

PIGWIG

1 How it all begins

Jack is a farmer's son and a farmer's grandson. He's thirteen. He lives on a sheep farm on the moors in the north of England. His family has three hundred sheep. There are some other animals on the farm too. Jack's father has three pigs for meat and two cows for milk.



Jack wants to be a farmer when he grows up. Every year Jack gets two lambs from his father. He looks after them and then he sells them at the market in Skipton. He can keep the money he gets for his lambs. Jack puts the money in the bank. He wants to go to New Zealand when he's sixteen. He wants to watch the New Zealand rugby team. Jack loves playing rugby.

Sometimes when the lambs are very small Jack's father brings them into the farm kitchen. They sleep in a box near the Aga cooker. Jack and his mother feed them special milk from a bottle until they get bigger.



One morning Jack's father comes into the kitchen. He is carrying something.

'Morning, Dad,' says Jack, 'Another lamb?'

'No, son, look in here.'

Wrapped in a towel is a tiny baby pig. Its eyes are closed and it is very still.

Jack's father says: 'One of the pigs has had 14 piglets but she hasn't got enough milk. This little piglet is very hungry and very cold. You can have her. Keep her warm and feed her every two hours. You can sell her at the market when she is big. More money for New Zealand, eh?' 'Thanks, Dad,' Jack says.

He takes the piglet, wraps her up in the towel again and puts her in the box next to the Aga cooker.

Then he warms some milk. Soon

he can hear noises from the box. The pig is awake. He gives her the milk. He looks at her: she's so funny, so pink. Pink and funny but nice. 'I'll call you Pigwig,' he says.

2 Jack's problem

Jack works hard with Pigwig. He gets up in the night to give her milk. And the baby pig grows and grows. Soon she's a very big pink pig.



It is September. Pigwig is a big grown-up pig. She lives in a pen outside.

Pigs are intelligent animals and Pigwig is very intelligent. She has a very good nose. Jack teaches her how to find things and how to find him. Soon she can find him anywhere on the farm. Now that she's a big grown-up pig she sleeps in a pen outside but she learns how to open every door so she can follow Jack.

Jack even teaches her how to play rugby. Pigwig is a great tackler. They

have enormous fun together. Every afternoon Pigwig walks to the bus stop and waits for Jack's school bus.

Then one morning at breakfast time Jack's father says: 'So, Jack. Next Friday is market day at Skipton. Pigwig weighs about a hundred kilos. She'll sell well. There's lots of meat on her now.'

Jack goes white. 'No, Dad,' he says, 'She's not big enough to sell.'

'Nonsense, Jack, she's a big pig. And she's a farm animal, not a pet. So it's market day for Pigwig next Friday. Cheer up. You'll get a lot of money for her.'

Jack thinks 'I don't want the money, I want Pigwig.' But he doesn't say anything. His family are farmers and farmers sell animals for meat. But not his Pigwig! He has to find a plan.

3 A robber on the moors

At school Jack thinks and thinks about a plan to save Pigwig. His teacher is angry with him. 'Jack Robinson, you are not concentrating!'

At lunchtime there are pork sausages for school dinner. Jack looks at them. He feels sick. Oh, no! Poor Pigwig, what can he do?



Jack is thinking hard. But his teacher is angry with him.

On the bus home Jack's friends are talking about the latest news: a prisoner has jumped out of a police van and has escaped onto the moors. The police say he is very dangerous. But Jack isn't interested. He can only think of Pigwig and the pork sausages.

Pigwig is waiting for him at the bus stop. Jack looks at her. 'Oh, Pigwig!' he says, 'What can we do?'

At home after tea his parents are ready to go out. They have a farmers' meeting. Jack's mother says: 'Lock the door. Don't go out. Be careful, there is a dangerous robber on the moors.'

Jack goes up to his room. There is a rugby match on TV. He tries to watch the match.

4 Somebody is in the house



Suddenly Jack hears a noise. He hears the front door open. Then he hears footsteps in the kitchen downstairs.

Oh no, the door isn't locked and now there is someone in the house! Then Jack remembers the news: It's the robber! The robber who jumped out of the police van! He's in the kitchen!



What can I do? I - I must phone the police! Where is my mobile phone? Oh no! It's on the kitchen table!

Jack is in a panic. Then he hears the robber go across the hall and into the dining room. *He's in the dining room. Now I can get my mobile phone from the kitchen!*



He goes down the stairs very, very quietly. He can hear the robber moving around in the dining room. The last step on the stairs makes a noise.

Oh no!



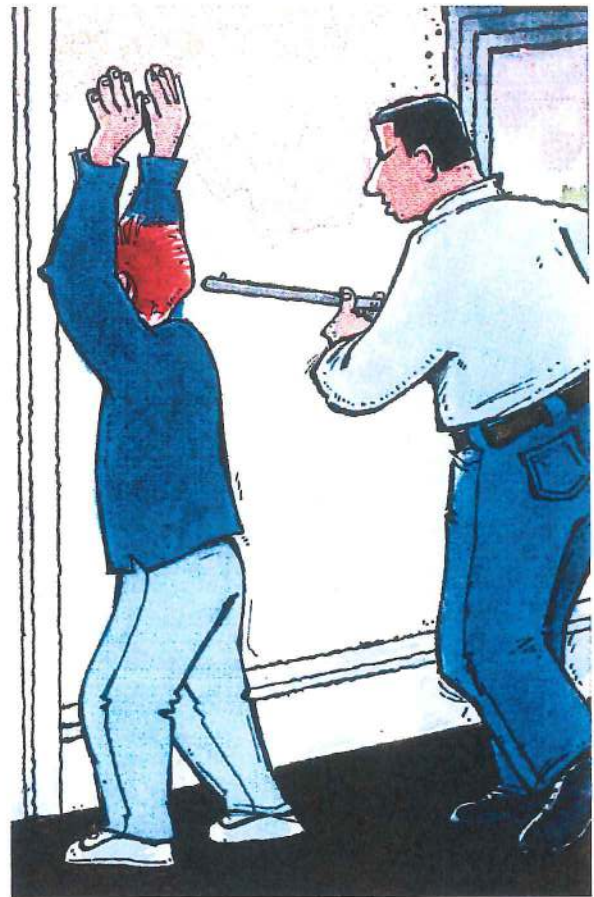
Suddenly the robber is in front of him. He has a gun in his hand. 'Help! Help!' Jack shouts.



'Shut up, you!' the robber says but Jack shouts
'Pigwig, Pigwig! Help! Help!'

'Shut up!' the robber says and hits Jack.
'Go in there and lie down.'

Jack goes slowly into the sitting room.



'Hurry up!'
'Lie down on the floor!'
Jack lies down.
'I'm going to tie you up. Lie still, boy!'
Jack has his face on the floor.
Then he hears something.

Now Jack isn't scared. Jack knows something the robber can't know. Pigwig is coming.
And ...

'Hey what the heck! Ow!'

The gun falls out of the robber's hands. Jack turns and sees Pigwig – all hundred kilos of her – sitting on the robber.

'Hurrah, Pigwig, you've got him! Clever girl!'

Jack jumps up, gets the gun and runs to the telephone.

'Don't move!' he shouts to the robber, but there's no chance that he will move.

Next day Pigwig's story is in the newspapers: Super-intelligent pig catches robber and saves boy. Pigwig is a hero. And Jack gets a big reward.

But best of all:

Jack and Pigwig can stay together.

'We can't sell Pigwig now Dad, can we?'

'No, son, you don't make sausages out of a hero.'

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