

Teacher instructions: Read this passage aloud to your learner.

THE EASTER RABBIT

One day Little Rabbit was sitting by the roadside, when all at once he saw Ray and May coming along, hand in hand. They did not see Little Rabbit, for he was behind some bushes. "Easter is coming soon," said May. "Let us make a nest in the yard. The Easter Rabbit will see it and leave pretty eggs in it for us—blue eggs and red eggs and eggs of all colors." "All right," said Ray. "Let us make a nest. Let us begin now." And away the children ran to get grass and hay for the nest.

Little Rabbit had heard everything Ray and May said. He thought it would be great fun if he could play that he was the Easter Rabbit and put eggs into the children's nest. So he ran straight home to his mother and said, "Mother, I want to be the Easter Rabbit."

"What is the Easter Rabbit?" asked his mother in surprise, for she had never heard of such a thing in all her life.

"Oh, he is the rabbit that puts pretty eggs into children's nests every Easter," answered Little Rabbit. "Ray and May are going to make a nest in the yard. I heard them say so. I want to put eggs into it."

"Oh, no, Little Rabbit," said his mother. "Do not go away from home. You must not let Ray and May see you. They will catch you."

"I like Ray and May," said Little Rabbit. "They will not catch me." And he kept thinking what fun it would be to put Easter eggs into the children's nest.

By and by Mother Rabbit went to the garden to get some dinner, and just as soon as she was out of sight, Little Rabbit ran to see if he could find Easter eggs for the nest. Over the field and down the road he ran. Ray and May saw him and ran after him, shouting, "Stop, Little Rabbit, stop! Let us catch you. We want to give you some dinner!" But Little Rabbit ran too fast for them, and called out,

"Boys and girls cannot catch me, For I'm the Easter Rabbit, you see!"

He thought it was great fun to lead Ray and May such a chase—but dear me, all at once he ran right into a net that someone had put in the yard! Before he could set himself free, Ray came up to him and said, "Oh, now we have you, Little Rabbit! We will keep you in the barn."

So they took him to the barn, and patted him, and gave him green leaves for dinner. But poor Little Rabbit was frightened and wanted to see his mother. When Ray and May saw that he was not happy, they said, "Let us take him to the yard and set him free. He will put Easter eggs into the nest." So they took Little Rabbit to the yard and set him free.

Listen.

Lesson 43



Teacher instructions: Read this passage aloud to your learner.

How he did run down the road! But as he ran away he heard Ray and May crying, and he felt so sorry for them that he stopped. "I will go back to the yard," he said. "I want to make Ray and May happy. I want to be the Easter Rabbit. I will look for Easter eggs in the yard."

So Little Rabbit ran back to the yard and hunted everywhere for pretty Easter eggs. But he could not find a single egg. Then he looked in the nest that Ray and May had made to see if any other rabbit had left Easter eggs in it. Can you guess what he saw there? He was so surprised that all he could say was, "Dear me! Dear me!" over and over. For there in the nest were two pretty little kittens—one white as snow, the other black as coal. And while he was peeping at them from behind a bush, the mother cat came along. She was carrying a gray kitten in her mouth, and she put it into the nest, too.

Just then May came to the nest to see if the Easter Rabbit had left any Easter eggs in it. When she saw the kittens she clapped her hands in surprise and joy, and called out to Ray, "Come, Ray! See what is in the nest!" Ray came running as fast as he could. "Three baby kittens!" he cried. "They are prettier than any Easter eggs." How happy Ray and May were! Little Rabbit was happy, too. "I guess I am not the Easter Rabbit, after all," he said to himself. "The cat is the Easter Rabbit!" Then he ran home to his mother.

—ANNE SCHUTZE.

Discuss.



Lesson 43



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 43



Read this silently and then out loud.

Little Rabbit had heard everything Ray and May said. He thought it would be great fun if he could play that he was the Easter Rabbit and put eggs into the children's nest. So he ran straight home to his mother and said, "Mother, I want to be the Easter Rabbit."

Write.



Lesson 43

end



Use the illustration as inspiration to write a sentence.


