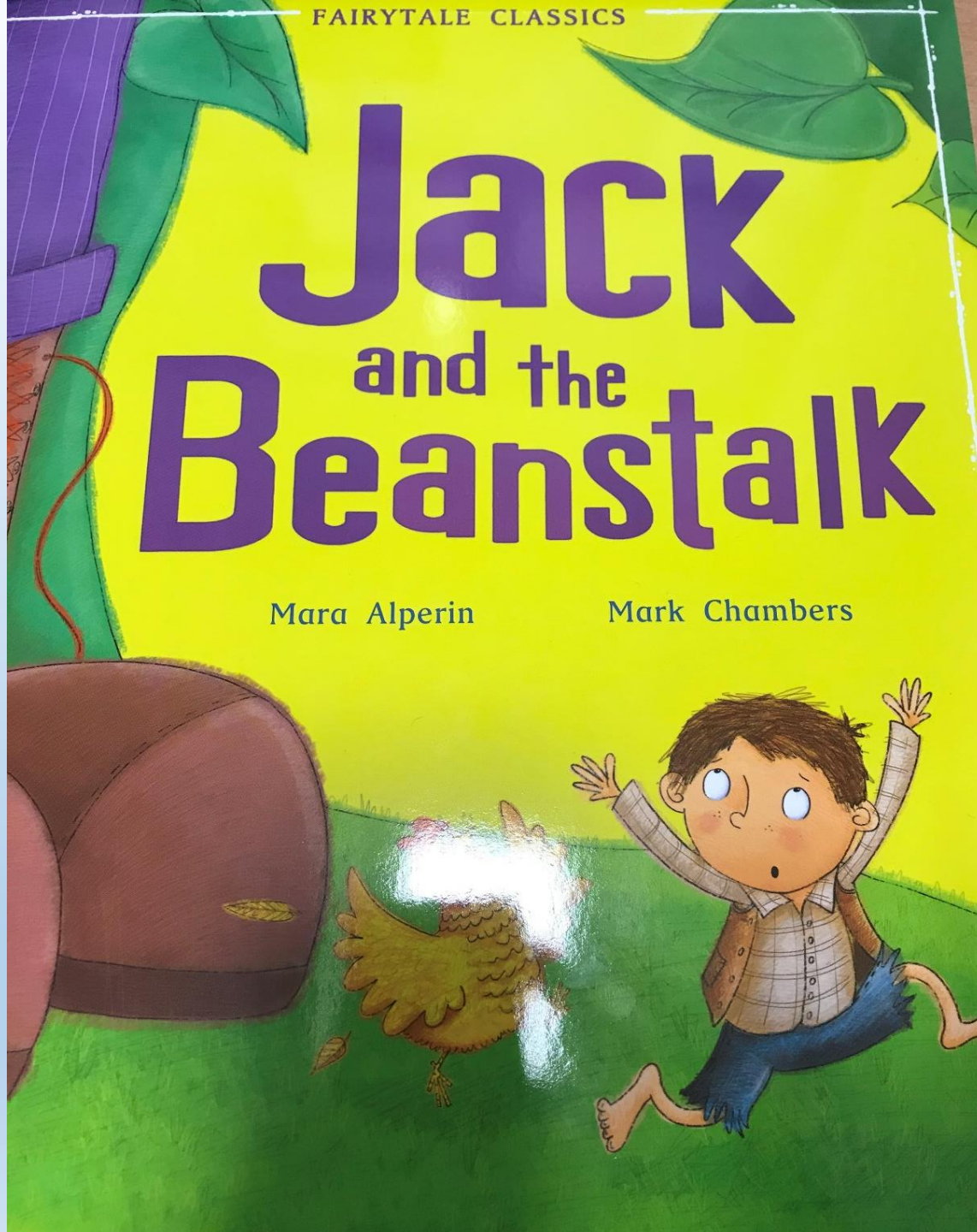# Jack
and the
Beanstalk

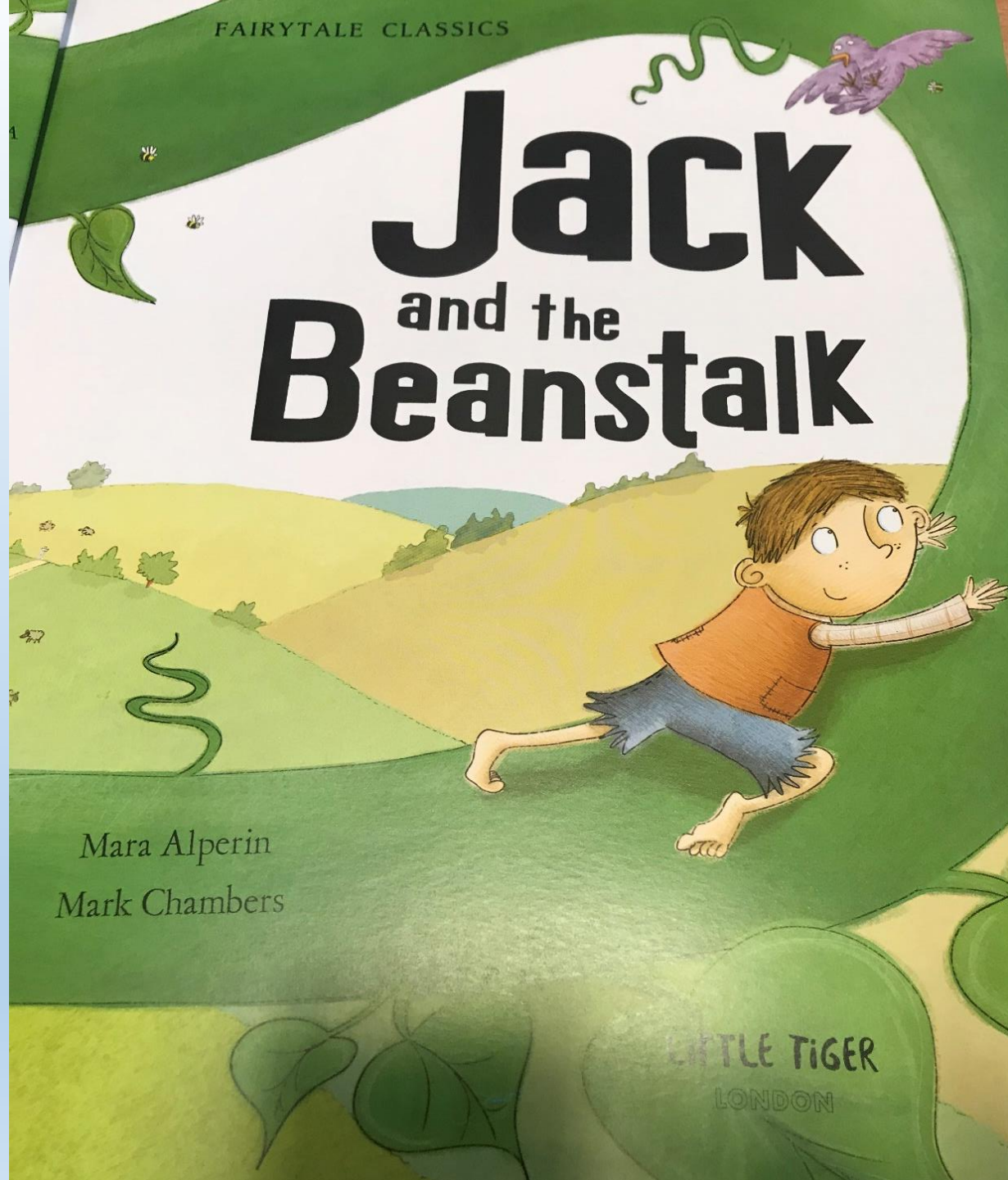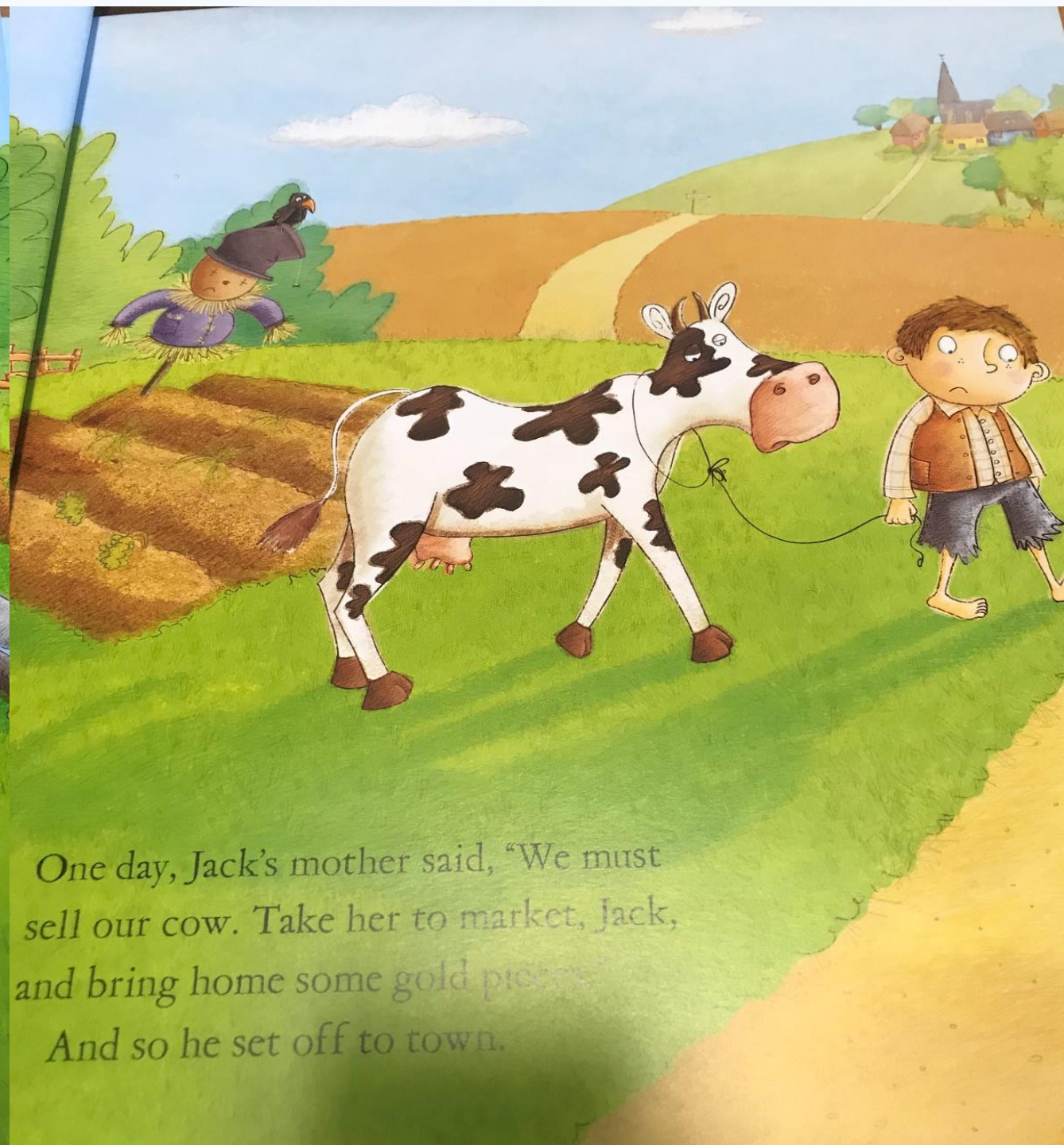Mara Alperin   Mark Chambers

FAIRYTALE CLASSICS

Jack
and the
Beanstalk

Mara Alperin

Mark Chambers

LITTLE TIGER
LONDON

Deep in the countryside lived
a widow and her son, Jack.
Their cottage was crumbling,
and their clothes were patched.
They were very, very poor.

One day, Jack's mother said, "We must
sell our cow. Take her to market, Jack,
and bring home some gold pieces."
And so he set off to town.

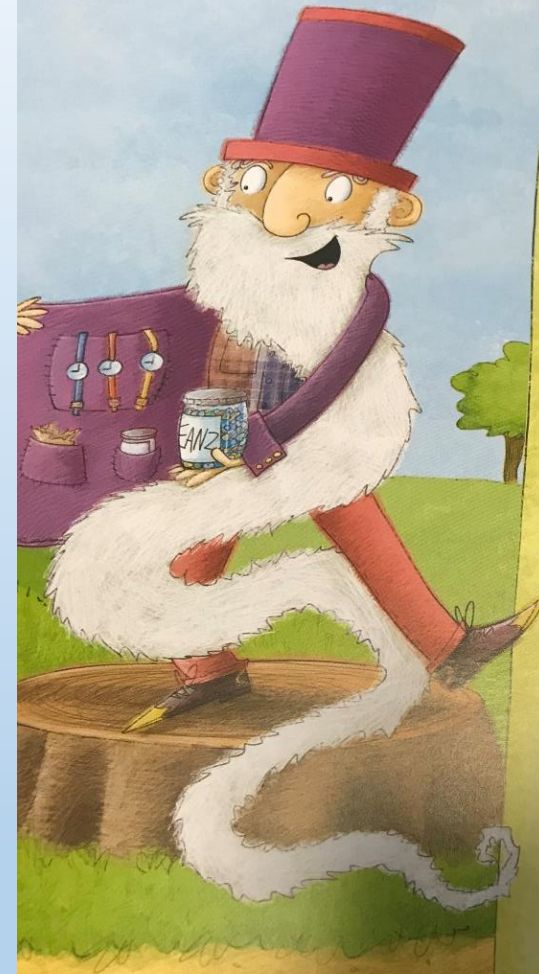But before Jack had got very far, he met a strange little man.

"That's a fine cow," the man said. "I'll swap you five **magic beans** for her."

"Magic beans?" said Jack. "Are they *really* magic?"

"Magic they are, or chop off my beard and knit it into a jumper," croaked the little man.

Magic beans!

Jack couldn't wait to tell his mother. He clutched them tightly, and ran all the way home.

Jack's mother was **furious**.
"We need money, not useless old beans!"
she cried. And she threw them out
of the window in disgust.

But late that night,
a tiny bean sprout
poked out from the
ground.

And then it **grew** . . .

and **grew** . . .

and **GREW**

The next morning the beanstalk stretched
high into the sky.

"The beans *were* magic!" Jack cried.
"But what's at the top?"

Jack climbed up, up, up the beanstalk.

At last, he reached the very top.
There, shimmering in the
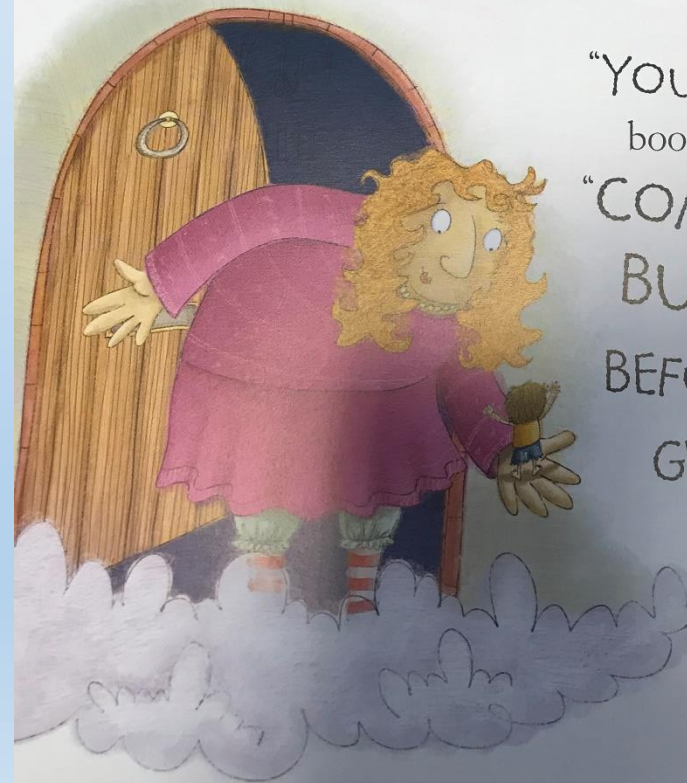sunlight, was . . .

...a magnificent castle!

Just then, Jack's stomach rumbled.
"I must find some breakfast," he thought,
and he tapped on the castle door.

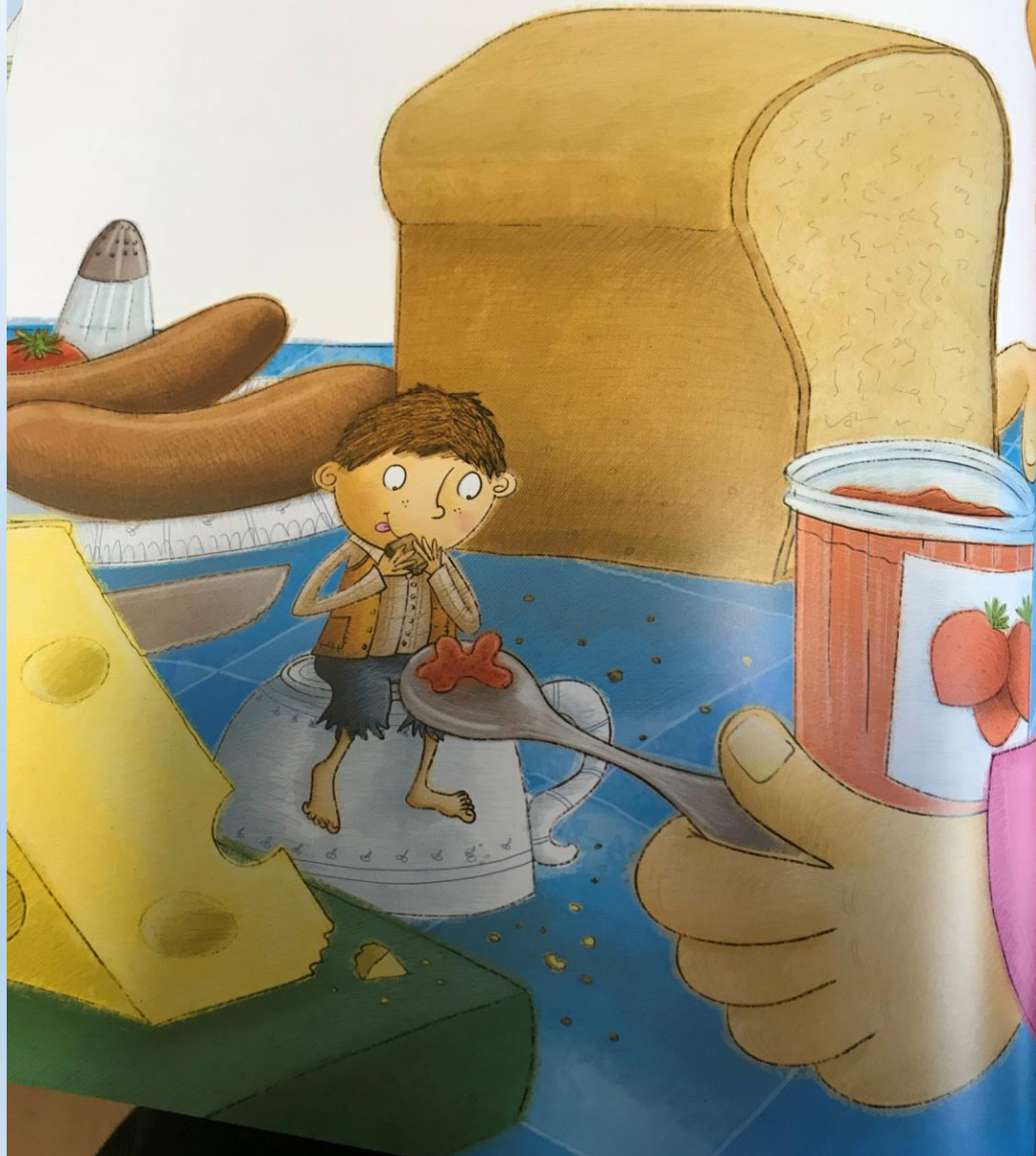The door creaked open,
and a huge giantess
smiled down.
"Hello!" Jack
shouted up.
"Please, do you
have any food?"

"YOU POOR THING!"
boomed the giantess.
"COME RIGHT IN!
BUT QUICKLY,
BEFORE THE GIANT
GETS UP!"

What a marvellous feast! There was an **enormous** loaf of bread and a **gigantic** jar of jam. Jack tucked in at once.

But suddenly, the room began to shake.

BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!

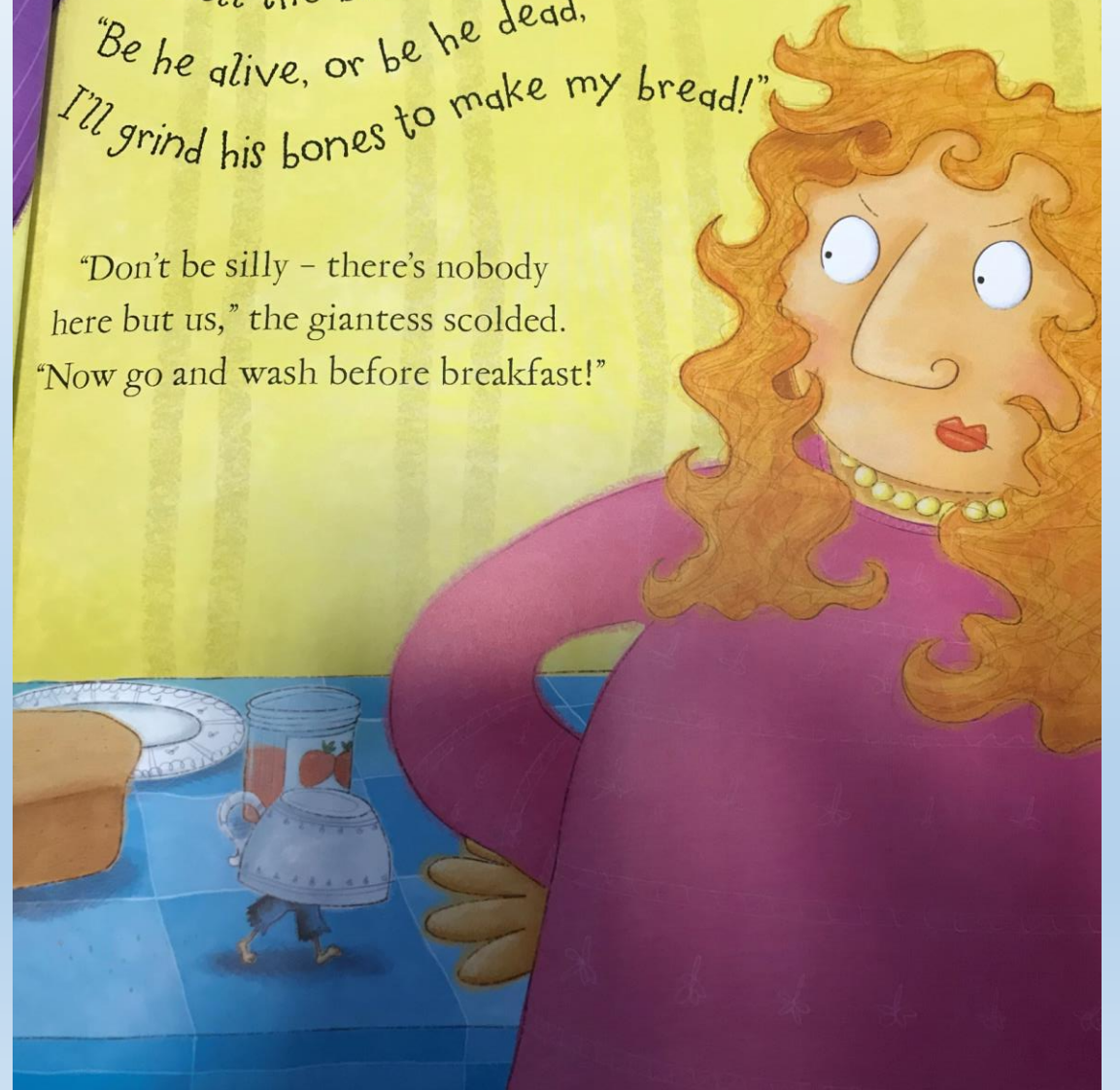"GOODNESS ME!" cried the giantess. "HE'S COMING!" And she shoved Jack under a teacup to hide.

Into the room stomped a
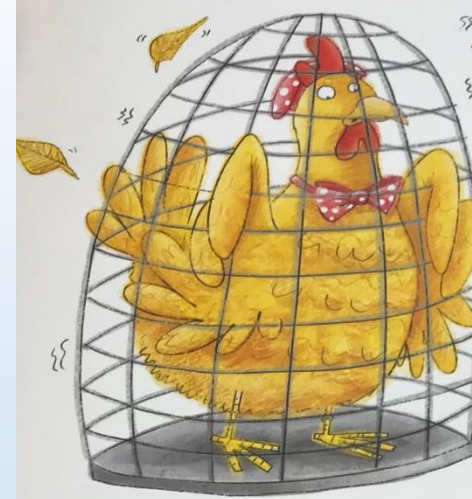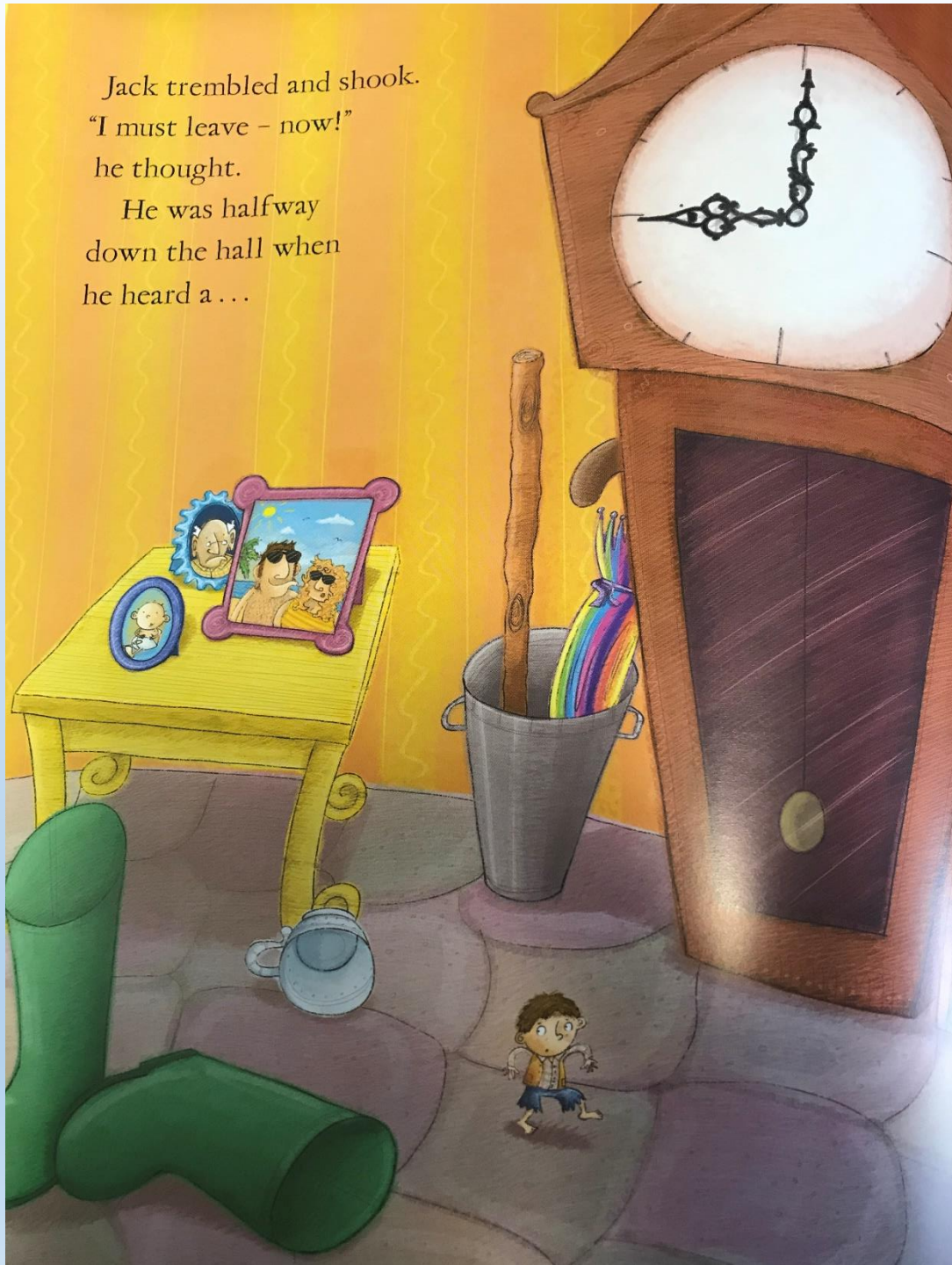**big, scary, HUNGRY** giant!

"**FEE FI FO FUM!**
I smell the blood of an Englishman!" he said.
"Be he alive, or be he dead,
I'll grind his bones to make my bread!"

"Don't be silly – there's nobody
here but us," the giantess scolded.
"Now go and wash before breakfast!"

Jack trembled and shook.
"I must leave – now!"
he thought.
He was halfway
down the hall when
he heard a . . .

"SQUAWK!"
It was a hen with bright
golden feathers!
"Help!" she clucked. "Set
me free and I'll lay you
golden eggs every morning!"

Jack scooped up
the hen, but then he
heard huge footsteps
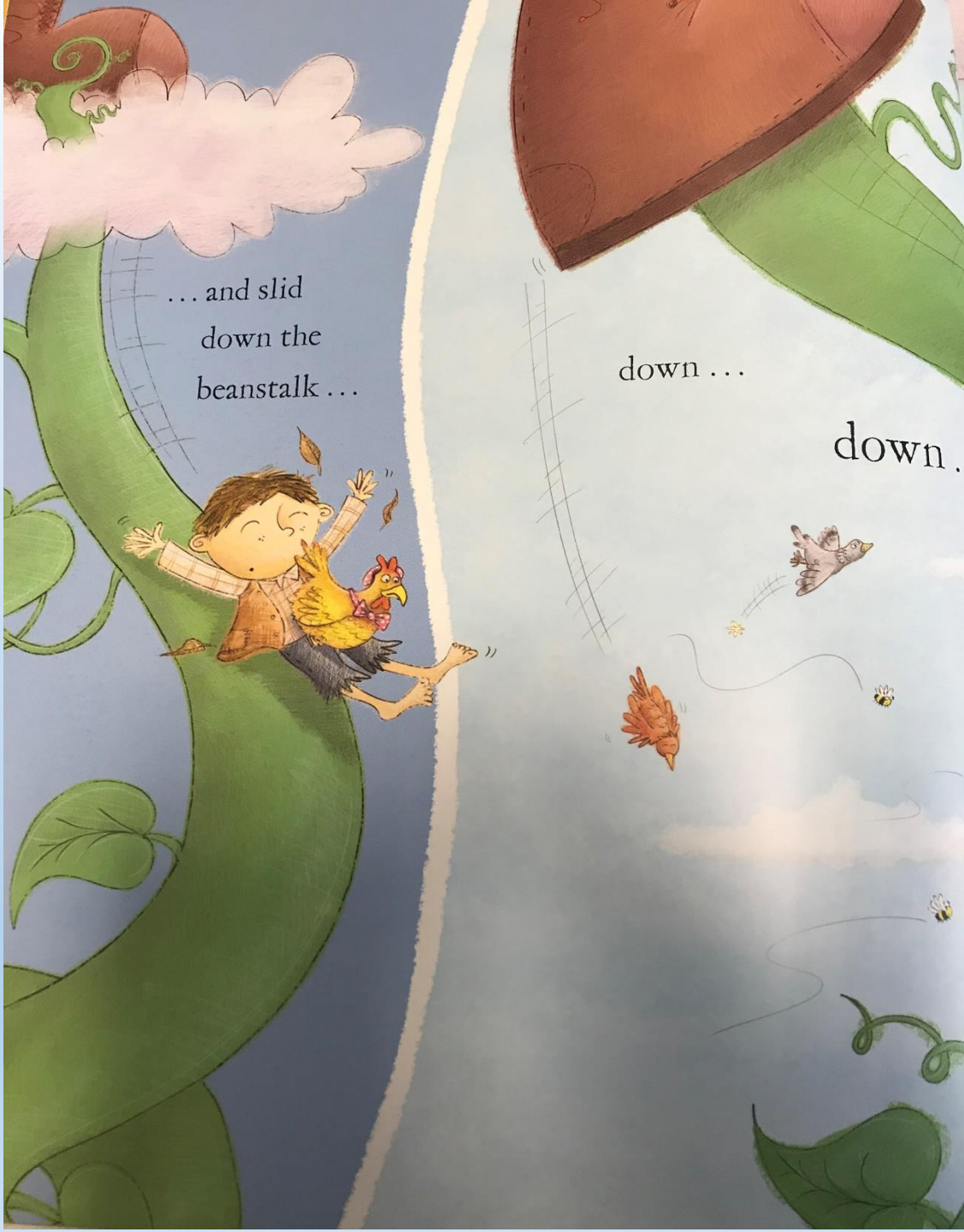THUNDERING
after them . . .

"FEE FI FO FUM!"

roared the giant.

"I smell the blood of an Englishman...

AND THERE HE IS!

Jack raced out of the door. He jumped ...

...and slid
down the
beanstalk...

down...

down...

down...

...all
the
way
back
to his
cottage.

"Mother!
Quick! Bring the
axe!" he shouted.

Jack's mother swung the axe at the beanstalk. **THWACK!** It shuddered and shook, and then the giant came tumbling down!

"FEEEEEEE FI FO..."

CRASH!

And that was the end of the giant.

Jack hugged his mother tight. "Look what I found!" he said, and he showed her the golden hen.

"Oh Jack," said his mother. "I'm so glad you're safe. And you were right about those magic beans!"

So Jack, his mother and the golden hen all lived happily ever after. And with lots of **golden eggs**, they were never poor again!