

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

All the details have been removed from the story of Jack and the Beanstalk! Can you create some new details about characters and settings? Give your characters names and describe the objects and places. You could use the word bank at the side of the page to help you.

underwater
cave
castle
fairy
witch
money tree
magic mirror
robot
king
planet

Remember to read it through once you have finished to make sure it makes sense.

Once upon a time, a _____ named _____ lived with _____ mother. They were very poor so _____'s mother decided to sell their only _____. She told _____ to go and sell it at the market.

On the way, _____ met a _____, who bought the _____ in exchange for three magic beans. _____'s mother was very angry.

_____ woke up the next morning to find an enormous beanstalk growing up into the sky.

_____ climbed it and found a huge castle belonging to a _____.

The _____, who liked to eat little _____, came into the room and _____ hid.

The _____ took out a _____ and a _____.

When the _____ was asleep, _____ took the _____ and the _____ and set off back down the beanstalk. The _____ came hurrying after _____.

At the bottom of the beanstalk, _____ took an axe and began to chop it down. Finally, it fell and the _____ came tumbling with it.

_____ used the _____ and the _____ to earn enough money to buy back _____, and _____ and Mother lived happily ever after.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale **Suggested Answers**

Once upon a time, a **(boy/girl/other character)** named **(Name)** lived with **(his/her/their)** mother. They were very poor so **(Name)**'s mother decided to sell their only **(object)**. She told **(Name)** to go and sell it at the market.

On the way, **(Name)** met a **(mysterious character)**, who bought the **(object)** in exchange for three magic beans. **(Name)**'s mother was very angry.

(Name) woke up the next morning to find an enormous beanstalk growing up into the sky. **(Name)** climbed it and found a huge castle belonging to a **(fairytale creature)**.

The **(fairytale creature)**, who liked to eat little **(boys/girls/other characters)**, came into the room and **(Name)** hid. The **(fairytale creature)** took out a **(magical object)** and a **(magical object)**.

When the **(fairytale creature)** was asleep, **(Name)** took the **(magical object)** and the **(magical object)** and set off back down the beanstalk. The **(fairytale creature)** came hurrying after **(him/her/them)**.

At the bottom of the beanstalk, **(Name)** took an axe and began to chop it down. Finally, it fell and the **(fairytale creature)** came tumbling with it.

(Name) used the **(magical object)** and the **(magical object)** to earn enough money to buy back **(object)**, and **(Name)** and Mother lived happily ever after.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

All the details have been removed from the story of Jack and the Beanstalk! Can you create some new details about characters and settings? Rewrite the story events and use your imagination to change the underlined words. Here are some ideas that you could use:

underwater	cave	castle	fairy	witch	monster	unicorn
money tree	magic mirror	robot	king	planet	tunnel	staircase

Traditional Tale	Story Events	Innovated Tale
Once upon a time, a boy named Jack lived with his mother on a small farm. They were very poor so Jack's mother decided to sell their only cow. She sent Jack to sell the cow at the market.	A child lives with their parent and they do not have enough of what they need. They decide to sell what they do have in order to survive.	
On the way, Jack met an old man. The man bought the cow from Jack in exchange for three magic beans. Jack's mother was very angry and so Jack threw the beans out of the window into the garden.	The child meets a mysterious character who offers them a magical object as payment. When the child gets home, their parent is angry and the child forgets about the object.	
Jack woke up the next morning to find an enormous beanstalk growing up into the sky. He climbed it and found a huge castle belonging to a giant.	Accidentally, the object creates a pathway to a magical place and the child follows it. The child finds an amazing home belonging to a fairytale creature.	

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

<p>Jack met the giant's wife, who was kind. The giant, who liked to eat little boys, came into the room and Jack hid. The giant took out a sickly hen which lay golden eggs and a sad-looking magical harp which played him to sleep.</p>	<p>The child explores the home until the creature comes and the child has to hide. The creature has precious and magical objects of their own but doesn't treat them well.</p>	
<p>When the giant was asleep, Jack took the hen and the harp and set off back down the beanstalk. The giant came hurrying after him.</p>	<p>The child is able to escape and decides to steal the magical objects and take them home. The creature chases the child back to their home.</p>	
<p>At the bottom of the beanstalk, Jack took an axe and began to chop it down. Finally, it fell and the giant came tumbling with it.</p>	<p>The child destroys the path to the magical place while the creature is still using it. The creature is defeated.</p>	
<p>Jack used the harp and the golden eggs to earn enough money to buy back his cow, and he and his mother lived happily ever after.</p>	<p>The child uses the magical objects to solve their family's problems and lives happily ever after.</p>	

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale **Suggested Answers**

Underlined words show where children might innovate their own details.

Story Events

A child lives with their parent and they do not have enough of what they need. They decide to sell what they do have in order to survive.

The child meets a mysterious character who offers them a magical object as payment. When the child gets home, their parent is angry and the child forgets about the object.

Accidentally, the object creates a pathway to a magical place and the child follows it. The child finds an amazing home belonging to a fairy tale creature.

The child explores the home until the creature comes and the child has to hide. The creature has precious and magical objects of their own but doesn't treat them well.

The child is able to escape and decides to steal the magical objects and take them home. The creature chases the child back to their home.

The child destroys the path to the magical place while the creature is still using it. The creature is defeated.

The child uses the magical objects to solve their family's problems and lives happily ever after.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

Can you fill in the missing story events using the underlined parts of the traditional tale? Some have already been done to help you. Then, rewrite the same events but with new details in the third column. Use your imagination! Remember: this is a plan, so save your story language for later! Here are some ideas that you could use:

underwater	cave	castle	fairy	witch	monster	unicorn
money tree	magic mirror	robot	king	planet	tunnel	staircase

Traditional Tale	Story Events	Innovated Tale
Once upon a time, a <u>boy</u> named <u>Jack</u> lived with his <u>mother</u> on a <u>small farm</u> . They were very poor so <u>Jack's mother</u> decided to sell their only <u>cow</u> . She sent <u>Jack</u> to sell the <u>cow</u> at the market.	A child lives with their parent and they do not have enough of what they need. They decide to sell what they do have in order to survive.	
On the way, <u>Jack</u> met an <u>old man</u> . The <u>man</u> bought the <u>cow</u> from <u>Jack</u> in exchange for <u>three magic beans</u> . <u>Jack's mother</u> was very angry and so <u>Jack</u> threw the beans out of the <u>window</u> into the <u>garden</u> .	The child meets a mysterious character who offers them a magical object as payment. When the child gets home, their parent is angry and the child forgets about the object.	
<u>Jack</u> woke up the next morning to find an <u>enormous beanstalk growing up into the sky</u> . He climbed it and found a <u>huge castle</u> belonging to a <u>giant</u> .		

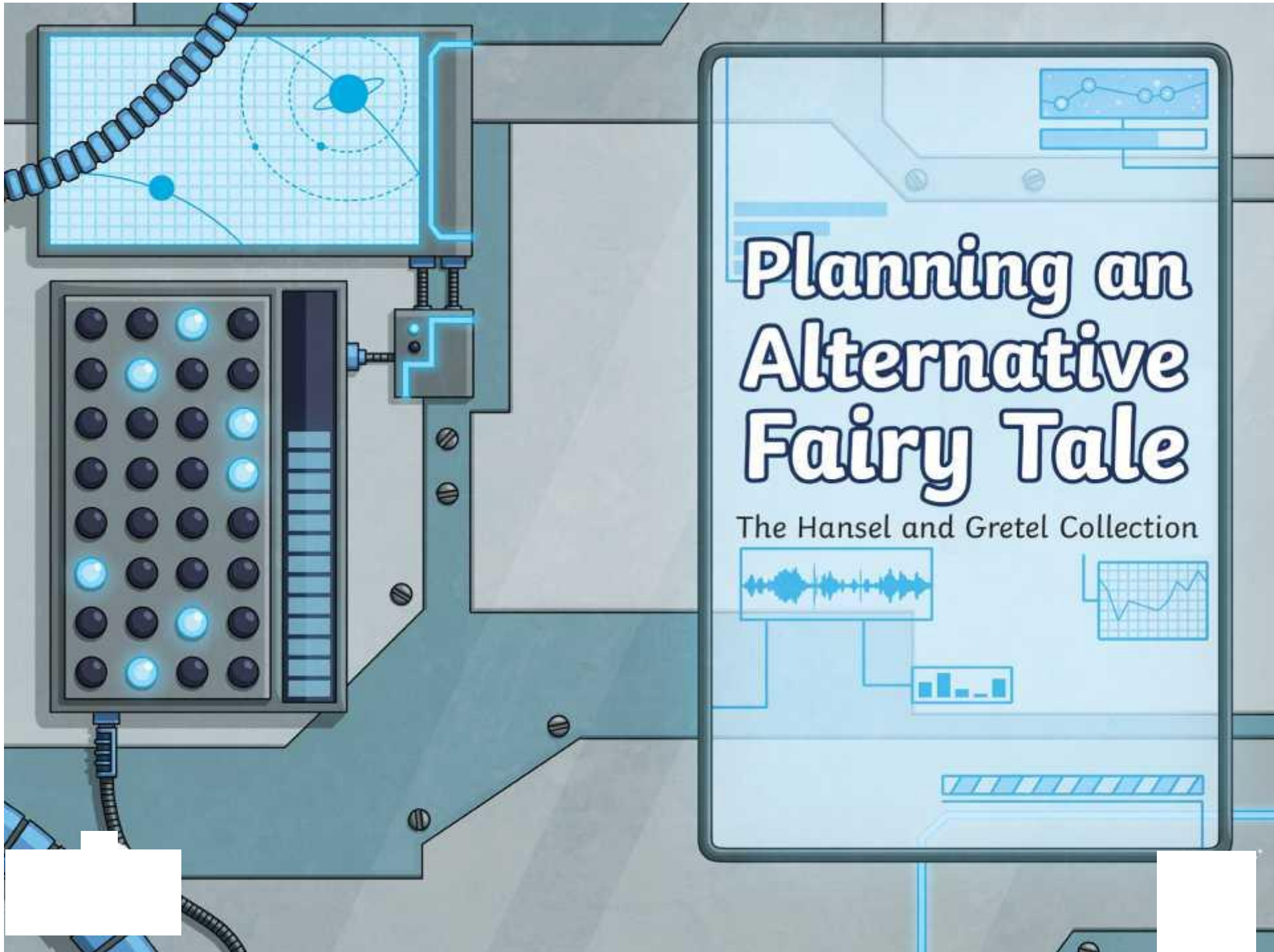
Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

<p>Jack met the giant's wife, who was kind. The giant, who liked to eat little boys, came into the room and Jack hid. The giant took out a sickly hen which lay golden eggs and a sad-looking magical harp which played him to sleep.</p>	<p>The child explores the home until the creature comes and the child has to hide. The creature has precious and magical objects of their own but doesn't treat them well.</p>	
<p>When the giant was asleep, Jack took the hen and the harp and set off back down the beanstalk. The giant came hurrying after him.</p>		
<p>At the bottom of the beanstalk, Jack took an axe and began to chop it down. Finally, it fell and the giant came tumbling with it.</p>	<p>The child destroys the path to the magical place while the creature is still using it. The creature is defeated.</p>	
<p>Jack used the harp and the golden eggs to earn enough money to buy back his cow, and he and his mother lived happily ever after.</p>		

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale **Suggested Answers**

Underlined words show where children might innovate their own details.

Traditional Tale	Story Events
<p>Once upon a time, a <u>boy</u> named <u>Jack</u> lived with his <u>mother</u> on a <u>small farm</u>. They were very poor so <u>Jack's mother</u> decided to sell their only <u>cow</u>. She sent <u>Jack</u> to sell the <u>cow</u> at the market.</p>	<p>A <u>child</u> lives with their <u>parent</u> and they do not have enough of what they need. They decide to sell <u>what they do have</u> in order to survive.</p>
<p>On the way, <u>Jack</u> met an <u>old man</u>. The <u>man</u> bought the <u>cow</u> from <u>Jack</u> in exchange for <u>three magic beans</u>. <u>Jack's mother</u> was very angry and so <u>Jack</u> threw the beans out of the <u>window</u> into the <u>garden</u>.</p>	<p>The <u>child</u> meets a <u>mysterious character</u> who offers them a <u>magical object</u> as payment. When the <u>child</u> gets home, their <u>parent</u> is angry and the <u>child</u> forgets about the <u>object</u>.</p>
<p><u>Jack</u> woke up the next morning to find an <u>enormous beanstalk growing up into the sky</u>. He climbed it and found a <u>huge castle</u> belonging to a <u>giant</u>.</p>	<p>Accidentally, the <u>object</u> creates a <u>pathway</u> to a <u>magical place</u> and the <u>child</u> follows it. The <u>child</u> finds an <u>amazing home</u> belonging to a <u>fairytale creature</u>.</p>
<p><u>Jack</u> met the <u>giant's wife</u>, who was kind. The <u>giant</u>, who liked to eat little <u>boys</u>, came into the room and <u>Jack</u> hid. The <u>giant</u> took out a <u>sickly hen</u> which <u>lay golden eggs</u> and a <u>sad-looking magical harp</u> which <u>played him to sleep</u>.</p>	<p>The <u>child</u> explores the <u>home</u> until the <u>creature</u> comes and the <u>child</u> has to hide. The <u>creature</u> has <u>precious and magical objects</u> of their own but doesn't treat them well.</p>
<p>When the <u>giant</u> was asleep, <u>Jack</u> took the <u>hen</u> and the <u>harp</u> and set off back down the <u>beanstalk</u>. The <u>giant</u> came hurrying after him.</p>	<p>The <u>child</u> is able to escape and decides to steal the <u>magical objects</u> and take them home. The <u>creature</u> chases the <u>child</u> back to their home.</p>
<p>At the bottom of the <u>beanstalk</u>, <u>Jack</u> took an <u>axe</u> and began to <u>chop it down</u>. Finally, it <u>fell</u> and the <u>giant</u> came tumbling with it.</p>	<p>The <u>child</u> destroys the <u>path to the magical place</u> while the <u>creature</u> is still using it. The creature is <u>defeated</u>.</p>
<p><u>Jack</u> used the <u>harp</u> and the <u>golden eggs</u> to earn enough money to buy back <u>his cow</u>, and <u>he</u> and his <u>mother</u> lived happily ever after.</p>	<p>The <u>child</u> uses the <u>magical objects</u> to <u>solve their family's problems</u> and lives happily ever after.</p>



Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

The Hansel and Gretel Collection

Hansel and Gretel: The Traditional Tale

How well do you know the story of Hansel and Gretel?

Hansel and Gretel lived in a cottage by a forest and their family was very poor. Their stepmother convinced their father to take the children into the woods and leave them there. Without the children, they would have enough to eat.

Hearing this, Hansel sneaked outside and found some white pebbles. When the adults took the children into the woods, Hansel dropped the stones on the ground. The children were left alone so they followed the trail of rocks home.

The adults decided to try again but this time, they locked the children in their bedroom so that Hansel could not collect any rocks. When they were taken deeper into the woods, Hansel crumbled up his last slice of bread into pieces and dropped a trail of crumbs.

When the children were left alone, they were shocked to find that the crumbs had all been eaten by forest animals. They slept in the forest and wandered around the next day, looking for home.

Hansel and Gretel: The Traditional Tale

How well do you know the story of Hansel and Gretel?

The children discovered a cottage deep in the forest. It was made of gingerbread, cakes and sweets! Hungry, they approached it and started to taste it. An old woman appeared and invited them in.

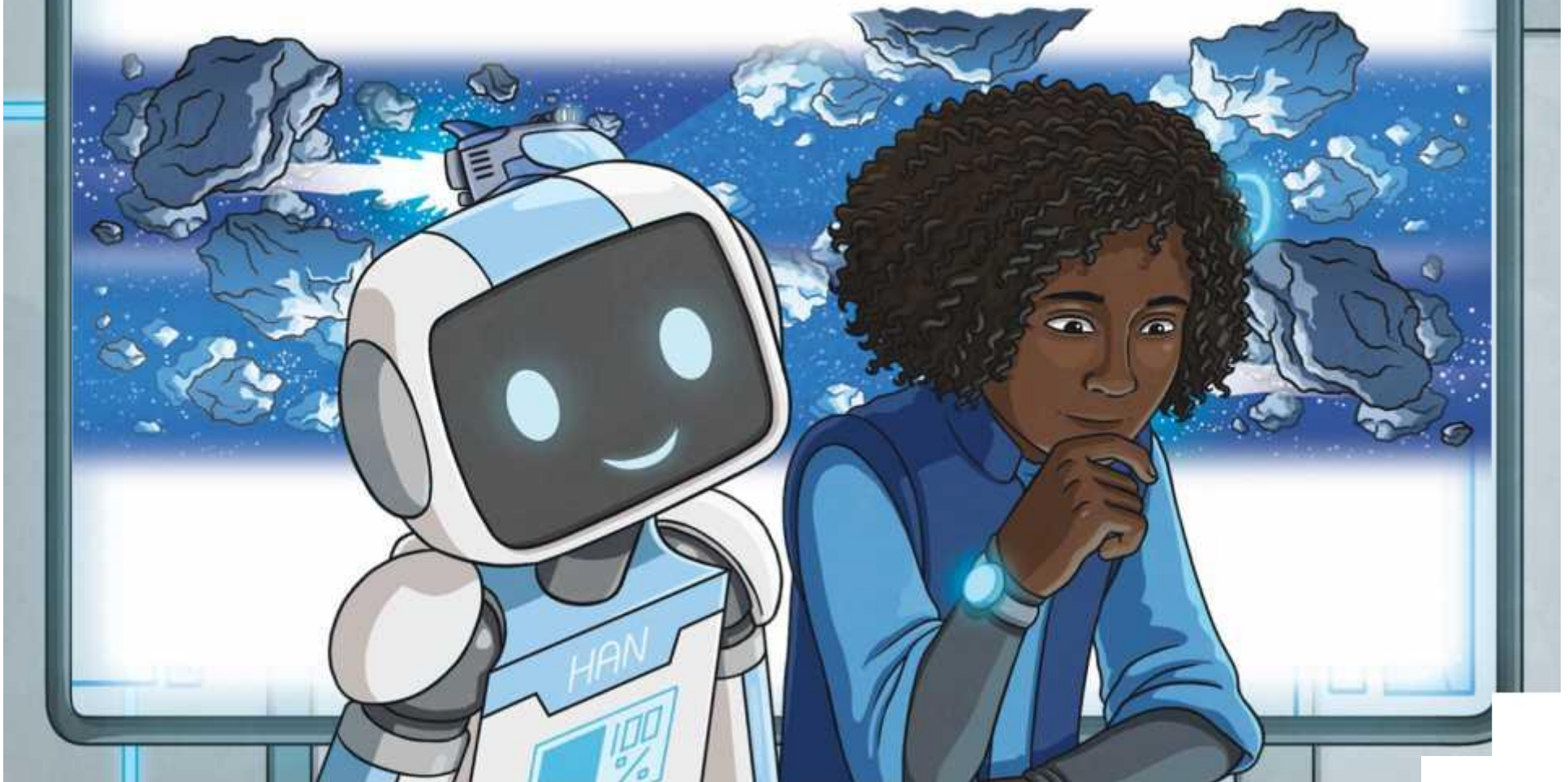
The old woman, who revealed herself to be an evil witch, locked Hansel in a cage and forced Gretel to cook lots of food. The witch planned to fatten Hansel up and then eat him. Luckily, the witch's eyesight was very poor.

Day after day, Gretel cooked for Hansel but Hansel did not overeat. When the poor-sighted witch asked him to poke his finger through the bars of the cage, Hansel pushed out an old bone. Thinking he was still very thin, the witch did not cook him.

Finally, the witch had had enough. She told Gretel to prepare the oven for Hansel to be cooked, but clever Gretel tricked the witch into climbing inside the oven herself! The children ran home to their father and lived happily ever after.

The Alternative Sci-Fi Tale

Next, [click here](#) to read the alternative Sci-Fi story.



The Alternative Sci-Fi Tale

What similarities and differences did you see between the two stories?

Similarities

- Two siblings and a father running out of food
- The father agreed to leave them behind but they found a way to come back; the next time, they were stranded
- The children were captured by an evil character
- Gretel tricked the evil character into falling into their own machine
- Happy ending

Differences

- The setting was in space
- The humble cottage was an old spaceship
- Hansel was a robot called Han-CELL
- Gretel was a cadet
- The stepmother was a computer
- The witch was an android
- The gingerbread cottage was a good-looking spaceship

These are just some of the main similarities and differences. Did you find more?

The Alternative Sci-Fi Tale

All of the **story events** have stayed the same but the **details of character and setting** have changed.

Similarities

- Two siblings and a father running out of food
- The father agreed to leave them behind but they found a way to come back; the next time, they were stranded
- The children were captured by an evil character
- Gretel tricked the evil character into falling into their own machine
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Differences

- The setting was in space
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Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

To plan an alternative version of a story, we must decide which parts of the story we can change, and which should stay the same. Which parts of this new story do you think should stay the same, and which can we change?

Traditional Tale

Once upon a time, a **boy** named **Jack** lived with his **mother** on a small **farm**. They were very poor so **Jack's mother** decided to sell their only cow. She sent **Jack** to sell the **cow** at the market.

Story Events

A character lives with their parent and they do not have enough of what they need. They decide to sell what they do have in order to survive.

These details can be removed to give us a basic story event.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

See if you can remove the details from the rest of the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, leaving just the story events.

On the way, **Jack** met an **old man**. The **man** bought the **cow** from **Jack** in exchange for three magic **beans**. **Jack's mother** was very angry and so **Jack** threw the **beans** out of the **window** into the **garden**.

Jack woke up the next morning to find **an enormous beanstalk growing up into the sky**. He **climbed** it and found a **huge castle** belonging to a **giant**.

Jack met the **giant's wife**, who was kind. The **giant**, who liked to eat little **boys**, came into the room and **Jack** hid. The giant took out a **sickly hen which lay golden eggs** and a **sad-looking magical harp which played him to sleep**.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

See if you can remove the details from the rest of the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, leaving just the story events.

When the **giant** was asleep, **Jack** took the **hen** and the **harp** and set off back down the **beanstalk**. The giant came hurrying after **him**.

At the bottom of the **beanstalk**, **Jack** took an **axe** and began to **chop it down**. Finally, **it fell and the giant came tumbling with it**.

Jack used the **harp** and the **golden eggs** to earn enough money to buy back his **cow**, and he and his **mother** lived happily ever after.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

Now for the
fun part!

Take your basic story events and **innovate** some new details.

Fairy tales often include:

- unusual locations (castles, towers, caves...)
- magic (spells, witches, magical objects...)
- fantasy creatures (giants, fairies, unicorns...)
- royalty (kings, queens, princesses...)



Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

For our alternative Jack and the Beanstalk, we'll need:

- 1 A main character**
Are they human? What is their name?
- 2 An object or animal for sale**
Jack's mother decided to sell their cow. What is your character selling for some extra money?
- 3 A mysterious stranger**
An old man sold Jack beans. He has no name and is never seen again.
- 4 A magical object used as payment**
Can you think of an alternative to magic beans?
- 5 A magical pathway to a new place**
Instead of a beanstalk, could you use a road, tunnel, portal or ladder?
- 6 An amazing home**
Where does the pathway lead?
- 7 A fairytale creature**
Your creature should be dangerous and might have a catchphrase like 'Fee Fi Fo Fum'!
- 8 Magical objects belonging to the creature**
Think about how these objects could solve all of your character's problems at home.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

Plan your alternative tale with new details, using notes.

Traditional Tale

Once upon a time, a boy named Jack lived with his mother on a small farm. They were very poor so Jack's mother decided to sell their only cow. She sent Jack to sell the cow at the market.

Story Events

A character lives with their parent and they do not have enough of what they need. They decide to sell what they do have in order to survive.

Innovated Tale

A **girl** named **Jill** lives with her **dad, a fisherman**. **There are no fish in the nearby river** and they are poor and hungry. They decide to sell their **boat** for money to buy food.

Don't forget to make adjustments throughout the story so that it makes sense. For example, if your story is set in space, think about how that will affect the rest of the events.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

You're ready to write your story! Make sure that your new tale:

includes the same number of heroes and villains as the original story;

follows the same basic structure as the original story;

includes new elements such as different settings and character descriptions;

includes a beginning which introduces the setting and the characters;

includes a problem and a solution;

has a happy ending if the original story does;

includes dialogue to advance the action.

Planning an Alternative Fairy Tale

Use the details from your original fairy tale to help you plan your alternative story. Use the original story to help you plan your alternative story. Use the original story to help you plan your alternative story.

unwinnable	man	castle	king	witch	monster	villain
strong, free	strong, manly	stone	king	power	powerful	powerful
Original fairy tale	Original fairy tale	Original fairy tale	Original fairy tale	Original fairy tale	Original fairy tale	Original fairy tale
Once upon a time, a boy named Jack had a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean.	Jack was a young boy who lived with his mother and sister. He was a very kind and helpful boy. He was a very kind and helpful boy.	Jack had a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean.	Jack had a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean.	Jack had a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean.	Jack had a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean.	Jack had a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean. He used it to buy a magic bean.
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