~Query Letter Template~

The story featured in this template is *Jack and the Beanstalk,* published in 1894, BC (Before Computers). You're probably wondering about the value of writing a query for a story that's been published in a gazillion languages around the world.

When you practice query writing using stories you've known most of your life, the process becomes less arduous and more like an exciting adventure with an old friend.

Once you've mastered the template format using Jack and the Beanstalk, you're ready to revise and format your agent-and-device-friendly query.

Every step you take along the learning curve between manuscript and agent acquisition increases your potential to achieve the goals of your heart—agent, contract, and shelf space at Barnes and Noble.

Write on!

May the words be with you.

Molli

Molli Nickell, THE Publishing Wizard
[Get Published Now](#)

EMAILED QUERY LETTER FORMAT~

To: Merrilee-Sells-a-Lot@thebestliteraryagency.com

SUBJECT: Hungry boy vs hungry giant. Outcome uncertain.

Starving and desperate, 12-year old Jack (child of a single parent), stumbles onto genetically altered seeds that lead to untold riches, waiting to be plundered. But, inept at stealing, Jack's thievery is discovered. He becomes public enemy #1, wanted dead or alive . . . preferable dead.

Jack and his widowed mother face certain starvation when their crops fail and Bossy goes dry. Jack swaps the cow for a handful of *magic* seeds which sprout (overnight) into a cloud-high bean stalk. Jack climbs up and into another dimension. He sneaks into a humungous castle and observes a nasty-tempered, carnivorous giant kneading crunch, fiber, and human bones into bread dough. Jack steals gold coins which alleviate the immediate need for grocery money. He climbs the stalk again and grabs a golden-egg laying goose, thereby guaranteeing residual income. Then, Jack pushes his luck, climbs back up the stalk to nab a miniature talking harp that rats him out. Running for his life, Jack heads for home, oblivious of the disaster that will ensue if the giant follows him down the stalk and into the human world.

Jack and the Beanstalk is one of twenty-two fables in my 56,000 word book, "English Fairy Tales." This compilation consists of unpublished stories as told by European storytellers. I've edited two published books of European folk tales. A member of the Storytellers' Guild, I attend their yearly conference, and host a monthly writers' critique group.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Joseph Jacob
storyguy@gmail.com
Linkedin: J. Jacob
blog: josephstorydude.com
Twitter: @joseph's stories
Pinterest: joseph's cool stuff
YouTube: Storytime with Joseph

Agent's email address.

Engaging email subject line.

Jump into the story on the very first line. Introduce your protagonist (main character), what they want and why, the obstacle(s) standing in their way, and what *could* happen if their goal is not achieved. End this paragraph with the terrible "or else" tease. Jack might starve to death or be eaten. Either way, he's in big trouble.

Text is set left, un-justified. One open space between paragraphs.

Note: the second paragraph expands on the first, showing more of Jack's actions and introduces the antagonist (meaning the bad guy, in this case, the giant).

Second paragraph concludes with a super-duper dire tease.

Third paragraph includes your title, word count, genre, writing background (if any), plus affiliations/activities with writing/critique groups.

Stack contact and social media information flush left under your name.

Dear Writer,

Be gentle with yourself.

Acknowledge that you're going through a learning curve as you shift from *telling* your story to *selling* your story.

Is this stressful? Yes it is!

Can you do it! Of course!

You can learn to create a submission packet (query, synopsis, and sample pages) that will land an agent who will guide you through the publishing maze.

Your next success step? Go shopping!

MolliMart offers an ever-expanding resource for low-cost tutorials, created to help you achieve the dreams of your heart: agent/contract/shelf space at Barnes and Noble.

During 30+ years in the biz, I've been associated with the big players including: