

The Tale of Peter Cotton Tail

by Beatrix Potter adapted by EveryReader

Adapted to Lexile Level 200





Once there were four little rabbits.
Their names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail,
and Peter.
They lived with their mother under a big
tree.



One morning, Mother Rabbit spoke.
You may go in the fields.
Or go down the lane.



Do not go in Mr. McGregor's garden.
Your father had a bad accident there.
He was put in a pie.



Run along.
Do not make trouble.
I am going out.



She took a basket.
She went to the store.
She bought bread and buns.



Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail were good.
They went to pick blackberries.
Peter was naughty.



He ran to Mr. McGregor's garden.
He slid under the gate.



First, Peter ate lettuce and beans.
Then he ate some radishes.
He felt a little sick.



He looked for a plant.
He wanted to feel better.



Then Peter met Mr. McGregor.
Mr. McGregor was planting cabbages.
He ran after Peter.
He waved a rake and shouted, Stop!



Peter was very scared.
He ran all over the garden.
He forgot the way to the gate.



He lost one shoe in the cabbages.
He lost the other shoe in the potatoes.



Now Peter ran on four legs.
He ran very fast.
But he ran into a garden net.



The big buttons on his blue jacket got caught.

Peter cried.



Some little birds heard him.
They chirped and said, Try hard.



Mr. McGregor came with a big sieve.
Peter wiggled out just in time.
He left his jacket in the net.



Peter ran into a shed.
He jumped into a can.
The can had water.
He got wet.



Mr. McGregor looked in the shed.
He lifted flower pots.
He looked under them.



Peter sneezed.
Kertyschoo!
Mr. McGregor ran at him.
He tried to step on Peter.



Peter jumped out a small window.
He knocked over three plants.
Mr. McGregor could not fit through the
window.
He was tired and went back to work.



Peter sat down to rest.
He was out of breath.
He was very wet.
He did not know the way home.



After a while, he walked slowly.
He went lippity-lippity along a path.
He found a door in a wall.



It was locked.
He was too big to fit under it.



A mouse ran in and out.
She had peas and beans.
Peter asked her the way to the gate.



Her mouth was full.
She could not talk.
She shook her head.
Peter began to cry.



Peter tried to cross the garden.
He got more and more mixed up.
He came to a pond.



A white cat sat very still.
She looked at fish.
Peter went away quietly.



He had heard about cats.
His cousin was Benjamin Bunny.



Peter went back toward the shed.
He heard a tool scrape the ground.
He hid under the bushes.



Nothing happened.
He came out.
He climbed on a cart.
He looked over.



He saw Mr. McGregor hoe onions.
Mr. McGregor's back was turned.
Peter saw the gate ahead.



Peter got down very quietly.
He ran as fast as he could.
He ran on a straight path behind berry
bushes.



Mr. McGregor saw him at the corner.
Peter did not stop.
He slid under the gate.
He was safe in the woods.



Mr. McGregor hung up the little jacket and the shoes.

He used them to scare the birds.



Peter ran and ran.
He did not look back.
He got home to the big tree.



He dropped on the soft sand floor.
He shut his eyes.
Mother was cooking.
She wondered where his clothes were.



It was his second jacket lost.
It was his second pair of shoes in two weeks.



Peter did not feel well that evening.
Mother put him to bed.
She made warm tea.



She gave Peter one spoon of tea.
Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail ate supper.



They had bread, milk, and blackberries.
The end.