

## The giant turnip

Once upon a time there was a farmer. One winter's end, just before the beginning of spring, he took a seed and planted it in the ground. Every day he watered it. The roots went down and the shoots went up. The seed was soon the size of a nut, a tomato, a potato, then a man's head and still it kept growing.

One day in midsummer the farmer's wife said, "Pull that turnip up! I want to cook it." So the farmer went out and took hold of the turnip top and pulled and pulled but the turnip wouldn't budge. He tried again, and as he did, he sang a little song:

*Heave-ho, heave-ho! Pull the turnip free.  
Heave-ho, heave-ho! We'll have it for our tea.*

He sang and he pulled, he pulled and he sang but the turnip would not budge.

He called out to his wife. "Can you help me?" And the farmer grabbed the turnip, the wife grabbed the farmer and together they pulled and sang. *Heave-ho, heave-ho... They sang and they pulled, they pulled and they sang. But the turnip would not budge.*

The wife called out to her son, Jack, "Come and help." The farmer grabbed the turnip, the wife grabbed the farmer and Jack grabbed his mother and together they all pulled and sang. *Heave-ho, heave-ho... They sang and they pulled... But the turnip would not budge.*

Jack called out to his sister, Jill for help. *The farmer grabbed the turnip...*

Jill called out to the sheep dog...  
Then the dog saw a little mouse...

...and this time, the enormous turnip popped out. The wife put it in a stew and that night they all enjoyed a delicious bowl of turnip stew - even the mouse!

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