



Adapted
by
William
Massolia

THE STINKY CHEESE MAN

& Other Fairly Stupid Tales



By Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Dear K- 2 Teachers:

The Stage the Page this year will feature the book *The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales* written by Jon Scieszka and illustrated by Lane Smith. It is a Caldecott Honor book and a New York Times Best Illustrated Book.

It is a wild, irreverent collection of reimagined fairy tales. Though this book is recommended for 4 years and older, it does require students to know some fairy tales. It is our hope that your ELA curriculum has taught fairy tales to your primary students. If not, we have included a short video book or song that will provide the children with background knowledge since our author takes pieces of one fairy tale and integrates it into another.

This book is 52 pages long, but you will note on the Interactive Read Aloud (IRA) lesson plan that is hyperlinked will not cover/read all 52 pages. We have adapted this book for our primary students as reflected in the IRA lesson plan. We have selected the following fairy tales to be covered: *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Hen*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Princess and the Pea*, *Frog Prince*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Cinderella*, and *The Gingerbread Man*. These stories were chosen based on the cast of characters that the Griffin Theatre Company will use for the play. Please follow the IRA lesson plan to teach the short lesson (10 -15 minutes) each day as it will help the children understand the play somewhat better (for example Little Red Riding Hood is Little Red Running Shorts in the book/play).

To access the lesson plans, you will need to go to the Appell Center for the Performing Arts website (appellcenter.org), then to the Learning and Engagement Section and select School Programs. The links for each grade level lesson plans and hyperlinks for specific videos and plans are within the documents.

We hope that you enjoy this delightful book with your students and that your children are excited about the upcoming play at the Appell Center for the Performing Arts.

SYNOPSIS:

Jack has a problem. He's successfully grown an enormous beanstalk, scaled to the top, and stolen a golden harp and gold-laying goose from the sleeping giant. However, the giant has now awoken, and Jack has scurried back down the beanstalk in the hopes of chopping it down before the giant can catch him. Jack could possibly even make a clean escape if only the Little Red Hen would quit harping on and on about all the lazy animals who refuse to help her with her wheat.

As the hungry giant catches up to Jack, Jack is forced to find ways to divert the giant's attention in order to avoid becoming an afternoon snack. When he is unable to find a suitable hiding place, Jack convinces the giant that a good story or two would be the perfect way to begin a meal.

And so it happens that Jack begins telling his own versions of some very familiar stories. With each tale the giant becomes more and more dissatisfied, and Jack becomes more and more determined to make it up to the giant by spinning a new yarn.

The giant (and the audience as well) is treated to some new treatments of some old favorites, such as a tortoise racing a hair-growing hare, Cinderumplestiltskin, Little Red Running Shorts, and a couple of princesses who kiss frogs and sleep on peas. Jack must not only tell tales as fast as he can for as long as he can to avoid being eaten, but he must also overcome the disturbances caused by that pesky, bread-obsessed Red Hen and a very smelly hero made of cheese.

The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales, both as a book and stage play, shares with its audience the joys of making stories your own and creating new possibilities for the familiar.

Cast of Characters

Jack, our main story teller and beanstalk adventurer

Giant, a very hungry and impatient listener

Little Red Hen, a grain-obsessed squawker

Cinderumplestiltskin, poor girl beset by an ugly step-family and a strange little man who spins straw into gold

Stinky Cheese Man, a smelly hero who loves to play tag

Little Red Running Shorts, the track star who must race the wolf

Frog Princess, princess duped by a somewhat "cute" frog

Pea Princess, a beautiful young girl who gets an awful night's sleep

The characters used in the play are the **ONLY** stories that will be used from the book. All stories do not need to be read as seen in the Interactive Read Aloud lessons for each day.