



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson 16

Maggie Says...

Today's lesson is about Leaders and Heroes. As a dog, I have many heroes in my life. The crossing guard who makes my walk safe is one of my heroes. Thinking about today's world, I would put all of the doctors, nurses, and first-responders on my list of heroes.

Sticky Situation: I love when someone reads to me. One of my favorite fairy tales is *Jack and the Beanstalk*. I have listened to that fairy tale many times. Every time I hear it, I wonder if Jack is a **hero** or a **villain**. Read the story below. After reading or hearing the story, do you think Jack is a **hero** or a **villain**. Be prepared to support your point of view.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Jack is a very poor young boy who lives in a forest with his mother. Jack and his mother have a cow. It is the cow's milk that provides them with most of what they have to eat or drink. One day, the cow no longer is able to give milk. Jack's mom decides that Jack should take the cow to market and sell it in exchange for money and food.

As Jack starts off toward the market, he meets a man who offers him beans, magic beans, that the man says will grow very, very tall in only one night. Jack decides to give the man the cow in exchange for the magic beans.

When Jack arrives home, he tells his mother what he has done, expecting her to be as excited as he is. His mother, however, grows very angry and throws the beans out the window. She sends Jack to his room without dinner and tells him to go to bed. When Jack finally wakes up in the morning and looks out the window, he sees that the beans have grown into a very, very, very tall beanstalk.

A curious young boy, Jack decides to see where the beanstalk ends. He climbs the beanstalk to its very top where he sees a great castle. Jack enters the castle and sees a giant woman. He asks the woman for food. The woman gives him food, but warns him that he must go before her husband, a Giant who eats children, arrives home. Jack agrees, but not before he sees that there are bags of gold in the house.

When Jack hears the Giant coming, he runs and hides in the oven. While in the oven, Jack listens to hear when the Giant has fallen asleep. Once he hears the Giant snoring, Jack sneaks out of the oven, grabs a bag of gold, and heads down the beanstalk.

You can imagine how happy Jack's mother is when Jack shows her the bag of gold. With all that gold, Jack's mother realizes that they will never have to go hungry again.

Jack decides he has not taken his last trip up the beanstalk. Jack makes two more trips to the Giant's Castle. On the first new trip, Jack steals a goose that lays golden eggs. On the second trip, he steals the golden harp. Then, suddenly, Jack hears the steps of the Giant and races to the beanstalk. The Giant has discovered Jack and what Jack has stolen from him. As the Giant chases Jack towards the beanstalk, Jack reaches the beanstalk, gets down as fast as he can, and cuts the beanstalk as the Giant falls to his death. With the Giant gone and all that wealth, Jack and his mother live happily ever after.

SO...Is Jack a hero or a villain? You decide!!!

Activity: Think about the following questions:

1. Are all heroes leaders?
2. Are all leaders heroes?
3. Think about people you would consider heroes from history.
4. Think about people you would consider leaders from history.
5. Now, especially in these difficult times, think about people you know who are heroes. Then think about how you might let them know how you feel. You could write a letter, make a poster, draw a picture, and more. Then you could post your idea or paste it on your door. That makes you a hero too!