

APPENDIX 2.5 Reader's Theater Fairy Tale Scripts

Jack and the Beanstalk

Parts: Jack, Mother, Giant, Giant's Wife, Reader 1, Reader 2

Jack: Mother! Look what I got at the market when I sold our cow! Four magical beans!

Mother: Shame on you, Jack! These are plain old lima beans.

Reader 1: Jack's mother was so angry that she threw the beans out the window. Jack went to bed without any supper. The next morning when he woke up, there was something sticking into his window. It was a giant leaf! Jack ran outside and saw a giant beanstalk growing where the beans had fallen.

Jack: I think I'll just climb it to see where it goes.

Reader 2: Jack climbed the beanstalk all the way to the top and came out into a world of giants. There was a huge castle in front of him, and he saw the giant's wife standing at the door.

Jack: Please, ma'am, could you spare some food for breakfast? I haven't eaten anything since yesterday.

Reader 1: The woman was kind enough to feed him, but as Jack finished his breakfast, a loud knock came on the front door. It shook the whole castle.

Giant's Wife: Oh no! My husband is returning, and he will be very angry. You must hide in the teapot!

Reader 2: The giant's wife quickly popped Jack into the teapot and opened the door.

Giant: Fee fi fo fum! I smell the blood of an Englishman! Eee hi oh ho! I will never let him go!

Giant's Wife: What nonsense! It's just your dinner you smell.

Reader 2: The giant sat down to his dinner of a whole ox and gobbled it all up.

Giant: Wife, bring me the little brown hen!

Reader 1: The giant's wife brought their little brown hen inside and put it on the table.

Giant: Lay! Lay! Lay!

Reader 1: The hen laid three huge golden eggs.

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Giant's Wife: That will do for today.

Reader 2: While the giant stretched out in his chair to go to sleep and his wife busied herself with the housekeeping, Jack crept quietly out of the teapot. He grabbed the little brown hen and ran for the door. The hen began to crow just as he escaped, and he climbed as fast as he could down the beanstalk to his mother.

Jack: Mother! I need an axe, quick!

Reader 1: Jack chopped down the beanstalk so the giant would never find them, and he and his mother lived happily ever after with the money from the hen's golden eggs.

The Princess and the Pea

Parts: King, Queen, Prince, Princess, Reader 1, Reader 2

Reader 1: As the storm thundered outside, a knock came on the castle door. A young woman was standing outside in the pouring rain, wet from head to toe.

Princess: Hello, Your Highnesses. I am a princess from a distant land, and I am terribly lost in this storm. Might I stay the night in your warm castle?

King: Of course you may, young lady. Enter.

Reader 2: Although the king trusted her, his wife was suspicious. She wanted to find a wife for her son,

the prince. The prince could only marry a real princess, and the queen needed to find out for sure.

Queen: My dear king, I do not believe that this girl dressed in wet rags could be a princess. I am going to find out for myself.

King: How on earth will you do that?

Queen: I will stack twenty mattresses on top of each other, and under the bottom one I will put a little pea. If she can feel the pea through twenty mattresses, she is a real princess.

Reader 1: The queen made the girl a bed exactly as she said, and everyone went to sleep. The next

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day the storm was gone and it was sunny and warm outside.

Prince: Who is the girl who came here last night?

King: She is a princess who may become your wife.

Queen: We will see about that.

Reader 2: Finally, the princess arrived to eat breakfast.

Queen: Dear girl, did you sleep well?

Princess: Not at all! There was something hard and uncomfortable in my bed. I am black and blue all over from tossing and turning all night!

Queen: How wonderful!

King: You can marry our son!

Prince: Would you like to go for a walk in the beautiful weather?

Reader 1: The prince and princess fell in love and lived happily ever after.

The Little Red Hen

Parts: Hen, Pig, Duck, Cat, Reader 1, Reader 2

Reader 1: The little red hen cut the corn that she had planted all by herself. She took out all the grains of corn from their husks, and soon she had many sacks full.

Hen: Who will help me take this corn to the mill so it can be ground into flour?

Pig: Not I.

Duck: Not I.

Cat: Not I.

Hen: Very well. I will take the corn to the mill all by myself.

Reader 2: So the little red hen took the corn to the mill and asked the miller to grind it into flour. Soon the miller sent the sack of flour to the farm.

APPENDIX 2.5 Reader's Theater Fairy Tale Scripts (*continued*)

Hen: Who will help me make this flour into bread?

Pig: Not I.

Duck: Not I.

Cat: Not I.

Hen: Very well. I will make the flour into bread all by myself.

Reader 1: So the little red hen went into her kitchen to mix the flour into dough. She put it in the oven to bake, and soon there was a lovely smell of fresh, hot

bread. The pig, the duck, and the cat all wandered into the house, curious about the delicious smell.

Hen: Who will help me eat the bread?

Pig: I will!

Duck: I will!

Cat: I will!

Hen: Oh no, you won't. I planted the seed, cut the corn, took it to the mill, and made the flour into bread all by myself. Now I will eat the bread all by myself.