



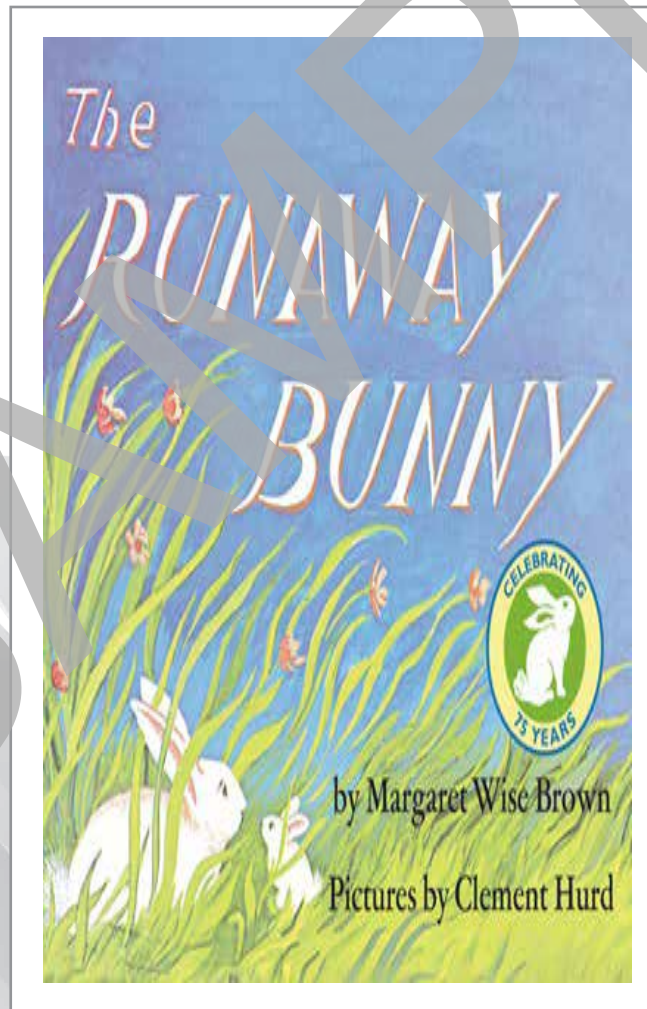
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES K-3

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

The Runaway Bunny

Margaret Wise Brown



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Runaway Bunny

Margaret Wise Brown

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming

Writing

Narrative, creative

Comprehension

Predicting, comparison/
contrast

Listening/Speaking

Discussion

Vocabulary

Sorting

Literary Elements

Characterization, story
elements, fantasy

Summary

A little bunny, living with his mother, wants to run away. His mother tells him, "If you run away, I will run after you. For you are my little bunny." Try as he might, he cannot think of any place to go that his mother will not find him, so he settles into being his mother's "little bunny."

About the Author

Margaret Wise Brown was born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 23, 1910, and died in France on November 13, 1962. She received a BA degree from Hollins College, Virginia, in 1932.

Margaret Wise Brown was a member of the publishing staff of the Bureau of Educational Experiments, later known as The Bank Street School in New York City.

She then became the editor of children's books for the William R. Scott Publishing Company, also in New York City. In 1941 she became a freelance writer of books for children.

She was a member of the "Bird Brain Club," which held Christmas any time of the year it wished. It was this type of thing that best describes her lifestyle, which was independent and unique.

There were not many children in her own childhood, and much of her early time was solitary, and spent in the woods and along the beaches, and in the imaginary countries that she made up.

The first draft of her story was usually written in twenty minutes in soft pencil. It would take up to two years to polish it. She felt that a picture book must be dramatic and much of the drama is in turning the pages. She wanted each book to contain at least two words that were too big and cumbersome for her youthful readers.

She set high standards for the illustrations of her stories and split the royalties with the illustrators. She liked to spend her money on clothes, champagne, and flowers.

She died unexpectedly in France. She was planning to get married in a short time.

Attribute Web

The attribute web below will help you gather clues the author provides about a character in the novel. Fill in the blanks with words and phrases which tell how the character acts and looks, as well as what the character says and what others say about him or her.

Acts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Feels

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Looks

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Says

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

-
13. What would you like to do at the circus? (*Answers will vary.*)
 14. Look at the picture on the wall of the home that little bunny and mother rabbit share as a boy and his mother. Does this picture remind you of something? (*the nursery rhyme of Hey Diddle Diddle*)
 15. Why did little bunny decide to stay where he was? (*because mother rabbit was going to follow him wherever he went*)
 16. How do you feel about the bunny's decision? (*Answers will vary.*)
 17. Make a character attribute web for the little bunny. (See pages 9-11 of this guide.)

Center Activities

Writing

1. Pretend that you are little bunny. What would you change into when you ran away?

Write a story about what you would become, and where you would be. Illustrate the story.

2. Think of a different ending for the story. Write your ending, and illustrate it.

3. What If?

A slight change in the circumstances can make a big difference in the reactions in, and outcomes of, a situation.

Choose one of these, or make up one of your own and answer it.

- What if the bunny had run away?
- What if the bunny had become lost?
- What if the mother had not cared if the bunny ran away?
- What if the bunny had had several brothers and sisters?
- What if the father rabbit had been there, too?

Art

In the story, little bunny has many human characteristics. Draw him. Make clothes for the bunny. Use fabric scraps, paper, buttons, anything that you can find that would be appropriate.

If you would like to make several outfits for your bunny, use him as you would a paper doll. Enjoy the little bunny.