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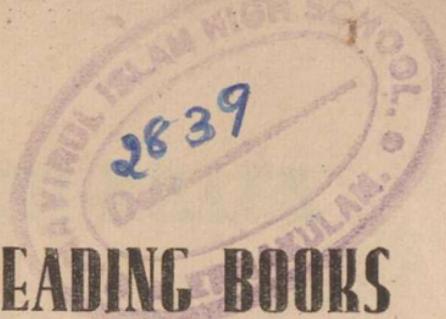
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FIRST LEVEL PRACTICE READERS BOOK II

JACK THE GIANT KILLER





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**FIRST LEVEL PRACTICE  
READERS**

BOOK II

**JACK THE GIANT-KILLER**

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# JACK THE GIANT-KILLER

## 1. CORMORAN

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When Arthur was the king of England, there lived a little boy called Jack. His father was a farmer who lived in Cornwall. There was a hill near Jack's house. A giant called Cormoran lived on the hill.

Cormoran was big a giant who was very tall and strong. Every-day he came down from the hill and carried off



cows and sheep from the village. One day he carried off Jack's cows and sheep. Then Jack said, "I'll go and kill Cormoran."



He went to the hill at night and dug a deep pit at the foot of the hill. Then he put some sticks over it and covered it with grass. The next morning at sunrise, Jack took his horn and blew it as loudly as he could.

The giant was still in bed. He grew angry when he heard the sound. "Who wakes me with his horn?" cried the giant. When he saw Jack, he grew more angry.

“So it was you, my little boy,” he said and ran down the hill. Then he fell into the pit and Jack cut off his head with his axe.

The people of Cornwall were glad when Jack killed the giant. They made a beautiful belt and gave it to Jack. On it were written in gold these words, ‘This is the brave Cornishman who killed the giant Cormoran.’

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. Jack was a——boy. (little, strong, tall)
2. Cormoran was a big——  
(man, giant, animal)
3. Jack made a——at the foot of the hill.  
(room, pit, road)

4. The giant fell into the pit and Jack—  
his head. (took, cut off, killed)
- 

## 2. BLUNDERBORE

Cormoran had a brother called Blunderbore. He too was a big giant. He lived in a big forest not far away from Cornwall. He was very angry when he heard that his brother was killed. "I'll go and kill that little boy, Jack," said he. But he did not go to Jack's village to kill him.

One day Jack had to go to Wales. He set out in the morning

and walked many miles before noon. Then he came to a forest. As he was tired, he lay down under a tree and fell fast asleep.



Now, it was in this forest that Blunderbore lived. At that time the giant was walking about in the forest. He saw a little boy sleeping

under a tree. There was something shining on his belt. So the giant looked down and read it. Then he learnt that Jack was the boy who had killed his brother. At once he caught hold of Jack and said, "Are you the boy who killed the giant? Now, I will take you home and eat you up."

The giant carried Jack to his house and shut him up in a room above the gate-way. "I am going out to call my friend," said he to Jack. "We will come back before long and eat you up." Then he locked up the room and went away. Jack was very much afraid. "The giant will surely kill me when

he comes back," said Jack to himself.

But Jack did not lose hope. "I must find a way of escape" he said. As he looked round the room he saw some rope lying under the table. It was thick and strong. He took the rope and made two large loops at the ends. "I will put it round the giants' necks when they come in," said he as he tied the rope to the roof.

Jack stood at the window waiting for the giant to come home. Before long he saw Blunderbore coming up with another giant. When they were at the gate, Jack put the loops over their heads. When the rope was round their

necks, he pulled it hard. In a few minutes the two giants were killed. Then Jack climbed down the rope and cut off the heads of Blunderbore and his friend.

He saw a bunch of keys on the giant's belt. Jack took the keys and opened all the rooms. In one room he saw three beautiful women. They were weeping when Jack opened the room. Blunderbore was going to kill them and eat them up the next day. "Fair ladies," said Jack, "I have killed the giant. You are now free." He gave them the keys of the house and then went off to Wales.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. Cormoran had a brother called — —  
(Jack, Arthur, Blunderbore)
2. He shut up Jack in a room above the—  
(hall, gate-way, office)
3. Jack made two——at the end of a rope.  
(cuts, ties, loops)
4. He slipped it round the——of the giants  
and killed them. (hands, necks, feet)
5. He set the ladies—— (free, home, out).

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### 3. THE TWO-HEADED GIANT

Jack set out for Wales and on the way he came to a big house. He had been walking for a long time and was very hungry.

"I will go in," said he, "and stay here for the night." So he opened the door and walked in. Then he saw a big giant with two heads, sitting in the room. Jack turned round to go away but the giant stopped him.

"Come in," said he in a very friendly way. "and stay with me for the night." So Jack had to stay there for the night. The giant gave him food and then took him to a room. "That is your bed," said he, "Now, Good night." "Good night," said Jack.

Jack went to bed but could not sleep. As he lay awake, he heard a footstep outside. "Sleep

well now, for in the morning you shall die," said the voice. "Before the sun rises, I will kill you with this club."

It was the giant. When Jack heard him, he said, "We shall see who is going to die." So he rose up from his bed and looked round. There was a big piece of wood in the room. He took it and put it on the bed. Then he covered it up with the bed-clothes and sat down under the cot.

Presently the door opened and the giant came in. He had a big club in his hand. "Jack is asleep," said the giant, "and he shall not wake again." So saying

he lifted up the club and gave three blows. "He is dead," said the giant to himself. "I shall cook him and eat him in the morning."



But when the sun rose Jack opened the room and came out. "Good morning," said he to the giant. "Good morning" said the giant. "Had you good sleep last night?" "I slept well" answered Jack, "but a rat ran across my bed and gave me three blows with its tail. It woke me up, but I soon fell asleep again." "Jack must be a very strong man," said the giant to himself. "I gave him three

blows, with my big club. But he says it was only a rat."

Soon it was time for breakfast. Jack took a bag and kept it under his coat. "The giant must think that I eat a good lot," said he to himself. "So I will fill the bag with the food he gives me." Jack and the giant sat down to eat. There were big plates filled with bread, fruit and pudding on the table. The giant ate a good lot. When the giant was not looking, Jack put all the food in the bag. The giant did not see it. So he thought, "Jack eats a lot. That is why he is so very strong."

When breakfast was over Jack stood up and asked, "Can you cut yourself open as I can?" Then he took a knife and cut the bag open. Out came all the bread, the fruit and the pudding from it. "Can you do it as I did?" asked Jack again. "I know you can't". The giant did not want to be beaten by Jack. "Oh yes," said he, "I can." Then he took a big knife and cut a hole in his body. Next moment he fell down dead.

Now, the two-headed giant had four wonderful things in his house. One was a coat and if a man put it on, no one could see him. So it was called the 'invisible

coat.' Then there was a pair of shoes. He who puts them on could go anywhere he liked faster than the wind. There was a magic sword which could cut anything. There was also a cap which could tell all the secrets in the world. Jack took the keys and looked into every room and every box. At last he found the magic coat, cap, shoes and sword in a box. Jack was filled with joy when he got them all.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1 Then Jack came to the house of a——

(king, two-headed giant, farmer)

2. The giant tried to kill him with his ———  
(sword, club, gun)
3. Jack made him cut a hole in ——— and he died.  
(the tree, his body, coat)
4. Jack got a magic ———, ———, ——— and ——— from  
the giant's house.  
(cap, hat, knife, sword, coat, shirt, shoes  
and ring).

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## 4. THUNDERDELL

Jack put on the magic shoes and flew over hills and forests. At last he came to a big hill. There was a castle on the side of the hill. A big giant was sitting at the door. He was bigger than all the other giants that Jack had

seen. His eyes were like fire and his mouth was like a cave. "I must kill this giant," said Jack to himself.

Jack put on his magic coat and ran up to the giant. 'Wake up', cried he standing behind the giant. The giant jumped up and looked round. But he saw no one, for Jack had put on his magic coat. "Look here," cried Jack as the giant turned round. Then Jack ran to the other side and cried, "Here." In this way the giant turned round and round. Yet he could not see Jack. At last he



grew angry and took up his big club. Then Jack gave him a blow with his magic sword. At once the giant fell dead on the ground.

Then Jack took the keys from the giant's belt and went into the castle. There he saw many men and women whom the giant had shut up. "Are you also to be killed and eaten up by the giant?" they asked him. "No," answered he. "I have come to set you free." Then he opened the door and set them free.

Now, this giant had a brother called Thunderdell. When he heard that his brother was killed, he grew angry and ran to the

castle. Some men saw him coming. They ran to Jack and said, "Thunderdell is coming. What shall we do now?" Then Jack answered, "Let him come and then you can see how Jack kills a giant."

There was a deep moat round the castle and there was a bridge over it. Jack ordered his men to cut off the ends of the bridge. So they cut the ends off. If a man walked on it, the bridge would break down and he would fall. Then Jack put on his magic shoes and waited for the giant.

Presently the giant came up. "Fe-fi-fo-fum" cried he. "I smell a man and I will catch him and eat

him up." "Catch me if you can," answered Jack. The giant ran after him, but the magic shoes carried Jack faster than he. In this way they ran round the castle three times. At last Jack ran across the bridge. But when the giant jumped upon it, it broke down and he fell into the pit. Then Jack cut off his head with his magic sword. All the men and women were filled with joy and they said, "Jack is a great hero."

TEST. Complete the following sentences —

1. Jack came to a — —  
(forest, castle, girl)
2. There was a — — in the castle.  
(prince, giant, girl)
3. Jack killed the giant with his — — sword.  
(magic, big, sharp)

4. The giant had a brother called—  
(Blunderbore, Cormisorn, Thunderdell)
  5. Thunderdell tried to kill —  
(the giant, Jack)
  6. Thunderdell jumped on the — and it  
broke down. (castle, hill, bridge)
  7. Jack cut off his head with his magic—  
(axe, sword)
  8. He set many men and women—  
(out, down, free)
  9. They said that Jack was a great—  
(man, hero, giant)
- 

## 5. THE DUKE'S DAUGHTER

Next day Jack set out again and the magic shoes carried him over hills and forests till he came to a mountain. There was an old house near by. Jack went to the

door and asked, "May I come in?" "Come in; and welcome, my son," said an old man. He came out to open the door and let Jack in.

When the old man saw that he was Jack the giant-killer he was very glad. "You are thrice welcome," said he, "for I want you to help me." Then he told Jack that a big giant and a wicked magician lived on the mountain. They brought brave men and beautiful women into their castle and changed them into animals. "Some time ago, they caught hold of the Duke's daughter and carried her off to the castle. But she was so

good and beautiful that they could not do her any harm. At last they changed her into a white doe and even now she is in the garden of the giant."



Jack grew angry when he heard this. "I will go at once and kill the giant" said he. So the old man told him how to get into the castle. "Two big dragons stand at the castle gate." said he. "They are so strong that no one can kill them. But if you get in, you can easily kill the giant. There is a silver horn in the castle. Take it

and blow it three times. Then the magic power of the magician will be broken and you can drive him out."

Then Jack put on the magic shoes and flew into the castle. He saw the fierce dragons at the gate. Their eyes were burning like fire and smoke came out of their noses. Jack put on the magic coat before he came to the gate. So the dragons could not see him and he entered the castle safely. Then he saw the silver horn. Under it was written these words, "Who blows this horn shall kill the giant. The magician shall lose all his power when you blow the silver horn."

So Jack took the horn and blew it three times.

When the giant heard the sound he jumped up and ran to the spot. But he could not see Jack as he had put on his magic coat. Then Jack took the magic sword and cut off the giant's head. Then he went in to look for the magician. But the wicked man knew that he had lost his power. So he jumped upon the dragon and flew away from the mountain. No body ever saw him after this.

When Jack blew the horn three times, all those whom the giant had changed into animals, became men and women again.

The white doe was turned into a beautiful girl.



King Arthur heard the story and came to the castle. He gave the girl to Jack and she became his wife.

The king made Jack a knight and gave him the castle to live in.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. A giant and a — lived on the mountain.  
(duke, knight, magician)
  2. They changed the Duke's daughter into a white—— (bird, cat, doe)
  3. Jack blew the horn—— times.  
(two, three, four)
  4. He killed the giant, drove away the dragon and——the girl.  
(killed, married)
-

## FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences:—

1. Jack was the son of a ——  
(king, farmer, duke)
2. He killed Cormoran for carrying off  
his —— (father, cows, dog)
3. So Jack was called the ——  
(brave, strong, giant-killer)
4. Jack put a rope round the neck of ——  
and killed him.  
(the dog, Blunderbore, Cormoran)
5. Jack killed the two-headed giant ——  
(i) by cutting off his head.  
(ii) by making him cut a hole in his  
body.
6. Jack got the invisible —— and magic  
—— from the giant.  
(pen, shoes, coat, book)

7. Thunderdell fell into the moat and  
Jack cut off his——

(nose, head, ears)

8. Jack killed the giant and drove off  
the magician and married the ——  
daughter

(giant's, duke's, king's)

good

good



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