



HOW JACK WENT TO SEEK HIS FORTUNE

Once upon a time, a young lad named Jack decided to go and seek his fortune. He packed himself some food in his knapsack and headed out into the great wide world.

He hadn't been walking down the road very long when he came across a cat. "Where are you going, Jack?" the cat asked.

"I'm going to seek my fortune!" Jack said. "Why don't you come with me? The more the merrier."

The cat agreed and now they were two.

Before long, they bumped into a dog.

"Where are you two going?" he asked.

"We're going to seek our fortune!" Jack and the cat said. "Would you like to come with us? The more the merrier."

The dog agreed and now they were three.

They walked on until they met a goat.

"Where are you three going?" asked the goat.

"We're going to seek our fortune. Will you join us? The more the merrier," said Jack, the cat and the dog in unison.

The goat agreed and now they were four.

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A bit further along the way they saw a bull, who also joined them. Now they were five!

Soon enough they reached a village, where they ran into a rooster.

“Where are you going?” asked the rooster.

“We’re going to seek our fortune,” they replied, and asked if he’d like to join them. The rooster, having nothing interesting to do at that moment, happily agreed. Seeking one’s fortune sounded like a grand adventure to him!

And so the six animals set out on their journey. After a while the sun began to sink over the horizon and the sky got darker and darker. They started looking for a place where they could spend the night when, all of a sudden, a house appeared in front of them.

“Everyone stay still! I’ll go and take a look inside,” said Jack to the animals, who stayed as quiet as mice and as still as trees.

Jack climbed up the porch steps as quietly as he could, snuck to a window and peeked inside. There was a whole group of bandits and a huge pile of loot! When he returned to his friends, Jack said,

“Let’s sneak really quietly to the door, and then when I open it you’ll run inside and make as much noise as you can.”

It was a good plan, and they did exactly what he said. Jack smashed down the door and the bandits were completely shocked by what happened next. The cat meowed with all her might, the dog howled, the goat bleated, the bull stamped the wooden floor with his hooves and the rooster crowed at the top of his lungs. It was such a terrible noise that the bandits took to their heels at once and fled.

The friends were very excited to have found their fortune, but Jack was worried that the bandits might return in the middle of the night to take it back. He picked up the cat and put it in an armchair. Then the dog jumped on the table, the goat ran up the stairs, the bull went downstairs to the cellar and the rooster flew up onto the roof. And Jack - well, he turned off the lights and went to bed.

It soon dawned on the bandits that they had left all their loot behind, so they quickly turned around and headed back to the house. When they got there, it was utterly dark and quiet. They sent the youngest of their crew ahead to look inside.

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Secretly, they were all too scared to go and look for themselves.

When the young robber entered the house, he walked carefully along the wall, holding his hands out in front of him until he felt the armchair in the dark. He plopped down in it and sat right on top of the cat, who naturally went berserk and scratched him. The young thief jumped off the armchair and ran straight into the table, where the dog bit his hand. Trying to find a place to hide, the poor young bandit ran up the stairs, but when he got to the top he bumped into the goat, who gave him a butt with her horns and knocked him right back down the stairs, all the way to the cellar, where the bull was waiting to make mincemeat out of him. Up on the roof, the rooster crowed: "Bring him to me, I'll sort him out!" But the young bandit had had enough. He turned around and ran away as fast as he could. A horrendous racket was coming from the house, and as soon as he reached the other bandits and they saw what had happened to him, they immediately took to their heels as well, rushing away, never stopping for a second.