

Frank and the Pea stalk



To download the Frank and the Pea Stalk Harvest story, find out more about the appeal, and how your school can celebrate harvest with your local church, visit carlisedioocese.org.uk

The story

Once upon a time there was a man called Frank.

He lived in a beautiful land called Malawi.

Frank was very poor.

He didn't have a cow, but he had been taught how to grow food by his beloved grandfather.

His grandfather showed him which crops to plant, and when and where he should plant them, to make sure that their family would have enough food to eat.





One day, Frank planted some sweetcorn. In the warm sun and the rich earth, the sweetcorn grew beautifully.

But in this land lived a nasty ogre who would send bad weather to destroy people's crops...

**'FEE FI FO FUM,
EXTREME WEATHER, HERE I COME!'**

That year, the ogre stopped the rain from coming and made the heat from the sun stronger. Slowly, in the hot, dry weather, Frank's sweetcorn plants began to shrivel up. The sweetcorn husks slowly drooped, before they shrivelled and died.

With no food to harvest, Frank and his family were hungry that year.



The next year, Frank planted some sweet potatoes. In the warm sun, and the rich earth, the sweet potatoes grew beautifully.

But then the words of the nasty ogre rang through the land once more...

**'FEE FI FO FUM,
EXTREME WEATHER, HERE I COME!'**

This time, the ogre sent rain. Hooray – rain! But the rain didn't stop. It rained and it rained so much that the fields flooded and swept away most of the sweet potatoes. The ones that were left grew mushy in the ground, until they rotted away.

With no food to harvest, Frank and his family were VERY hungry that year.



Frank was in despair. Everything he tried to grow was destroyed by the nasty ogre.



But then he met a man who offered him some peas. These peas did not look like anything special, but Frank planted them anyway.

What he didn't know was that these peas WERE special – very special.



The peas that Frank planted grew big and strong.

**'FEE FI FO FUM,
EXTREME WEATHER, HERE I COME!'**

The ogre once again sent hot, dry weather to destroy Frank's crops. But the peas didn't mind, and in the hot sun, the peas that Frank had planted grew bigger and stronger.

**'FEE FI FO FUM,
EXTREME WEATHER, HERE I COME!'**

This time, the ogre sent heavy rains to flood the fields and wash the crops away again. But the peas Frank planted had deep, strong roots and, in the heavy rains, they grew bigger and stronger.





That year, Frank and his family harvested their lovely peas and ate until their stomachs were full.

In this story, Frank did not destroy the ogre, but he did defeat him. This ogre is called 'climate change' and still lives in Malawi, changing the weather and hurting people's harvests.

But thanks to the amazing peas, Frank's family can live alongside the ogre, and will hopefully never go hungry again.

This is an adaptation of Jack and the Beanstalk. But our big, ugly ogre isn't a giant; it's climate change. And our hero doesn't get to destroy the ogre; he learns to live alongside it. And our beans are peas because it's special peas that are helping farmers, like Frank, in Malawi to adapt to the effects of climate change and grow enough food to eat.



Questions

1. Where does Frank live?

2. Name all the different crops Frank tried to grow. Which one worked?

3. What is the ogre called and what does it do?

More information

Christian Aid is helping farmers in Malawi, a country in central Africa, to cope with climate change. Climate change makes it harder to grow crops, because it has changed weather patterns, meaning that it can be too dry or too wet to plant seeds and harvest food. That's a big problem because lots of people in Malawi live on the food they grow themselves. Christian Aid has given special pea seeds to farmers, which are stronger than the seeds they used to sow. The pea seeds grow well even if it is very dry or very wet.

Fundraising through the Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest Appeal will support the project featured in this resource, as well as helping communities in South Africa to flourish through USPG. To find out more and to download other resources, visit carlisle-diocese.org.uk.

