,000 years ago. The tale follows a young boy, Jack, as he and his mother struggle to make ends meet. One day, Jack meets a man who offers him magic beans. Jack plants the beans and overnight a giant beanstalk grows in his yard. When he climbs up the beanstalk he finds a castle that belongs to a giant. Within the castle Jack finds items that would help his family during their time of need. The contemporary version of this story focuses on themes of friendship, along with modern fame and greed.

About Charles Way

Charles Way is an English playwright from Devon. Theatre is an aspect of his life that has been constant, and he is extremely passionate about theatre for children. He wrote, “In the theatre one can reshape the world for a time and examine it from different points of view in a safe and socially cohesive environment”. Not only does Way write stage plays, but he has also written plays to be produced on the television and the radio. His work has presented him with several awards including the Distinguished Play award from American Alliance for Theatre and Education (2013), Best Play for Children and Young People by The Writer’s Guild of Great Britain (1996), Children’s Award from the Arts Council England (2004), and The German Children’s Theatre Award (2010). Throughout his career, he has written 52 plays, with 21 being written for children and young adult casts.

Student Preparation

- Have students do the activities in this guide to help them learn more about the background, and get excited about the show.
- Discuss the theatre etiquette with students.
- Talk about what show the students are going to see. JACK and Phil, Slayers of Giants Inc. is a play with lots of dialogue and audience participation. Discuss how plays and musicals are different from one another.

Theatre Etiquette

Live theatre is very exciting and maybe a new experience for many audience members. These are the general guidelines we enforce for our performances:

- Arrive on time
- For the safety of the actors and the audience, please stay seated for the performance
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins
- The use of electronic devices (including cameras and recording devices) is strictly prohibited
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance.
- If you like something that you see, you may clap or laugh - it shows the actors that you like what they are doing!

Suggested Reading

- It's Not Jack and the Beanstalk by Josh Funk, Picture Book
- Of Giants and Ice by Shelby Bach, Fiction
- Giants Beware! by Jorge Aguirre, Fiction
- Jack and the Beanstalk by E. Nesbit, Non-Fiction

Theatre Location

The Park Street Theatre
512 Park Street
Columbus, OH 43215

What's Involved In Putting On A Show?

Performances at Columbus Children's Theatre are a result of groups of people working together. Many people know and understand what an actor is—the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know there are many more people working hard “behind-the-scenes” to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people,

The Director

- Responsible for the overall concept of the show—they guide a vision to create a world on stage in which the show may exist.
- Works with the actors to help them interpret their character and move on stage.
- Works closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props, - basically, everything you see on the stage.

The Designers

- Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the lights, scenery, costumes, make-up, sound and special effects. They make the world on stage come to life.

The Stage Manager

- Organizes every aspect of the production—schedules, resources and communications.
- In charge of making everything run smoothly from rehearsal to performance.
- Guarantee the same great performance every single time, whether you attend a show during the school day, or with your family in the evening or on the weekend.

The Crew

- There are a lot of different crew people. Some help build the scenery, costumes, and props you see on the stage, and some are working backstage during the show helping actors change costumes, moving pieces of scenery on and off, or operating the lights and sound.

The Cast

- Cast is what we call all of the actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience.

The Audience

- This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all meant to share a story with you.

Compound Words use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words. (e.g., birdhouse, lighthouse, housefly; bookshelf, notebook, bookmark).

In the story of Jack and Phil, a beanstalk grows from a magic bean. But what is a beanstalk? Let's begin by looking at the word itself:

BEANSTALK

Notice how the word beanstalk is a combination of two words? BEAN and STALK. Using the definitions of "bean" and "stalk," what can we predict about a "beanstalk"?

This is called a compound word. Compound words are two smaller words that when they are put together, they make one new word. The bigger, combined word has a different or unique meaning from the two words on their own. Let's try looking at some other compound words. What can the two individual words tell us, or help us predict, about the compound word?

SEA + SHELL = _____

SEA + SHORE = _____

WATER + MELON = _____

Now let's try the opposite. Read the compound word and divide it into two individual words:

Sunlight = _____

Zookeeper = _____

Butterfly = _____

Toothbrush = _____

When Jack and Phil climb down the beanstalk, reporters are waiting to ask questions. As a class activity, imagine you are writing a newspaper article for the local paper. Begin with a headline. This is the topic, and it also makes the reader interested in the rest of the article. For example, which is a better headline about a gardening contest?

Local Gardening Contest Fun for Everyone -or- Killer Flowers Take Home First Place.

Following the headline, include the most important details of the event or scenario first:

- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- Why
- How

Who is the article about? When did the event take place? Where did the event take place? There are many questions you can ask. It is key that the answers to those questions highlight the main idea and key details, such as a giant beanstalk appeared overnight.