

Teacher instructions: Read this passage aloud to your learner.

JACK RABBIT'S VISIT

In a hole in a big oak tree Father Squirrel had made his home. He was such a pretty fellow, with his bright eyes and his long, bushy tail. He was very careful about little things and always saved up a store of nuts for the winter. He brought up his family in the same way. Mother Squirrel and three little squirrels lived with him, and they were all of them just as careful and saving as could be. There was never so much as an acorn wasted in Father Squirrel's house, and one of the very first things he and Mother Squirrel taught their children was to lay up a store of food so that they would have plenty to eat in the winter. They were nice little things, these children; they had big eyes and big tails. They played in the trees, and on the ground, too, and they had no end of fun.

On this cold autumn day about which I am telling you, Father Squirrel and Mother Squirrel and the three little ones were all at home eating nuts in the old oak tree. All at once there came a tiny tap on the bark of the tree, outside the door. It was a very weak little tap, so low that Mother Squirrel was not sure that anyone had knocked. She listened and soon she heard another tap—this time a little louder. Father Squirrel heard the knock, too, so he went to the door to see who was outside. He could hardly believe his eyes when he saw Jack Rabbit standing there! He had never seen a rabbit in a tree before in all his life. "Hello, Jack Rabbit!" said Father Squirrel. "How did you ever climb up this tree?"

"I didn't climb up the tree," answered the rabbit. "This branch I am standing on reaches all the way from the ground to your front door, so I just walked along on it until I came to your house. May I come in?"

"Yes, come in," said Father Squirrel. Jack Rabbit came hopping into the house. "Sit down," said Mother Squirrel. So Jack Rabbit sat down upon the floor. Then one of the little squirrels rolled some hickory nuts up to him and said, "Eat some nuts!"

"No, thank you, Little Squirrel," said Jack Rabbit. "I do not like nuts."

When Jack Rabbit was warmed and rested, Mother Squirrel sent her little ones to bed. Then she and Father Squirrel had a long talk with their visitor. "Rabbit, where do you live?" asked Mother Squirrel.

"I live in the ground; I have a warm hole there," answered Jack Rabbit.

"What do you eat?" asked Father Squirrel.

Jack Rabbit said, "Oh, I eat leaves."

"What do you eat, Squirrel?" Father Squirrel said, "We eat nuts and acorns. In the fall we store them away for winter. All my family help me. So we have plenty of nuts and acorns for the winter, and enough for a friend, too, if you will just learn to eat them. Will you come to live with us?"

"No," answered Jack Rabbit. "I cannot live in a tree and I could never learn to eat nuts. I must go, now. Good-bye!" So away went Jack Rabbit to his nice warm hole in the ground.

—MARY DEMING.

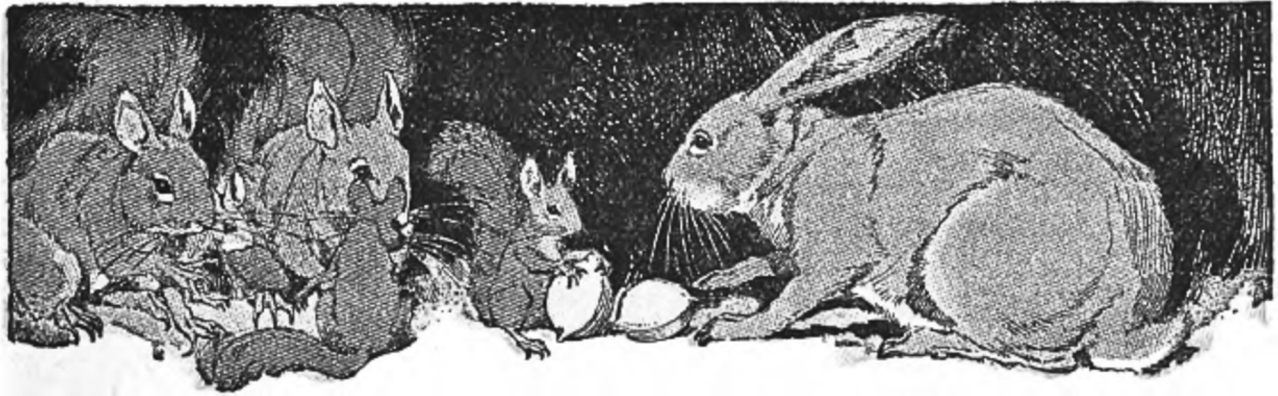
Discuss.



Lesson 27



Teacher instructions: Discuss the illustration and the passage with your learner.



What do you see in the illustration?

What do you remember from the story you just listened to? Tell me the story using your own words.

Read.



Lesson 27



Read this silently and then out loud.

Father Squirrel lived in a tree.
His home was a hole in the tree.
Mother Squirrel lived there, too.
Three little squirrels lived with them.
They were pretty little squirrels.
They had big eyes and big tails.
They played in the trees.
They played on the ground too.

Write. 

Lesson 27



Copy the passage.

“What do you eat?” asked Father Squirrel.

Jack Rabbit said, “Oh, I eat leaves.”

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline, repeated five times.

