

Dialogue Sample from JACK AND THE GIANT BEANSTALK

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[The GIANT's giant CHICKEN is sitting on its nest, trying to lay a golden egg, coaxed by the GIANT's WIFE. JACK is hiding nearby.]

GIANT'S WIFE

No, no, this won't do.
It's time to see an egg from you.

JACK

(Hiding)
I've got to find the dungeon.

GIANT'S WIFE

Near the dungeon, he's resting,
having a nap.

JACK

The giant is sleeping near the dungeon? Now what am I to do?!
Wait ... wait ...

GIANT'S WIFE

He won't wake up happy
if there's no golden
egg in his lap.

JACK

Golden egg? Well, that's worth waiting for.

GIANT'S WIFE

Chick, chick, chicken? It's time!

CHICKEN

No, no, not again. Please, no! I got to have a day off. I'm a chicken. I'm not a machine. Please. This is flesh and feathers here. I need a vacation. Ask him if I can have a vacation!

GIANT'S WIFE

You ask him.

CHICKEN

I can't. I'm chicken! Why, why was I born a chicken? I could have been a dog, a cat, a monkey - free in the jungle, swinging from branch to branch. Free! Free!

GIANT'S WIFE

You're a chicken. Now lay an egg.

CHICKEN

So, what if I just refuse? Put my chicken feet down.

GIANT'S WIFE

You'd make a nice dumpling stew and a feather pillow, too.

(CHICKEN folds wings defiantly.)

GIANT'S WIFE (Continued)

Chicken fricassee?! Chicken a la king?! Chicken pot pie?! Does that inspire you?!

CHICKEN

All right! All right! This takes so much concentration. The layman can't understand. Lay an egg, lay an egg. It sounds so easy. I'd love to lie down and lay an egg. Or lay down and lie an egg - whatever! I'm not lying! It's not easy.

(GIANT yawning and grumbling sound)

GIANT'S WIFE

He's awake for heaven's sake and he's not happy!

(GIANT'S WIFE rushes off.)

CHICKEN

I can do it. I can do it! Think shiny! Think metal! Think chicken pot pie!!!

(Sound of slot machine paying off)

CHICKEN (Continued)

I did it! I did it! Another twenty-four hours safe from the stewpot!

(JACK comes out of hiding.)

JACK

(Awed)

You did it. You laid a golden egg!

CHICKEN

Who are you? Don't touch that egg!

JACK

(Touching egg)
It's gold.

CHICKEN

Of course, it's gold. What'd you expect - an omelet?

(JACK picks up egg.)

CHICKEN (Continued)

Put that egg down! I got to deliver this egg to a cranky giant, and I don't want to ruffle his feathers.

JACK

(Overcome)

This golden egg would take care of my mother for the rest of her days.

CHICKEN

Look, boy, don't get me squawking! Put the egg back! Fowl play! Fowl play!

JACK

You can lay another. Please, chicken. It's for my mother. She's had a hard life. Her husband - gone ... me to raise alone with nothing, nothing. It's for my mother, chicken. My mother ...

CHICKEN

(Moved)

Stop, stop pluck plucking the strings of my heart. I had a mother, too, you know! When I was a little egg, she kept me warm. Then I hatched and my mom provided for me. Three worms a day and all the grubs I could eat. Pluck, pluck. I'm going out on a limb here. Take the egg, take the egg! ... for your mother.

(GIANT grumbles.)

CHICKEN (Continued)

He's coming!

JACK

I am grateful, chicken. I won't forget. I'll be back tonight to find my father and I'll free you from the giant, too.

CHICKEN

Don't worry about me, kid. I'll wing it. Now fly the coop - to your mother.

JACK

Thank you, chicken.

(JACK exits. Sounds of GIANT grumbling in a very bad mood.)

CHICKEN

Out of the frying pan into the fire!

GIANT'S VOICE

Fi, fi, fo, fum!

CHICKEN

Quiet! I'm trying to concentrate! You want an egg, don't you? Pluck, pluck. Think shiny! Pluck, pluck! Think metal! Pluck, pluck! Think chicken flambe!

(Sound of slot machine paying off)

CHICKEN (Continued)

I did it! Twins!!!