

Traditional Tales (2)

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful garden in the surroundings of Tatton Park. It was the most wonderful garden, which went on as far as the eye could see. Filled with colourful flowers and singing birds - but the Tatton Park Garden was no ordinary garden. You see, Tatton Park Garden was the most magical of all. It holds many tales and stories within its leafy walls.

Maybe you have visited Tatton Park Gardens with your friends or family? Or maybe you have heard some of the magical tales about them? Why not have a go at the activities below with your family and see what magical tales you can create at home.

Activity 1: Jack and the Beanstalk

Once upon a time, there was a boy called Jack who lived with his mother in a little cottage in the gardens at Tatton Park. They were so poor all they had was one cow named Daisy. One morning Jack's mother told him to take Daisy to market and sell her, so they would have money to buy food. So off he went. But on the way he met a strange man who gave Jack some magic beans in exchange for the cow. When Jack's mother saw the beans she was so angry she threw the beans out of the cottage window, where they landed in the Tatton Park Garden. The next morning, Jack looked out of the window. One of the beans had grown into a giant beanstalk! He went outside and started to climb up the giant beanstalk. He climbed higher and higher, nearly all the way to the clouds!

At the top Jack found a beautiful castle. He entered and heard a loud voice. 'Fee, fi, fo, fum!'. An enormous giant came into the room and sat down. On his table there was a hen, and a golden harp. "Lay!" said the giant. The hen laid an egg. It was made of gold. "Sing!" said the giant. The harp began to sing. Soon the giant fell asleep... Jack jumped up and stole the hen and the harp and tried to run away. Suddenly, the harp sang, "Help, master help!" The giant woke up, and roared: "Fee, fi, fo, fum!". Jack ran even faster and started to climb down the beanstalk. The giant started to follow him! Jack shouted, "Mother! Help!" Jack's mother took an axe and chopped down the beanstalk. The giant fell and crashed to the ground. Nobody ever saw the giant again. With the golden eggs and the magic harp, Jack and his mother lived happily ever after.

Potting, planting and watching your beanstalk grow can be great fun! But you don't need magic beans...You can make your own 'Jack in the Beanstalk' plant and see how high it can grow! You will need: a pot, potting soil and bean seeds of any variety. Once the beanstalk starts to grow tall, use ties and attach it to a wooden stake pressed into the soil. This will help it stay upright, and it will start to wrap itself round the stick. Water your plant – but not too much! Happy Planting!

Activity 2: A Royal Bad Night's Sleep

Once upon a time, there was a Prince who wanted to marry a Princess. He travelled all over the world to find one, but he couldn't find the right Princess for him. One evening a terrible storm came to Tatton Park with thunder and lightning. Suddenly a knocking was heard at the doors of the Tatton Park Mansion; it was a lost Princess out in the rain. The Prince kindly offered her to stay the night where she would be safe and warm. The Prince wanted to test the Princess to see if she was a real Princess. He snuck into her room, took all the bedding off the bedstead and laid a single dried pea on the bottom. Then he took 20 mattresses and laid them on the pea.





Learning Hub

You see a real Princess would be able to feel even the smallest of peas under all those mattresses. The next morning the Prince asked how she had slept.

"Oh, very badly!" said she. "I have scarcely closed my eyes all night. Heaven only knows what was in the bed, but I was lying on something hard, it was horrible!" Now the Prince knew that she was a real Princess because she had felt the pea right through the 20 mattresses! They had a beautiful wedding, and lived happily ever after.

You and your family must try to detect the 'pea', just like the Princess did. Lay some cushions, mats, pillows, and different soft objects around the room and place a ball underneath them, to act as the 'pea'. For example, you could use old tennis balls or golf balls. You must each sit on one in turn and decide whether there is a 'pea' or not. If you are correct, you stay in for the next round. If you are incorrect you are out. Reset the balls and the cushions for each round.

Activity 3: Rapunzel and the Tatton Tower

Once upon a time, there lived a young girl named Rapunzel. She had the most beautiful long golden hair that contained magical powers. One day, a selfish old witch named Gothel kidnapped the young Rapunzel and locked her in the tallest tower in Tatton Park's Gardens with no way of escape. The tower had neither stairs nor door, but near the top was a little window where Rapunzel would gaze out. Rapunzel's life was very sad and lonely. She spent many hours combing and braiding her beautiful, golden hair.

Many years later, a Prince from the kingdom was riding through Tatton Park's Gardens on his white horse, when he heard the most beautiful singing coming from the tall tower. It was Rapunzel! At first Rapunzel was terribly frightened of him, but the Prince began to talk to her from the foot of the tower in a very soft voice. The Prince told Rapunzel how he had enjoyed listening to Rapunzel's song. They would speak every day, then one day the Prince asked Rapunzel for her hand in marriage. She said: "I will willingly marry you but I do not know how to get down!" The Prince cried: "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair." Rapunzel gathered up her beautiful braided hair and threw it out of the window. The Prince started to climb the golden braid of hair. Just then, the witch returned to the tower and saw the Prince climbing up the golden braid. The witch hastily began to chop the golden braid and the poor Prince fell to the ground, falling through the thick brambles and trees until he landed on the ground. Sadly, the Prince had lost his eyesight and was now blind.

Many years passed and the blind Prince wandered alone trying to find his sweetheart. Then one day, to his delight, he heard Rapunzel's song. He followed her sweet voice and found her in the locked tower. Rapunzel's eyes filled with tears of joy, to see her Prince Charming. Her tears fell upon the prince and healed his blindness. Once more, the Prince climbed Rapunzel's golden braid and saved her from the tower. The Prince took Rapunzel to his palace where they were married and lived happily ever after.

It's time to see who can build the tallest tower. If you have building bricks or Lego at home, you could use this for the game. If not, you can use other objects you find around the house. For example, you could stack books or tins! You have 1 minute to build the tallest tower you can, but remember – it has to stay upright! Once the time is up, measure the towers and declare a winner.

