Magic Seeds

மாதிரி விளக்கம்

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கைதல்: எக்காட்டா, பானூர், பிளாம்புகள்

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN
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.

In the winter Jack baked one seed to eat and buried the other in the ground.
The next spring came. Just as before. One tiny plant grew from the seed Jack had buried. Summer came. 2 beautiful flowers bloomed on the plant followed by 2 marvellous fruits.

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.
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. 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.
"I will get through the winter somehow, by eating something different." So, that winter, he buried 2 seeds in the ground. He tended them very carefully.

The next year - that is, the first year after he planted both seeds - what do you think happened?
In the spring, 2 sprouts came up, and in the fall 4 seeds were produced.
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. 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?
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, 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, 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 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.
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.