

Submission Type: article

Text: Jack, a Name or a Phenomenon?

Jack. J-A-C-K. The man who feeds the hungry, the healer, the antidepressant, the slayer of street walkers, or the world's hero.

The name Jack is derived from the Hebrew name John. Personally, I don't see how Jack came from this other four letter name, but I guess that's another article in itself. The name Jack means, "the lord is gracious," and ranks 53 in the country. Not bad, not bad at all. Since its creation, it has slowly lost its popularity until the last one hundred years. However, Jack has made an immense comeback! Everywhere, everyday, Jack pops up all over the world. Here are only a few of the many examples of "Jack" in our society.

Jack's first come back was in the form of legends, myths, nursery rhymes, and horror stories. One Jack killed innocent "ladies of the night" and never was caught. (Jack the Ripper). Another Jack fell down a hill fetching a pail of water, resulting in a nasty bump to the head. (Jack and Jill, the nursery rhyme). Also known as Old Man Winter, this Jack was a little sprite that turned everything to frost and ice (Jack Frost).

The more modern and the more preferred Jacks' are of the 20th and 21st centuries. The most famous Jacks make their appearance on the silver, plasma, and LCD screens of the world. The romantic Jack died holding the hands of his lover while floating in The Atlantic Ocean, waiting for the rescue boats (Titanic). Jack is the name of the only doctor on a mysterious island (Lost). A Counter Terrorists Unit led Jack Bauer, heroically protects the free world from evil (24). One of the most beloved Jacks of the world captains an infamous ship called the "Black Pearl," (Captain Jack Sparrow of the Pirates of the Caribbean Trilogy).

Honorable mentions are, "Jack" the mascot of America's favorite fast food joint, Jack in the Box. John Kennedy, aka Jack Kennedy sits among our countries greatest leaders. And, we can't forget about Mr. Jack Daniels, the well known Tennessee Whiskey. Jack is no longer just a name in this world. Jack means much, much, more! Jack is not just the common name it used to represent. Mass media has brought new life to this four letter name and ultimately due to Jack Bauer, Jack Dawson, Jack Shephard, and Jack Sparrow, "Jack" has taken on the title of the American Hero.

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