



Skill Story: **Aiming High**



How to use this resource:

1. Explain that you are going to read a story about **Aiming High**.
2. Ask learners to listen out for times when characters find tasks easy or difficult.
3. Read the story.
4. Discuss the reflection questions on the last page.





Jake The Snake Who Can!



Jake the Snake lived in a house of wood,
with friends Frog, Mouse and Bird in his neighbourhood.



Every day, Jake saw his friends laughing and talking, running and jumping, flying and walking. Jake felt useless with what he had; all he could do was slither and that made him feel sad.

Poor Jake watched his friends and he tried to copy.
But he had no legs and his body was too floppy.



No matter how hard Jake did try,
he just couldn't walk, run, jump or fly.

Feeling blue, Jake went out for a slither,
and soon saw Bird crying down by the river.



“It’s too windy to fly and I can’t swim.”

“Don’t worry!” said Jake and he dived right in.

“Just hop on my back and I’ll give you a ride.

We’ll swim straight across to the other side.”



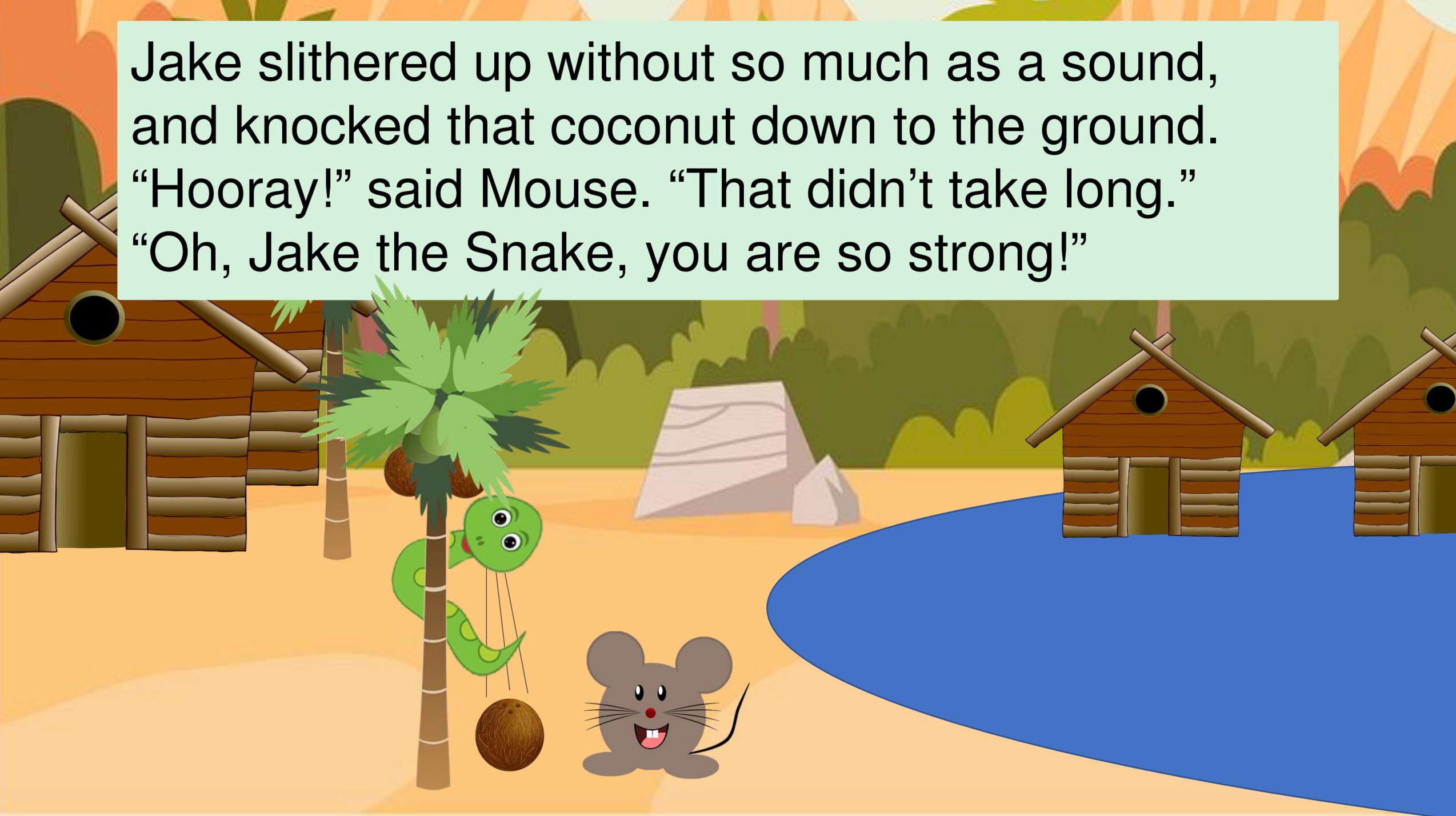
“Thank you, Jake!” squawked a happy Bird. Just as he did, a funny noise they heard. They looked around and then did see, Mouse looking up at a coconut tree.



“I’m trying to climb up and bring a coconut down, but I’m not strong enough,” said Mouse with a frown.



Jake slithered up without so much as a sound,
and knocked that coconut down to the ground.
“Hooray!” said Mouse. “That didn’t take long.”
“Oh, Jake the Snake, you are so strong!”





They picked up the coconut and moved on their way.
This was soon becoming a very hot day.

Around the corner, outside her front door,
Frog was sitting on the floor.
She had been running around, playing with a ball;
Now she was sat down, trying to keep cool.



“Frog looks tired,” said Mouse. “I think... maybe she needs a cooling drink.”



They rolled the coconut up to Frog’s feet.
“There you go friend, a refreshing treat!”



She pushed it and pulled it and gave it a whack,
But that coconut shell just would not crack.

Jake opened his jaws and, with an almighty crunch, all of his friends enjoyed coconut for lunch!





And now Jake the Snake can really see
(and Bird, Frog and Mouse all agree!)
that when friends are in need, they can call for Jake...



... he really is a Super Snake!



The End!



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Reflection Questions:

1. What happened in the story?
2. What did different characters find difficult?
3. What did Jake find easier?

Extension Question:

4. When have you found something difficult?

