

## Sample Book Report on Peter's Rabbit

In this article, the writer reviews a children's story called Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter. In her book review, the writer gives a brief overview of the plot, provides evidence from the text to support her claims about how it works in terms of its literary elements and ultimately recommends or not whether other people should read it. She also suggests ideas for using this book in a classroom setting.

### **Plot summary:**

Peter Rabbit is a naughty little rabbit who is always sneaking into Mr McGregor's garden to steal vegetables and fruit from him without his permission. One day, while he is poking around looking for something tasty to eat, he overhears Mr McGregor talking with his neighbor about Mr McGregor's plan to kill and bake Peter for supper. So, in order to escape certain death, he runs away from home and hides in a nearby briar patch on the other side of the garden. He meets many different animals there who are also hiding from Mr McGregor and while he is with them, they all share stories about how they came to be there. One of them was chased out of her hole by Mr McGregor's cat and another one was kicked out by his nasty little boy. At last, it is Peter's turn to tell his story and when he does, everyone feels very sorry for him because even though he has been eaten quite a few times before (some of which were more serious than others) every time he manages to make his way home again. It would be okay for him to leave and go back home but since he is such a dandy little rabbit who is always decked out in some new clothes (which his mother makes for him), he can't do that kind of thing anymore. So, the animals decide that they will all help Peter build himself a house where he will be able to live and feel safe from Mr McGregor and his cat ever again.

At the end of the story, everyone gets on with their lives and Peter has a nice cozy place where he can live out his days in peace... Most children love this book because it teaches them not only about specifics like different kinds of grasses and flowers, but also more broad ideas like the value of friendship and community.

**Literary elements:**

The book is written in a clever way because it tries to teach children such different things about such an odd subject matter. The animals' stories help to build up suspense for readers while giving them insight into the animal characters' motivations for running away from home and hiding in the briar patch. It also creates interest through the descriptive language used and character development (both on Peter's part and amongst all of his friends). As evidence, she cites how Mr McGregor calls Peter "a young rascal" when he recognizes him at the end of the story; this kind of description brings more depth to the narrative than words like 'cute' which children often use to describe animals in a book.

**Classroom application:**

Adults can read Peter Rabbit with children and discuss not only how it works as a story but also think about other examples of stories that have similar plots. It is also a good example of the genre because it has its own illustrations which help to add more depth to the narrative, making it even more accessible for younger readers. In this way, teachers can choose from among many different types of texts when they are deciding what to teach in their classroom.