

The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Lesson Plans

1. Have your children listen to *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (Streaming or Interactive)
2. Have each child read one page of the book aloud (You-Read Version).
3. Have each child describe the characters Peter Rabbit and Mr. McGregor. Briefly discuss traits (PETER: disobedient, naughty, gluttonous, foolish; MR. MCGREGOR: gardener, angry, determined, possessive, frustrated) and describing words (scared, fast, lost, wet, tired).
4. Give each child a coloring page to color in. Then, have the children put the pages in order as they occurred in the story.
5. Read the Beatrix Potter biography and notes on the story. Discuss Ms. Potter's style and her influences, including her very sheltered British upbringing and her love for animals as her companions.
6. Discuss how the story of Peter was actually begun as a letter to an ill little boy. Then, have the children write their own simple letter to a classmate chosen in "secret."
7. Use "Word Play" to see how many words can be made from BEATRIX POTTER.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. Who are the main characters?
Peter Rabbit and Mr. McGregor
2. How many bunnies were in Peter's family?
Four
3. How would you describe Peter?
Naughty
4. What did Mr. McGregor do when he saw Peter in the garden?
Ran after him.
5. Where did Peter lose one of his shoes?
One in the cabbages. One in the potatoes.
6. How did Peter get caught in the net?
The button on his jacket got caught in the net.
7. Where did Peter hide when he ran inside the tool shed?
In the watering can.
8. What did Mr. McGregor do with Peter's little jacket and shoes?
Put them on a scarecrow.
9. What did Peter's mother give him before he went to bed?
Chamomile tea
10. What did Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton Tail have for supper?
Bread, milk and blackberries.

NOTES ON THE STORY

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Tale of Peter Rabbit is a children's story written and illustrated by Beatrix Potter that tells of Peter Rabbit, a mischievous and disobedient young rabbit who has various adventures in the garden of Mr. McGregor. The book was written for private amusement, but published at the urging of Ms. Potter's friends in 1902. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* has sold more than 40 million copies worldwide and has been translated in to many languages.

SUMMARY

Peter is a young rabbit whose mother has forbidden him and his sisters to enter the garden of Mr. McGregor. However, the temptation is too much, and he enters the garden, gorges on vegetables, and is chased about by Mr. McGregor. Peter is trapped in a net and loses his jacket and his shoes. His clothing is used by Mr. McGregor to make a scarecrow. Peter escapes the garden and returns to his mother exhausted and quite sick. She puts him to bed with a dose of camomile tea.

HISTORY AND SOURCES

The story began as a letter to the young son of Beatrix Potter's former governess. The boy was ill, and Ms. Potter wrote him a story to help him pass the time and to cheer him up. The letter included sketches illustrating the narrative.

"Peter Rabbit" was the name of a pet rabbit Ms. Potter had when she was young. The character of Mr. McGregor is thought to be based on a local resident of the village of Dalguise in Perthshire, where Beatrix Potter spent her holidays as a child.

THE PETER RABBIT CHARACTER'S APPEARANCES

Peter Rabbit made his first appearance in 1902 in Beatrix Potter's first book *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Peter disobeys his mother's orders and sneaks into Mr. McGregor's garden, eating as many vegetables as he can before Mr. McGregor spots him and chases him around. Peter manages to escape, but not before losing his jacket and shoes, which Mr. McGregor uses for his new scarecrow.

In *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*, first published in 1904, Peter's cousin Benjamin Bunny brings him back to Mr. McGregor's garden and they fetch Peter's clothes from the scarecrow. But after they gather onions to give to Peter's mother, they are captured by Mr. McGregor's cat. Benjamin's father shows up and rescues them, but also reprimands Peter and Benjamin for going into the garden by whipping them with a switch.

In *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle*, first published in 1905, Peter and Benjamin make a cameo appearance when Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, a hedgehog washerwoman, returns their mended clothes.

In *The Tale of Ginger and Pickles*, first published in 1909, Peter and other characters from Potter's previous stories make cameo appearances in the artwork.

In *The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies*, first published in 1909, Peter and his friends are grown up. His sister Flopsy is now married to Benjamin Bunny and they have a big brood of little Flopsy Bunnies. Peter keeps a nursery garden and the bunnies come by asking him for spare cabbage.

In *The Tale of Mr. Tod*, first published in 1912, Benjamin and Flopsy's children are kidnapped by notorious badger Tommy Brock. Peter helps Benjamin chase after Brock, who hides out in the house of the fox Mr. Tod. Mr. Tod finds Brock sleeping in his bed and as the two get into a scuffle, Peter and Benjamin rescue the children.

BEATRIX POTTER



Helen Beatrix Potter (28 July 1866 – 22 December 1943) was an English author, illustrator, mycologist and conservationist who was best known for her many best-selling children's books that featured animal characters, such as Peter Rabbit.

Born into a privileged household, Beatrix was educated by governesses and grew up isolated from other children. She had numerous pets and, through holidays spent in Scotland and the Lake District, developed a love of landscape, flora and fauna, all of which she closely observed and painted. Her parents discouraged her intellectual development as a young woman, but her study and watercolors of fungi led to her being widely respected in the field of mycology.

In her thirties, Ms. Potter published the highly successful children's book *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, and became secretly engaged to her publisher Norman Warne. This caused a breach with her parents, who disapproved of her marrying someone of lower social status. Warne died before the wedding could take place.

Ms. Potter began writing and illustrating children's books full time. Having become financially independent of her parents, she was able to buy a farm in the Lake District, which she extended with other purchases over time. In her forties, she married William Heelis, a local solicitor. She became a sheep breeder and farmer while continuing to write and illustrate books for children. She published a total of twenty-three books.

Ms. Potter died in 1943 and left almost all of her property to her husband who, after his death in 1945, left it to The National Trust to preserve the beauty of the Lake District as she had known it and to protect it from developers.

Beatrix Potter books continue to sell well throughout the world, in multiple languages. Her stories have been retold in various formats, including a ballet, films and in animation.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Teacher's Key

Beatrix Potter Word Play

See how many words you can make from the author's name.

B E A T R I X

art, at, ate, axe, bait, bat, bate, bear, beat, bit, bite, brat, exit,
extra, rat, rate, rib, tab, tar, tax, tea, tie, tear, tribe,

P O T T E R

ore, otter, pert, pet, pore, port, pot, rope, rot, rote, to, top, tope,
tore, tort, tot, tote, trot