Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

The Velveteen Rabbit, or How Toys Become Real ✦ *by Margery Williams* (1922)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Said It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of "The Velveteen Rabbit." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

A velveteen rabbit arrives in a boy's Christmas stocking. The wise old Skin Horse tells him that a toy becomes Real when a child loves it for a long, long time. The Boy comes to love the Rabbit so much that he takes him everywhere, until the Rabbit is shabby and worn. When the Boy falls ill, the Rabbit is to be thrown away, but a tear brings the nursery magic Fairy, who makes him Real at last.

SKILL FOCUS

Character change: how the Rabbit changes from the beginning of the story to the end

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/velveteen-guide. Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit* (1922). Public domain.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let's Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren't writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

Margery Williams

1881–1944 ✦ Author of The Velveteen Rabbit

Margery Williams was born in London, England, in 1881, and moved to the United States as a girl. She loved to read and began writing when she was young. She married an Italian bookseller, Francesco Bianco, and they had two children, Cecco and Pamela. In 1922 she wrote *The Velveteen Rabbit*, a story about a toy who wants to become Real. It has never gone out of print. She wrote more than twenty other books, many about toys and animals.

Questions About the Author

1. In what country was Margery Williams born?

2. What was the name of her famous book about a toy?

3. Why do you think she liked to write about toys?

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Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Velveteen Rabbit



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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CCSS RL.K.3 · RL.1.3 · RL.K.7

Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Velveteen Rabbit

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. Where did the Boy find the Velveteen Rabbit on Christmas morning?

2. What did the Skin Horse say makes a toy Real?

3. What happened to the Rabbit when the Boy got sick?

THINK

4. Why did the other toys snub the Rabbit at first?

5. How did the Rabbit change from the beginning of the story to the end?

CONNECT

6. Do you have a toy you love very much? What makes it special?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the story back in your own words. How did the Velveteen Rabbit become Real?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE SKIN HORSE SAYS

"Real isn't how you are made. It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Character change: how the Rabbit changes from the beginning of the story to the end

Draw your most-loved toy. Then write one sentence telling why it is Real to you.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

velveteen	old and worn out
splendid	being sick and very hot
nursery	soft cloth that feels like velvet
shabby	tall ferns that grow in the woods
truthful	a child's bedroom or playroom
bracken	loved for a long, long time
fever	wonderful and fine
Real	always telling the truth

Word Sort: Toys or Real Animals?

Write each word in the right box.

Skin Horse · wild rabbits · toy engine · clockwork mouse · birds · Velveteen Rabbit · squirrels · toy soldier

Toys

Real animals

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Velveteen Rabbit

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

W	M	N	T	T	O	H	D	B	O
E	B	F	H	T	B	A	U	P	G
L	L	B	B	O	R	E	A	L	A
H	C	B	O	Y	L	J	B	C	R
O	V	I	T	S	M	T	G	A	D
R	Y	P	R	A	B	B	I	T	E
S	I	U	O	I	O	I	V	R	N
E	O	W	F	A	I	R	Y	E	A
P	S	A	Y	B	J	J	V	N	N
S	V	A	M	O	V	B	S	E	A

WORD BANK

- [ ] RABBIT
- [ ] BOY
- [ ] HORSE
- [ ] REAL
- [ ] NANA
- [ ] FAIRY
- [ ] TOYS
- [ ] GARDEN

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CCSS RF.K.1b · RF.K.3c · RF.1.3

Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The Rabbit came in the Boy's Christmas stocking. Yes No
2. The Skin Horse was a brand-new toy. Yes No
3. The Boy took the Rabbit everywhere he went. Yes No
4. The wild rabbits thought the Velveteen Rabbit was Real. Yes No
5. The Rabbit cried a real tear. Yes No
6. The Fairy made the Rabbit Real. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

rabbit · horse · fairy · toys · boy

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The Boy sleeps with the Rabbit every night.
- ◯ The Rabbit arrives in the Boy's Christmas stocking.
- ◯ The Fairy makes the Rabbit Real.
- ◯ The Skin Horse tells the Rabbit what Real means.
- ◯ The Boy gets sick with a fever.
- ◯ The Rabbit meets the wild rabbits in the bracken.

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Said It?

Read each line from the story. Write who said it. Use the name bank to help.

a wild rabbit | the Boy | the Fairy | the Rabbit | the Skin Horse

"What is REAL?" _____

"Sometimes. When you are Real you don't mind being hurt." _____

"He isn't a toy. He's REAL!" _____

"He hasn't got any hind legs!" _____

"You were Real to the Boy because he loved you." _____

How Did the Rabbit Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

proud | shy | happy | worried | sad | loved | surprised

When…	the Rabbit felt…
he first came in the Christmas stocking	
the other toys snubbed him	
the Boy took him everywhere	
the wild rabbits said he wasn't Real	
he was put in the sack after the fever	
the Fairy made him Real	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Two readers take the parts of the Rabbit and the Skin Horse. A third reader can be the narrator. Read the famous talk about becoming Real.

NARRATOR	One day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, the Rabbit asked a question.
RABBIT	“What is REAL? Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?”
SKIN HORSE	“Real isn’t how you are made. It’s a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, then you become Real.”
RABBIT	“Does it hurt?”
SKIN HORSE	“Sometimes. When you are Real you don’t mind being hurt.”
RABBIT	“Does it happen all at once, like being wound up, or bit by bit?”
SKIN HORSE	“It doesn’t happen all at once. You become. It takes a long time.”

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Velveteen Rabbit

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

When a child loves you,

When a child loves you,

When a child loves you,

you become Real.

you become Real.

you become Real.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the Velveteen Rabbit, the Boy, the Skin Horse, Nana, the wild rabbits, the Fairy. Setting: the Boy's nursery, garden and the woods, long ago. Problem: the Rabbit wants to be Real, and after the fever he is to be thrown away. Solution: a real tear brings the Fairy, who makes him Real.

Let's Talk

1. In his Christmas stocking. 2. Being loved by a child for a long, long time. 3. The doctor said the toys must be burned, so the Rabbit was put in a sack. 4–6. Answers will vary (the other toys were expensive and modern; the Rabbit went from new and splendid to shabby and loved, and then Real).

Word Search

W	M	N	T	T	O	H	D	B	O
E	B	F	H	**T**	B	A	U	P	**G**
L	L	B	B	**O**	**R**	**E**	**A**	**L**	**A**
H	C	**B**	**O**	**Y**	L	J	B	C	**R**
O	V	I	T	**S**	M	T	G	A	**D**
R	Y	P	**R**	**A**	**B**	**B**	**I**	**T**	**E**
S	I	U	O	I	O	I	V	R	**N**
E	O	W	**F**	**A**	**I**	**R**	**Y**	E	**A**
P	S	A	Y	B	J	J	V	N	**N**
S	V	A	M	O	V	B	S	E	**A**

Word Match & Sort

velveteen: soft cloth that feels like velvet · splendid: wonderful and fine · nursery: a child's bedroom or playroom · shabby: old and worn out · truthful: always telling the truth · bracken: tall ferns that grow in the woods · fever: being sick and very hot · Real: loved for a long, long time. Sort: Toys: Skin Horse, toy engine, clockwork mouse, toy soldier (and the Velveteen Rabbit, until the end!). Real animals: wild rabbits, birds, squirrels.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: boy, fairy, horse, rabbit, toys.

Put It in Order

Christmas stocking → the Skin Horse explains Real → the Boy sleeps with the Rabbit → the Rabbit meets the wild rabbits → the Boy gets sick → the Fairy makes the Rabbit Real.

Who Said It?

1. the Rabbit · 2. the Skin Horse · 3. the Boy · 4. a wild rabbit · 5. the Fairy

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Hold a "Real toy" show and tell: each child tells why a favorite toy is special.
- Read the scene with the Skin Horse aloud with voices.
- Read it with Hans Christian Andersen's "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" and compare the two toys.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Velveteen Rabbit ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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