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Activity Guide

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The Runaway Bunny

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ABOUT THE STORY

After a small bunny tells his mother that he wants to run away, his mother informs him that she will pursue him if he runs off, changing her identity as he changes his. The little bunny eventually agrees that it might be best to stay home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

That Margaret Wise Brown's books have remained popular over the decades is proof not only of her talent as a writer but her ability to see and feel the world as a child does. Though she died at an early age, she left behind such classics as *Goodnight Moon*, also a Live Oak Readalong.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Clement Hurd is a prolific and talented illustrator who has illustrated his own books as well as many by other authors. He is married to the writer Edith Thacher Hurd, with whom he has created many favorite children's books.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children what they think their mothers or caregivers might do if they talked about running away. Explain that in the story they will read, a small rabbit plans to run away from home. His mother has plans, too – to bring him back home.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What would the mother do if the bunny became a fish?”
- “What would the mother do if her son became a sailboat?”
- “What would the mother do if her son became a circus performer?”
- “What do all the things the mother would become have in common?”
(Compare and contrast)
- “Why do you think the bunny decided to stay home?”
(Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

Write these words from the story on the chalkboard. Ask volunteers to find the base words in each word. Then have them define the base words. Point out that the *-er* endings all mean “one who does the action”.

fisherman climber gardener walker

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Kinds of Trout

The little bunny doesn't say what kind of trout he might become, but there are several choices. Ask children to work in groups to look in encyclopedias or other reference books about freshwater fish and learn about the different kinds of trout. Groups can report on one kind of trout, telling what it looks like and where it is found.

Art: Create a Circus

The bunny wants to become a trapeze artist, and his mother would then become a tightrope walker. Brainstorm a list of other circus jobs with children, and have each choose a job they would like to perform. Then have them draw pictures of themselves in their job. Display the pictures for a classroom circus.

Science: Garden Flowers

The bunny wants to become a crocus. Ask children what kind of flower they would be if they had a choice. Ask them to look in a reference book to find out about the flower of their choice. They can draw a picture of the flower and share the information they find with the rest of the class.

Language Arts: What Would You Become?

The bunny pretends that he could be a fish, a rock, a flower, a bird, a sailboat, a circus performer, and a human. Ask children to imagine what they would become if they could. Have them write or tell a story about the adventures they might have.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Great Circuses

Using the keywords *circuses* or *circus performers*, have children go online to find out about great circuses of the world. Children can focus on one circus and write a description of some of its acts. Have them share the information, and pictures, if possible, with the rest of the class.