

**'Jim and the Beanstalk** by Raymond Briggs

Age 5 – 7

Published by: Puffin Books

**Synopsis and reasons for selection:**

*Jim finds a beanstalk growing outside his window one morning and follows his famous predecessor up to the top. Here he finds a toothless, short-sighted, bald, grumpy giant. Jim sees to it that the giant is fitted out with new spectacles, false teeth and a glowing curly red wig. However, the giant now feels like new again and ready to eat a 'fried-boy sandwich'...*

**Raymond Briggs brings humour, excitement and a delightful freshness to this fairy tale. Young children will enjoy the character of the grumpy, old giant, the repeating structure of the story and the mischievous twist at the end!**

*The questions in this guide are merely intended as supplementary prompts – allow the children to ask questions, explore and read longer sections of the book independently and initiate discussions. They will be much more engaged and enthused.*

***Because the novel study guide is to be used to aid discussion between the adult and children, we feel there isn't a necessity for an answer booklet.***

***The guide provides questions and spaces for the children to record their ideas and answers but is not intended to be used as a test.***

As there are many lovely pictures in this book it is important to invite the children to examine them carefully. You could encourage the children to use a magnifying glass or photocopy and enlarge a certain part of an image. Throughout the book, encourage the children to investigate:

- Page layout
- How the illustrations are framed
- The use of colour
- How the text is written – some words are in capitals and some are written at an angle, across the page
- The facial expressions of the characters

## **Student questions**

### **Before reading**

What is the title of the book?

Which characters can you see on the front cover?

Who might the little girl be? What might she be doing?

What sort of book might it be?

Who is the author/illustrator?

Who might like this book?

### **Pages 1-3**

V: Which word on page 1 means the same as 'big' or 'huge'?

I: What might Jim be thinking and feeling when he sees the plant outside his window?

E: Do you think it is sensible for Jim to climb the plant?

P: Where do you think the plant will lead?

### **Pages 4 and 5**

E: Why do you think the illustrations on these pages are in black and white? What impact does it have?

V: Can you think of three words to describe the plant?

P: Do you think the plant will break and Jim will fall back down? Yes, no or maybe?

### **Pages 6 and 7**

R: What does Jim see when he reaches the top of the plant?

R: Jim hopes they have toast for breakfast at the castle. True or false?

## Pages 8 and 9

R: Who answers the castle door?

I: Why do you think Jim waits a long time for the door to open?

R: Why does the giant say that Jim is safe from him?

## Pages 10 and 11

R: What does the giant have for breakfast?

R: Who is Jack? What has he done?

R: Jack stole...(Tick three)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Beer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Father's gold
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden hen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden harp

R: Why can't the giant read his poetry books?

## Pages 12 – 15

E: Why doesn't the giant understand what glasses are?

E: How would you explain what glasses are and what they're for to someone who didn't know?

P: Do you think Jim will be able to get the glasses? What will he make them from?

E: Why does Jim measure the giant's head?

R: What does Jim use to measure the giant's head?

### **Pages 16 – 19**

R: What does the giant give Jim for the glasses?

I: What do you think Jim's mother might be thinking and feeling when she sees Jim with the gold coin?

V: What is an 'oculist'?

E: Can you explain the joke 'the oculist could hardly believe his eyes' to a partner?

P: How do you think Jim will get the glasses to the giant?

### **Pages 20 – 25**

I: What might the people on the street be thinking and feeling when they see Jim with the glasses?

R: What poetry book does the giant read?

R: What does Jim agree to get for the giant next?

P: Do you think the giant is planning on eating Jim?

I: Why do you think the giant wants sharp teeth?

### **Pages 26 – 29**

I: What might the dentist be thinking and feeling when he sees the gold coin?

R: How does Jim get the teeth up the beanstalk?

E: Explain how we know that the giant is pleased with his new teeth?

## **Pages 30 – 35**

R: The giant used to have dark black hair before he went bald.  
True or false?

V: What is a wig?

P: Who do you think Jim will go to for the new wig?

V: Can you think of three words to describe the giant's new wig?

R: With the wig on, the giant thinks he looks a hundred years younger. True or false?

V: Can you find and copy a word on page 34 that means the same as 'smiling'?

P: Read to the end of page 35. What do you think the giant will do next?

## Pages 36 – 38

I: What might Jim be thinking and feeling when he hears the giant say, “Fried boy”?

P: What do you think Jim will do when he reaches the bottom of the beanstalk?

V: Find and copy a word on page 38 that means the same as ‘grabbing’.

V: The giant sends Jim a ‘Thank You’ letter but there are a lot of mistakes. Can you correct them?

E: Why do you think the giant sent Jim a coin?

E: Jim is a foolish, silly boy. Do you agree? Disagree? Why?

S: Order these events in the story from 1-5.

	He finds an old giant, living in a castle and agrees to get some new glasses for him.
	Jim wakes up to find a beanstalk outside his window and decides to climb it.
	Jim then gets the giant some new false teeth from the dentist.
	Jim runs away, down the beanstalk and then chops it down.
	Afterwards Jim gets a new wig for the giant and the giant decides to eat Jim.

## Activity Book

### Pages 1-3



Where do you think the plant will lead?


### Pages 4 and 5



Can you think of three words to describe the plant?


### Pages 6 and 7



Jim hopes they have toast for breakfast at the castle. True or false?

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### Pages 8 and 9



Who answers the castle door?


### Pages 10 and 11



Jack stole...(Tick three)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Beer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Father's gold
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden hen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden harp

### Pages 12 – 15



What does Jim use to measure the giant's head?


**Pages 16 – 19**



What do you think Jim's mother might be thinking and feeling when she sees Jim with the gold coin?

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What is an 'oculist'?


**Pages 20 – 25**



Why do you think the giant wants sharp teeth?


**Pages 26 – 29**



Explain how we know that the giant is pleased with his new teeth?


**Pages 30 – 35**



The giant used to have dark black hair before he went bald. True or false?


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With the wig on, the giant thinks he looks a hundred years younger. True or false?




Can you find and copy a word on page 34 that means the same as 'smiling'?

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Read to the end of page 35. What do you think the giant will do next?




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