

Lazy Jack

There was once a boy called Jack who was lazy. His poor mother did everything! One day she decided Jack needed to change. She got him a job at the farm where he spent the day sweeping the barn and planting corn. As payment, the farmer gave Jack three bronze pennies.

Jack had never seen money before and was fascinated by their shape. He carried the coins, flat on his hand as he walked home. When he got to the river he thought it would be a good idea to skim the coins across the water which he did and when he got home he told his mother.

"No Jack!" she exclaimed in despair. "That's not what you should have done with what you got. You should have put them in your pocket." "Sorry mother," said Jack. "I'll try and learn."

The next day Jack worked in a dairy and as payment was given a jug of milk. "Now, what did mother tell me to do with what I got?" he thought. "Put it in my pocket!" But Jack wasn't totally stupid. He knew that the jug wouldn't fit in his pocket so he got himself a funnel and poured the milk in. When he got home he told his mother. "No Jack!" she cried. "That's not what you should have done with what you got. You should have put it carefully on your head and carried it home." "Sorry mother," said Jack. "I'll try and learn."

Wednesday was cheese day at the farm and Jack spent it turning the churn. When he was done, the farmer gave him a big piece of cheese. "Now, what did mother tell me to do with what I got?" he thought... Needless to say, it was a hot day! "You should have wrapped it up in leaves, put it in a bag and carried it home in your arms," said his mother.

Thursday's job was at the bakery where Jack was given a Tomcat. And how that Tomcat clawed and scratched when Jack wrapped him in leaves and put him on a bag! "You should have put a lead around its neck and walked him home," shrieked his exasperated mother.

Friday's job was with a butcher where Jack was given a big piece of ham and the local dogs really loved it when Jack pulled it home on a lead! "You should have carried it home on your shoulders!" his mother bellowed.

Finally, Saturday's job was driving the farmer's donkey train around the villages selling produce. Jack slept under the cart that day and as a reward was given, you guessed it, a donkey. Of course everyone laughed when Jack put the donkey onto his shoulders.

One girl, the mayor's daughter, laughed so much her father gave Jack three gold coins as a reward. Jack put the coins in his pocket and took them home with the donkey. Now Jack is still lazy but no one calls him Lazy Jack anymore. They called him, Mister Jack, because that's what happens in a rags-to-riches story.