



STUDY GUIDE FOR

Peter Rabbit

Adapted by Kevin M Reese

TO THE PARENT/TEACHER

This guide has been provided to help children benefit the most from experiencing a live theatrical event. The activities described herein are only suggestions. Please feel free to pick and choose the things that will most benefit your children in the time you have available. It is our hope that the performance is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience as well.

You will find that some of the activities contained in this guide are geared for younger, some for older children-- but there is something for everyone. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute any of the enclosed pages and activities for your personal use.

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Theatre Etiquette

1. ***Audience Behavior.*** Attending a theatrical performance is a social event. Just as the way you act (and behave) in church or temple is different than the way you act on the playground, there is certain behavior that is appropriate in a live theatre. Discuss with your children the types of behavior that are appropriate when they are members of an audience.
2. ***Live Theatre.*** Explain that they need to act differently when they're watching a live play than if they're watching a movie in a theatre. Live actors can hear the audience's laughter and applause as well as their talking to their neighbor or rustling papers. And their responses-- appropriate or not-- really do affect the actors' performance. The end line is: How would they want to be treated if THEY were up on the stage.
3. ***Write to the actors.*** After you see the show, have your students write a letter to their favorite character or draw a picture of their favorite character or scene and send it to the theatre (see the next page for an email address, too!). The actors would LOVE to hear from your students. The actors may even have time to send a reply of some sort to your class. Because of the volume of mail they receive, replies to individual students may not be possible-- but they'd still love to hear from you!
4. ***Audience Participation.*** Normally, audience members should never talk during the play--and especially not talk directly to the actors (it distracts other audience member and may even make the actors forget their lines). But the plays by KMR Scripts are unique in that we offer the audience special opportunities to participate in the production. They will probably not be asked to come onstage, but there are various times throughout the production where the actors will ask them questions or ask them to use their imaginations and pretend they are animals, trees, or people. At those times we encourage the audience to participate and/or answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). Over the years, this has become one of the hallmarks of KMR productions.

Activities & Discussion

Peter Rabbit

1. **STORY CIRCLE.** Have the children make up their own version of Peter Rabbit. Have them sit in a circle. Pick one child to begin the story and go clock-wise around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to add to the story. You may have to limit each child's contribution to one story event (some children are avid storytellers!).

2 **RABBIT FACTS**

- ▶ Rabbits live to be up to 15 years old and the average litter is 4-6 bunnies
- ▶ Because of their risk to the environment, rabbits are outlawed in Australia.
- ▶ Despite what you see in movies, you should never pick up a rabbit by the ears.
- ▶ Jack Rabbits can reach running (or, hopping!) speeds of over 45 miles per hour
- ▶ Rabbits' enemies include hawks, owls, foxes, coyotes, weasels and man.
- ▶ At least 66 varieties of the domesticated rabbit are derived from a wild rabbit native to Europe and Africa.

3. **REVIEW.** Have the students write a review of the play. What were their favorite parts? How was this play different than the original stories by Beatrix Potter? Their least favorite? Did anything happen that they didn't understand or seemed confusing? Did they like the music or did it "get in the way of the story?" What did they think of the costumes and scenery? Help them understand that their opinions are most certainly valid and will most likely differ from that of others (and that is OK). Being able to objectively discuss their opinions and others' is a skill that will benefit them the rest of their lives.

4. **VISIT THE INTERNET.** If you have a computer at home or school and have access to the Internet, you can look at a special web site that is just for you! **Kevin M Reese**, the man who adapted the play *Peter Rabbit*, works for a company called **KMR Scripts** (get it? Kevin M Reese = KMR). They have a web site and there is a special area for kids. There are lots of fun (and safe!) things to do and you can even send the playwright a letter. You can find it by typing:

www.kmrscripts.com

Then click on the words; "Hey, Kids!" and it will take you to the Kids' area. You'll be surfing!

5. **Hollow Eggs** - If you would like to do some projects with hollow eggs, the technique to empty the shell is not only messy (although with practice it gets less messier) but it can be exhausting for your cheeks! With a pin, make a small hole in either end of an egg. Move the pin around to make sure you tear the membrane around the yolk. Lean over the sink or a bowl, point one end of the egg at it, and then blow through the other end until all the yolk and eggwhite is out of the egg. Make sure you rinse the egg well with water. Now decorate the hollow egg any way you want!

Color Page

