

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Study Guide

The Author

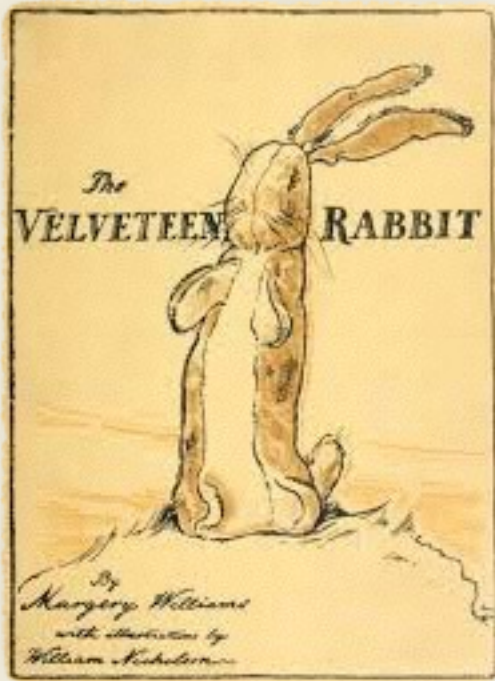
Margery Williams was born in London, England on July 22, 1881. She had been a professional writer since the age of nineteen. She primarily wrote children's books. Her biggest success was at the age of 41 in 1922 when she wrote *The Velveteen Rabbit*. She died on September 4, 1944.



Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.

— Margery Williams —

AZ QUOTES



About Our Show!

A stuffed rabbit sewn from Velveteen is given to a young boy on Christmas morning. The boy plays with other more modern toys at first. The oldest and wisest toy in the nursery, the Skin Horse, tells the rabbit about toys becoming Real because of real love from their owners. One night the boy sleeps with the rabbit in place of a lost toy. The two become connected and begin a wonderful friendship. As time passes, the rabbit becomes shabby from over use, but happy. The Velveteen Rabbit meets real rabbits outside one day and realizes that he cannot hop like the others, because he is not real. The boy becomes ill and the rabbit stays by the boy's side while he recovers, however, the doctor orders that the boy's room and toys be disinfected, so the boy's mother tosses his toys, including the rabbit out in the garden to be burned the next day. The rabbit realizes his time with the boy is over and cries a real tear! A flower appears from where the tear fell and a magical fairy steps out of the flower to comfort the rabbit. She tells the rabbit that she will turn him real with a kiss and sends him to be with the other real rabbits. The boy returns home and sees a real rabbit that reminds him of his old friend, the Velveteen Rabbit.

Themes/Lessons

- Friendship
- Imagination
- Real love
- Perseverance
- Kindness
- Respect
- Honesty
- Hope



Arts & Crafts!

Use your imagination to create a picture of what the Velveteen Rabbit looked like BEFORE & AFTER his magical transformation. What qualities in the stuffed rabbit stayed the same when he became a Real rabbit? Which qualities changed? Why did the rabbit come to life? Do you have a favorite stuffed animal you'd like to see come to life?

ACTIVITIES

*Choose a special toy and create a short play about an adventure that the toy goes on when you leave the playroom.

*Think of your favorite place to visit and who you want to bring with you. Make a list of reasons why this place and these people are special to you.

*Play "Pin the Tail on the Rabbit" with cotton balls and a large picture of a rabbit.

*The young boy in the story gets very sick. Pretend that you are a friend of the boy in the story and create a get well card for him. Include a get well message along with a drawing of your favorite toy.

*Interview people of varying ages. Ask them what their favorite toy was when they were young. Ask them to describe it to you.

Did it have a name? Why was it their favorite toy? What happened to their toy? Once you have asked your fill of questions, write a report on the people you interviewed. Also draw pictures of the toys they described to you. Would you want to play with it?



Numbers!

The world's oldest rabbit on record lived to be

16

The Velveteen Rabbit was first published in the year

1922

2 million

U.S. households own a pet rabbit

Rabbits eyes don't open until

10 to 14

days after they are born.

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him-- the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a Leg!"

In Ancient Greece, audiences stamped their feet rather than clapping their hands as a sign of applause.

BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, you are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an

audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
3. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
4. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
5. Listen and watch the story that is being conveyed by the actors. How do they use their body and voice to be different characters?
6. Notice the facts that are in the play to understand the what the world is like in the story.



The Velveteen Rabbit has been adapted more than eight times. Famous actress Meryl Streep recorded an audio soundtrack of the book and it received multiple awards.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. At what time of year did the boy receive the velveteen rabbit?
2. Which toy befriends the rabbit?
3. What does the Velveteen Rabbit see in the park?
4. What illness does the boy in the story catch?
5. Who puts the toys in the garden and why?
6. Who uses magic?
7. What does the boy see after he has recovered from his illness?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. From whose point of view is the story told?
2. What are some problems the main character faced in this story?
3. How did the main character solve the problem?
4. How did the main character change in the end of the story?
5. What was your favorite part of the story?
6. What is the purpose of this story? How did it make you feel?
7. Who is your favorite character in this story and why?

After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

Rabbit Facts:

- Male rabbits are “bucks” and female rabbits are “does”
- Rabbits can jump up to 36 inches or higher.
- Rabbits have 28 teeth and they never stop growing throughout it’s life span.
- Rabbits can reach speeds of up to 40 mph.
- Average age for rabbits is 8 years.
- Rabbits love to eat fresh fruits, vegetables, grass and water!





A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book, a pen, etc.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stages were built at angles.

Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.

ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?



BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

The Velveteen Rabbit

Made it's debut in the fall of 2015.

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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