One fine winter day, a happy-go-lucky young man named Jack was strolling down the road, feeling a little hungry. Suddenly, he was surprised to meet an old man he had never seen before. In one hand the man held a long staff; in the other were 2 large golden seeds.

"I am a wizard," the old man said, "and I have something for you..."

The wizard handed Jack the 2 golden seeds. "These are magic," he said. "Bake 1 seed in the oven until it is red and then eat it. You will not be hungry again for a whole year. Bury the other seed in the ground now and care for it well. I promise you it will grow and give you 2 more magic seeds in the fall."

Jack did exactly what the wizard told him to do.

The next spring, one tiny sprout came up. It grew and grew into a sturdy plant.

In the summer 2 beautiful flowers bloomed on the plant. A little later, 2 fruits appeared where the flowers had been. And in the fall the 2 marvellous fruits produced 2 seeds, just like those the wizard had given him.

ANNO’S MAGIC SEEDS - MITSUMASA ANNO

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Jack did exactly what the wizard told him to do.
In the winter Jack baked one seed to eat

सरदियों में जैक ने फिर एक बीज को भूनकर खाया।

and buried the other in the ground.

और दूसरे को जमीन में बो दिया।

The next spring came. Just as before. One tiny plant grew from the seed Jack had buried.

पहले की तरह फिर वसंत आई। और जहां जैक ने बीज बोका था वहां एक छोटा पौधा निकल आया।

Summer came. 2 beautiful flowers bloomed on the plant followed by 2 marvellous fruits.

फिर गर्मी आई। पौधे में दो सुंदर फूल खिले, जो बाद में दो खुबसूरत फलों में बदल गए।

Fall came. And again the marvellous fruits produced 2 seeds.

In the winter, Jack ate one baked seed and buried the other seed in the ground.

फलबाईं आई। और दुबारा उन फलों में से 2 सुनहरे बीज निकले। सरदियों में जैक ने फिर एक बीज को भूनकर खाया और दूसरे को जमीन में बो दिया।
Once again in the year after this, one plant came up and 2 flowers bloomed and 2 marvellous fruits grew and 2 seeds were made. And again, Jack ate one seed and buried the other.

The next year, the flowers bloomed again and the marvellous fruits grew and 2 seeds were made, just as before. Again, Jack baked one seed and ate it and buried the other seed in the ground.

The next year, while Jack rested and watched, a plant came up, flowers bloomed on it, then 2 fruits appeared and 2 seeds were made. And as before, Jack ate one seed and buried the other in the ground.

But finally, Jack began to think about it. “This can just go on and on, in the same way forever,” he said to himself, “if I just go on doing the same thing every year.

पर इस सबने जैक को सोचने पर मजबूर किया। “हर साल वही बात हो रही है। आखिर इस तरह कब तक चलेगा?” उसने खुद से पूछा।
And in the next year after that, the flowers bloomed and
the marvellous fruits grew and the 2 seeds were produced
as well. Again, Jack ate one seed and buried the other.

Well this year, I will bury both the seeds in the ground.

“मैं सदियों में ऊँचा-ऊँचा से कुछ जुगाड़ करके अपना पेड़
पर लूंगा।” फिर जाड़े के मौसम में जैक ने दोनों बीजों को
बो दिया। उसने काफी मेहनत से उसकी देखभाल की।

The next year - that is, the first year after he planted
both seeds - what do you think happened?

ग्रीबा साल आया - यह पहला साल था जब उसने
दोनों बीजों को एक साथ बोया था। आपको ख्याल से उस
साल क्या हुआ?

In the spring, 2 sprouts came up, and in the fall 4
seeds were produced.

बसंत में 2 पौधे निकले जिनसे पतझड़ में 4 बीज पैदा हुए।

In the winter, Jack baked and ate one seed and buried the
other 3 seeds in the ground. Then in the spring of the second
year after his discovery, 3 sprouts came up. And in the fall, 6
seeds were made.

सदियों में जैक ने एक बीज खाया और बाकी 3 को जमीन में बो दिया।
दूसरे साल बसंत में 3 पौधे उगे, जिनसे पतझड़ में 6 बीज निकले।
That winter, Jack ate one seed and buried the other 5. He made a noisemaker to scare away crows and sparrows, so they wouldn’t come and eat the seeds. When the wind blew on it, the noise it made startled the birds.

How many fruits will grow in Jack’s garden next fall?

In the winter, Jack buried 9 seeds in the ground. He baked one seed and ate it.

The next year, the fourth year, in the spring there came the sprouts and in the fall there were 18 seeds. That winter, Jack buried 17 seeds in the ground.

The next year - that is, the fifth year - in the spring all the sprouts came up and in the fall the new seeds were made. That winter, Jack ate one seed and he buried the rest of them in the ground.

Well the next year - that is the third year after he got the idea - all the sprouts came up in the spring. And in the fall, 10 seeds were made from the 10 marvellous fruits.

In the winter, Jack buried 9 seeds in the ground. He baked one seed and ate it.

The next year - that is the third year after he got the idea - all the sprouts came up in the spring. And in the fall, 10 seeds were made from the 10 marvellous fruits.

In the winter, Jack buried 9 seeds in the ground. He baked one seed and ate it.

The next year, the fourth year, in the spring there came the sprouts and in the fall there were 18 seeds. That winter, Jack buried 17 seeds in the ground.

The next year - that is, the fifth year - in the spring all the sprouts came up and in the fall the new seeds were made. That winter, Jack ate one seed and he buried the rest of them in the ground.

How many seeds did he bury?
The next year, the sixth, all the sprouts came up, just as before. And that fall many seeds grew, so many that Jack didn’t bother to count them anymore. While he was busy gathering in the harvest of seeds, a nice young woman came along. Her name was Alice. Alice stopped to help him. How many seeds grew that year?

Jack ate one baked seed and so did Alice. And that winter, they buried the rest of the seeds in the ground. How many seeds did they bury?

In the spring of the next year, the seventh year, all the sprouts came up, and in the fall there were many seeds from all the fruits.

That winter, Jack and Alice got married and held a wedding party. They gave 2 delicious magic seeds to each of the 5 guests. Each guest saved one seed for a souvenir of this happy day. Jack and Alice ate one seed each.

That year they also built a little storehouse and put 16 seeds in it to keep for a while. The rest of the seeds they buried in the ground. How many seeds did they bury?
The next spring, the eighth, a lot of sprouts came up, and in the fall many seeds appeared. And then, because they had quite enough seeds, they decided to sell some at the town market.

They took 60 seeds to sell, including all those that they had put in the warehouse, the year before. Then they put 34 new seeds in the storehouse, set aside one seed each to eat and buried all the rest of the seeds in the ground.

How many seeds did they bury in the ground?

The next year was the ninth, since Jack had had his good idea.

In the spring a lot of sprouts came up, and in the fall a lot of seeds were made. That year their baby was born. So in the winter 3 seeds were eaten, since each of them ate one seed. Now, because they had so many seeds, they went to the market to sell 100 of them, including all those they had been keeping in the storehouse. They put 51 of the new crop of seeds into the storehouse and buried all the rest of the seeds in the field.

How many?
The next year was the tenth. The baby was growing, so Jack and Alice built a new, bigger house. In the fall, their field was filled with plants bearing the magic seeds. Soon it would be time for gathering the new harvest. But suddenly; “Oh!” said Jack. “The wind is blowing awfully hard!”

It was a hurricane! They had never expected such a terrible storm. The river overran its banks and soon there was a flood. Jack tied the house firmly to a tree, so that it would not be carried away. Then he pulled the cow up onto their cart, which was now floating like a ship. Alice, holding their little boy in her arms, ran up to the attic of the house.
Jack managed to scoop up a small bag of seeds. He tied the bag to the tree. What a dreadful storm it was? The wind shook the trees and blew the rain against them. Soon the field looked just like a wild sea. The wind roared and the dark, muddy water rumbled and rolled over the plants. The crops and the storehouse were completely washed away.

Finally, the storm was over. The sky cleared and the sun came out. But the fields were empty and bare.

“Still, our baby is safe, I am glad for that,” said Alice.
“So am I, very glad indeed,” said Jack.
“And our son has survived and I was able to save 10 seeds. So cheer up, dear wife. We will start all over and make a new life together.”

“भगवान का लाख शुभ्र है कि हमारा बच्चा तो सुरक्षित है,” एलिस ने कहा।
“मैं भी काफी खुश हूँ,” जैक ने कहा।
“कम-से-कम तुफान में हमारा लड़का तो बच गया। हम लोग अपनी महिमा से १० बीज भी बचा पाए। यह गम का नहीं खुशी का पौधा है। हम अब दुर्गारा से एक नई जिंदगी शुरु करेंगे!”

Jack baked 3 seeds. He gave one seed to Alice and one to their child and he ate one seed himself. He buried the rest of the seeds in the ground. Jack and his wife then bowed their heads and prayed together for a good crop.

३ बीज खुद खाया। उसने एलिस और एक अपने लड़के को भी एक-एक बीज दिया। बाकी बीजों को उसने जमीन में छोड़ दिया। फिर जैक और उसकी पत्नी दोनों ने जिंदगी का भिड़काल अभी फसल के लिए प्रार्थना की।
A note from Mitsumasa Anno

I called this book *The Magic Seeds* because, in fact, because there is a mysterious power in even one tiny seed that seems quite beyond our understanding. Of course, we could not live for a year on one grain of rice or cereal, as Jack did. But if we should bury one seed in the ground and take care of the plant that grows from it, it would not be long before we had a crop of hundreds of thousands of grains. In our real world of nature there are many such magical events - more than are contained in all the most fantastic picture books.

A long, long time ago, human beings learnt to grow plants for their food and other needs. They sowed seeds in the ground and fertilised them; they protected their growing plants from harmful birds and insects. They prayed to God for rain. And when their harvest produced more food than they needed commerce and trade began, and calculating and bargaining and other things we may think of as typical of civilisation. And then, unfortunately, some people began to quarrel and fight with each other.

I don’t mean to refer in this book to all of these difficult matters. Yet I think you will find that many events in our real world are quite a lot like things that happened in this story. I hope you will find this interesting.

The magic begins when the wizard gives Jack two mysterious golden seeds. Jack eats one and, miraculously, isn’t hungry for a whole year! He buries the other seed, just as the wizard had told him to do, and suddenly his life starts to change. His fortune grows by ones and twos, then faster and faster, and so does the reader’s fun - until suddenly a terrible flood threatens to take it all away. Though the story can be followed without any math’s skills beyond simple addition and subtraction, sharp-witted young readers will delight in the increasingly tricky arithmetic puzzles cleverly woven into both the text and illustrations.

This many-layered tale is much more than an entertaining mathematical tour de force; it has a deeper message. Anno’s simple but poetic text and exquisite watercolour illustrations invite children to seek out his meaning for themselves. Visual clues “hidden in plain sight” reveal the moment when carefree Jack mends his lazy ways; perceptive viewers will detect at what point he becomes “smarter” (or perhaps more calculating). In the end, a wiser Jack finds the courage to start it all again. Here is a heartening message for viewers/readers of all ages.

Mitsumasa Anno was born in Tsuwano, a small, historic town in the Shimane prefecture of Japan in 1926. His first book was published in 1968; since then, more than 100 others have followed to the delight of children, to the delight of children and adults around the world. He has received many honours for his work, including the Hans Christian Anderson Award in 1984 and the Shiju Hosho decoration. Mr. Anno believes that children enjoy the playful solving aspect of mathematics and that they use their natural mathematical abilities in many ways as part of their daily lives. In Anno’s Magic Seeds, he has not set out to teach arithmetic by using it within the story; instead the movement is in the opposite direction - it is the math that moves the narrative along and adds to the fun of reading it.

Other titles in Mitsumasa Anno’s innovative collection of beautiful maths books include: *Anno’s Mysterious Multiplying Jar, Socrates and the Three Little Pigs* and *Anno’s Hat Trick*. 

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