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Trade Book Sheet

Title of book: Kate and the Beanstalk

Author's Name: Mary Pope Osborne

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers **Copyright Year:** 2000

Reading Level: Lexile 440, Grade 2 **Genre:** Modern Fantasy

Synopsis: The story is made after a version of Jack and the Beanstalk, but there is a girl named Kate instead of Jack. Kate and her mother are very poor. Kate takes their cow to market to sell it, but instead she trades the cow for magic beans. Her mother is angry and throws the beans out the window. That night, a giant bean stalk grows from the beans. Kate climbs the beanstalk into the sky where she sees an old woman. The woman tells her that the castle used to belong to a man and his wife and infant. One day a giant killed the man and took over the castle. The wife and infant were living in the village and were now very poor. Kate goes to the castle and a giantess grabs her and asks her for help. Her giant husband is mean to her. Kate agreed to help the woman with her duties if the giantess always hid her from the giant. While she was hiding, she saw the giant's magic hen that laid golden eggs. Kate stole the hen and rushed home. She hid the hen so she could give it to the poor widow of the man who owned the castle. She disguised herself and returned to the castle. She was once again asked to help the giantess, and this time she stole a bag of gold. She did the same thing the next day and stole their singing harp. The harp yelled as she was being stolen, and the giant was wakened. She ran down the beanstalk, and then chopped it down. A fairy came to Kate and her mother. She was the old woman and the beggar that gave the magic beans to Kate. They were the widow and infant, and the castle belonged to them.

Standard: Science 2.4.3 Observe and explain that plants and animals both need to take in water, animals need to take in food, and plants need light.

Activity: After listening to the story, the class will discuss the beanstalk and how it grew. Students can tell what they know about how plants grow. The students will grow their own beanstalks using beans. They will plant the seeds in pots of soil. The students will have to find a place to set their pots (like by the window), and water their beanstalks. They will create checklists of things that plants need in order to grow, and they will check those items daily or every other day to make sure their plant will grow. The class will also plant several bean plants that are not given the things on their checklist. Students will be able to make observations about both plants: those that got water and sunlight and those that did not.

Standard: Language Arts 2.7.10 Recount experiences or present stories that:

- move through a logical sequence of events.
- describe story elements, including characters, plot, and setting

Activity: The students will retell the story of Kate and the Beanstalk in a logical sequence of events by creating a comic strip of pictures and/or text. The students will draw pictures of the main events in order. Text is allowed but not required. They must have at least 7 picture boxes. After their comic strips are completed, the students will share their sequence of events with small groups. They will tell what each picture represents. They will also tell their small groups why they picked the events in the comic strip to draw.

(Original ideas by Jessica Lange)