



## **The Pig, the Bullocks, the Sheep, the Pony and the Nanny-goat**

At that moment, George's mother came back from shopping in the village. She drove her car into the yard and got out. She was carrying a bottle of milk in one hand and a bag of groceries in the other.

The first thing she saw was the gigantic brown hen towering over little George. She dropped the bottle of milk.

Then Grandma started shouting at her from the rooftop, and when she looked up and saw Grandma's head sticking up through the tiles, she dropped the bag of groceries.

'How about that then, eh, Mary?' Grandma

shouted. 'I'll bet you've never seen a hen as big as that! That's George's giant hen, that is!'

'But ... but ... but ...' stammered George's mother.

'It's George's magic medicine!' Grandma shouted. 'We've both of us had it, the hen and I!'

'But how in the world did you get up on the roof?' cried the mother.

'I didn't!' cackled the old woman. 'My feet are still standing on the floor in the living-room!'

This was too much for George's mother to understand. She just goggled and gaped. She looked as though she was going to faint.



A second later, George's father appeared. His name was Mr Killy Kranky. Mr Kranky was a small man with bandy legs and a huge head. He was a kind father to George, but he was not an easy person to live with because even the smallest things got him all worked up and excited. The hen standing in the yard was certainly not a small thing, and when Mr Kranky saw it he started

jumping about as though something was burning his feet. 'Great heavens!' he cried, waving his arms. 'What's this? What's happened? Where did it come from? It's a giant hen! Who did it?'

'I did,' George said.

'Look at *me*!' Grandma shouted from the rooftop. 'Never mind about the hen! What about *me*?'

Mr Kranky looked up and saw Grandma. 'Shut up, Grandma,' he said. It didn't seem to surprise him that the old girl was sticking up through the roof. It was the hen that excited him. He had never seen anything like it. But then who had?

'It's fantastic!' Mr Kranky shouted, dancing round and round. 'It's colossal! It's gigantic! It's tremendous! It's a miracle! How did you do it, George?'

George started telling his father about the magic medicine. While he was doing this, the big brown hen sat down in the middle of the yard and went *cluck-cluck-cluck ... cluck-cluck-cluck-cluck-cluck*.

Everyone stared at it.

When it stood up again, there was a brown egg



lying there. The egg was the size of a football.



‘That egg would make scrambled eggs for twenty people!’ Mrs Kranky said.

‘George!’ Mr Kranky shouted. ‘How much of this medicine have you got?’

‘Lots,’ George said. ‘There’s a big saucepanful in the kitchen, and this bottle here’s nearly full.’

‘Come with me!’ Mr Kranky yelled, grabbing George by the arm. ‘Bring the medicine! For years

and years I’ve been trying to breed bigger and bigger animals. Bigger bulls for beef. Bigger pigs for pork. Bigger sheep for mutton ...’

They went to the pigsty first.

George gave a spoonful of medicine to the pig.

The pig blew smoke from its nose and jumped about all over the place. Then it grew and grew.



In the end, it looked like this ...



They went to the herd of fine black bullocks that Mr Kranky was trying to fatten for the market.

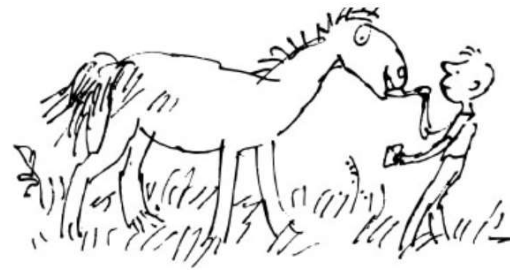
George gave each of them some medicine, and this is what happened ...



Then the sheep ...



He gave some to his grey pony, Jack Frost ...



And finally, just for fun, he gave some to Alma,  
the nanny-goat ...

**Task - please answer these questions.**

1. What was the first thing George's mum saw when she got home?
2. Why did George's mum drop the milk?
3. On page 3, how big does it say the egg was?
4. Why would George's dad want larger animals?
5. What was the pony called?
6. Draw a picture that shows what would happen if a mouse ate some of George's medicine!

