

Unit 3

The Tale of Peter Rabbit

An excerpt adapted from the original by Beatrix Potter

Peter has been stealing food from Mr McGregor's garden, and now Mr McGregor is after him.

Mr McGregor was sure that Peter was in the toolshed, hiding under a flowerpot. He began to turn them over, looking under each one.

Then Peter sneezed — 'Kertyschoo!' and Mr McGregor was after him in no time.

He tried to put his foot on Peter, but Peter jumped out of a window, knocking over three plants. The window was too small for Mr McGregor and he was tired of running after Peter, so he went back to work.

Peter sat down to rest, he was out of breath and shaking with fright. He had no idea which way to go.

After a while, he began to wander about, going lippity-lippity — not very fast, looking all round.

He found a door in a wall, but it was locked and there was no room for a fat little rabbit to squeeze under it.

An old mouse was running in and out carrying peas and beans. Peter asked her the way to the gate, but she had a large pea in her mouth and could not answer. She only shook her head and Peter began to cry.



Then he tried to find his way across the garden, but he became more and more puzzled. Soon, he came to a pond where a white cat was staring at some goldfish. She sat very, very still. But now and then, the tip of her tail twitched as if it had a mind of its own. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her because he had heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny.

A *hoe* is a gardening tool used for weeding.



He went back towards the toolshed. Then, quite close to him, he heard the noise of a hoe. Scr-r-ritch, scratch, scratch, scritch. Peter climbed on a wheelbarrow and peeped over. He saw Mr McGregor hoeing onions, his back was turned towards Peter and beyond him was the gate!

Peter got down very quietly and started running as fast as he could!

Mr McGregor saw him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped under the gate and kept running, and didn't look back till he got home to the big fir tree.