The Velveteen Rabbit
Adapted by Burgess Clark
from the original book by
Margery Williams Bianco

TEACHER RESOURCES

The Velveteen Rabbit and this Study Guide are produced in support of the teaching of Language Arts: Literary Classic, History, Music, Puppets, and Dramatic Arts

AT THE LIBRARY

The Velveteen Rabbit
by Margery Williams Bianco

Winterbound
by Margery Williams Bianco
(Newberry Honor book, 1937)

The Skin Horse
by Margery Williams Bianco

Forward, Commandos!
by Margery Williams Bianco

ON THE WEB

Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margery_Williams

PLAY SYNOPSIS

This fanciful musical production adapted from the classic story centers around a boy and his love for his favorite toy, a rabbit covered with velveteen and stuffed with sawdust. Although the rabbit is not modern and mechanical, the boy loves the rabbit more than anything and takes the rabbit everywhere. After the boy recovers from scarlet fever, the family must get rid of the contaminated rabbit. As the rabbit awaits his fate, a magical fairy blooms from a flower and turns the beloved plaything into a real, live rabbit showing us the power and magic of unconditional love.

“When a child loves you for a long time, not just to play with - but REALLY loves you - then you become real.”

- The Skin Horse
WORDS FROM THE PLAY

velveteen  
nursery  
internal  
scarlet fever  
bracken

Working with a partner and a dictionary, use a word from above to complete each sentence. Use context clues to help you!

1. The room where the boy slept and played was called his ____________.

2. When the boy got sick, the doctor said he had _______ _________.

3. The rabbit had no _______ parts. He was stuffed with sawdust and covered in _________.

4. When the boy played outside with the rabbit, he put him among the ________ to make him comfortable.

Use a dictionary to look up the words to the left. For each, write the part of speech and a short definition.

velveteen ______________________  
______________________________  
nursery _________________________  
______________________________  
internal ________________________  
______________________________  
scarlet fever ___________________  
______________________________  
bracken _______________________  
______________________________
COMPARING THE BOOK AND PLAY

Read *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams Bianco. Compare the book and the play. In what ways are the characters, setting, and plot alike? In what ways are they different?

WHAT DID YOU NOTICE?

1. In what ways was the play different from the book? Why do you think different authors or playwrights choose to tell different versions?

2. Who is your favorite character?

3. If you were to write your own version of the story, what kinds of characters, settings, or events would you include that might be different than both of these?
**Activities**

**MAKE A BOOK!**

1. Illustrate each event from the story on the "book pages" below.
2. Cut and sequence the pages to create a book.
3. Number the pages in your book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Illustration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The boy gets sick with scarlet fever.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The boy gets a rabbit made of velveteen for Christmas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nana must get rid of the rabbit after the boy gets well again.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The boy forgets and leaves his toy rabbit out in the garden.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The boy’s favorite toy is Skippy, a china dog.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rabbit becomes the boy’s favorite toy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EASY VERSION

In the box below, draw a picture about an experience from the play that you enjoyed!
Activities

WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find the hidden words in the box below.

WORD BANK

BRACKEN  FAIRY  MAGIC  REAL
BUNNY    FEVER   NURSERY  SAWDUST
DOCTOR   LOVE    RABBIT  SCARLET
WORD PROBLEMS

Kindergarten
1. There are 3 red marbles and 3 green marbles on the table. How many marbles are on the table?
2. There are 4 small bunnies and 3 big bunnies. How many bunnies are there total?

Grade 3
A boy has a lot of art materials. He needs to organize all these materials into containers.
1. He counted his crayons and found out that he has 80 crayons which he will place in crayon boxes. Every crayon box can contain 8 crayons. How many crayon boxes does he need?
2. 3 piles of clean white papers were stacked in the corner of his room. He decided to place these papers in paper envelopes which can hold 10 papers each. How many paper envelopes does he need if he has 120 clean white papers?

Grade 4
1. The train was scheduled to arrive at 5:10 p.m. However, it was delayed for 25 minutes. What time was it when the train arrived?
2. The bus departs the bus terminal every 2 hours. If the first bus is scheduled to depart at 10:35 a.m., when should the second bus depart?

Grade 5
Ashlee is making cookies for a holiday party.
1. Each batch of cookies mix need 0.4 cups of sugar and each batch can make 16 cookies. If Ashley is making 4 batches of cookies, how much sugar does she need?
2. Ashley found 2 boxes of sugar in the kitchen. The green box says 1.26 kg and the red box says 1.026 kg. Which box contains more sugar?

Grade 1
1. The second recess in school is at 1 o’clock in the afternoon, which is 2 hours after the first recess. When is the first recess?
2. Grade 2 classes were going for a museum visit on Tuesday. They left the school at 10 o’clock in the morning and took an hour to ride the bus there. Then, they stayed in the museum for 2 hours and rode on the bus for another hour to come back to school. At what time did they arrive back at school?

Grade 2
It’s harvest time on the farm.
1. There are 5 tomatoes but \(\frac{2}{5}\) of them are rotten. Farmer throws out the rotten tomatoes and puts the rest in her basket. Cross out the rotten tomatoes.
2. There are 6 zucchinis but of \(\frac{4}{6}\) of them are rotten. Farmer throws out the rotten zucchinis and puts the rest in her basket. Cross out the rotten zucchinis.
WORD SEARCH ANSWER

WORD PROBLEMS

Kindergarten
1. 6 marbles
2. 7 bunnies

Grade 1
1. 11:00am
2. 2:00pm

Grade 2
1. 2 tomatoes crossed out, 3 remaining
2. 4 zucchini crossed out, 2 remaining

Grade 3
1. 10 boxes
2. 12 envelopes

Grade 4
1. 5:35pm
2. 12:35pm

Grade 5
1. 1.6 cups
2. 1.26 kg contains more
When you are in an audience at *The Velveteen Rabbit* or any play, pay attention to the following:

**Cue**

1) Command given by stage management to the technical departments.

2) Any signal (spoken line, action or count) that indicates another action should follow.

**House Lights**

The auditorium lighting, which is commonly faded out when the performance starts.

**Blackout**

The act of turning off (or fading out) stage lighting.

**Curtain Call**

At the end of a performance, the acknowledgment of applause by actors — the bows.

**Build / Check**

Build is a smooth increase in sound or light level; check is the opposite — a smooth diminishment of light or sound.

**Fade**

An increase, decrease, or change in lighting or sound.