

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Reading Questions and Answers

Front Cover: What kind of book do you think this is? (Fiction/non-fiction.) How do you know?

- Example answer: I think this is a fiction book because it says it is a 'tale', which means a story. I don't think this is an information book because the cover shows a rabbit in a jacket and rabbits don't wear coats in real life.

Look at the title and the front cover. Can you predict what this book is going to be about?

- Example answer: I think that the book is about a rabbit called Peter Rabbit. I think it will be about an adventurous rabbit as he looks like he is running on the cover.

Blurb: From looking at the blurb and the picture on the back, can you say some of the characters that will appear in this story?

- I can work out that there is a Mrs. Rabbit, a Mr. McGregor and a Peter Rabbit.

Does the blurb help you to predict what might happen in the story?

- Example answer: I can work out that Peter Rabbit disobeys his mother and goes into the garden of Mr. McGregor and that he meets dangers there.

Text: p.4 What are the first four words of the story? What other stories do you know which start in this way? Does this help you to predict what the story may be like?

- The first four words are 'Once upon a time'. These words are used in traditional tales. This makes me think this book might be similar to a traditional tale in some way. Maybe it has good and bad characters and good might win over bad.

p.4 Where is this story set?

- Example answer: The family of rabbits live in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree so the setting is somewhere where you find trees. Maybe it is a wood.

p.5 Why do you think Mrs. Rabbit tells her children that they are not allowed to go into Mr. McGregor's garden?

- Example answer: I think she tells them not to go there

because it could be dangerous.

p.6 Why do you think Mrs. Rabbit reminds the children about what happened to their father when he went in the garden? Do you think they will listen to the warning?

- Example answer: I think she reminds them of what happened to their father because she wants them to know how serious it is and to make it clear to them that they might not come back if they go there. I think the children will listen to the warning because they don't want the same thing to happen to them.

p.7 What does the word 'mischief' mean? Can you put it into a sentence?

- To get into mischief means to misbehave or get into trouble. Example sentence: The children got into mischief when they were playing in some mud they had been told to keep out of.

p.9-10 What do we know now about the personalities of the different rabbits?

- Example answer: We know that Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-tail are 'good little bunnies' and do as they have been asked but Peter Rabbit is 'very naughty' and does not follow the rules.

p.10 Do you think that Peter thought carefully about whether or not he should go into Mr. McGregor's garden? What words tell you this?

- Example answer: I think he didn't think carefully about it at all because the text says that he 'ran straight away' to the garden.

p.11 Are you surprised that Peter did this? Why or why not?

- Example answer: I am very surprised that Peter did this because if his father ended up not surviving his visit to the garden, I thought Peter would be worried for his own safety there.

Deeper Reading

What do you think will happen next in the story? Explain why you think this.

- Example answer: I think that Peter will get into danger in Mr. McGregor's garden. I think this because his mother warned him not to go there and I think it would make a good story if he goes on to escape dangers there.

