



There was once a poor widow who had a son called Jack.

Jack and his mother lived in a little cottage in the countryside, not far from a small town.

Every morning just as the sun was rising, Jack would go out into the crisp morning air to where their dairy cow Milky White was waiting to be milked.

Without fail, Milky White always gave Jack a bucket full of beautiful rich creamy milk.

Jack would then put the bucket of milk into the cool pantry on the other side of the house.

By midday each day, the cream had risen to the top of the milk, which Jack and his mother then scooped off to turn into rich butter to sell.

Early one Spring morning, just after Jack went out to do the milking as usual, he called out to his mother in a very worried voice ...

'Mother! Mother! I think there's a big problem with Milky White.'

'What sort of problem, Jack? Whatever has happened?'

'Milky White has no more milk. That means we can't make butter if we don't have milk.'

'Oh dear. We must have a milking cow if we are to survive. Milky White has to be sold.'

'Sell Milky White! Oh no! I love the way she moos softly in the morning when I come out to milk her. Maybe she'll be right tomorrow!'

'No, Jack. We have to be strong. Take her to the town market today. Off you go before I become too upset!'

And so after breakfast, off trudged Jack towards the town, Milky White walking slowly beside him.



'Well, hello, Jack! Where are you and Milky White off to on such a fine morning?'

A funny little man in a green suit and a red velvet hat was standing at the side of the road.

'Good morning, Sir. We are going to the town market. But may I please ask how you know our names?'

How to read this story

plus advanced-technique tips

- Find a story buddy (friend, reading helper or parent) and take it in turns to read alternate rows.
- Unlike a traditional play, no character is 'owned' by the readers. Instead, and because the rows are read in turn, readers have the chance to be all characters and the storyteller.
- The rows provide another advantage in that when not reading out loud, there is a chance to listen and read the text silently. This also rests your voice!
- Train your eyes to be slightly ahead of your voice to help your reading become smooth and flowing. Looking ahead also helps you to prepare in your mind the sort of acting voice you need to use.
- Say the **dialogue lines in bold** as if you really are that character. This is good memory training because you need to remember the voice you used for that character the last time you said their lines. (This helps you to become a very good actor!)
- The storyteller rows are the ones not in bold. These are very important because they move the action along. Read them with sparkle in your voice.
- Exaggerate vocal pitch (highs, middles, lows of your speaking voice), and change the pace (tempo) to sometimes go slower and sometimes faster. And don't forget to add an occasional dramatic pause of silence. Most of all, have fun!