

Playstage
Junior

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THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY



Adapted from the stories by Beatrix Potter

**Written by
Lynn Brittney**

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

THE CHORUS (any number of children, dressed in Victorian costume, seated in front of the stage, to sing all the songs and nursery rhymes)

FLOPSY

MOPSY

COTTONTAIL

PETER

BENJAMIN

MRS RABBIT

2 DICKY BIRDS

SCARECROW

MOUSE 1

MR MCGREGOR

A ROBIN

MOUSE 2

A CAT

MR BENJAMIN BUNNY SENIOR

15 speaking parts. Unlimited members of the CHORUS for singing.

RUNNING TIME APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES.

MUSIC

Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artist's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney" this means there is no backing track we know of but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD. Obviously where we give UK websites, such as Amazon and Ameritz, any schools in the USA or elsewhere, will have their own versions of the websites.

SUGGESTED SONGS:

FIVE LITTLE BUNNIES	www.amazon.co.uk
TWO LITTLE DICKY BIRDS (chanted)	Traditional
DINGLE DANGLE SCARECROW	www.ameritz.co.uk
RUN, RABBIT, RUN	www.theatremusicshop.com
GOOD NIGHT, SLEEP TIGHT (Kids Songs)	www.amazon.co.uk
WHEN THE RED, RED ROBIN COMES BOB, BOB, BOBBIN ALONG	www.ameritz.co.uk
EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES (Big Bird, Sesame Street)	www.amazon.co.uk

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY

SCENE 1

There are benches in front of the stage (or at the side or back of the performing area – whichever is most convenient). The CHORUS enter, take their places but stand, ready for the first song. FLOPSY, MOPSY, COTTONTAIL, PETER and BENJAMIN enter and stand centre stage, ready to dance and enact the instructions in the song. They are all in their basic bunny costumes but without their extra clothes. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES)

SONG 1. FIVE LITTLE BUNNIES (CHORUS)

Hippety hop and hippety hay,
Five little bunnies went out to play.
Hippety hop and hippety hay,
One little bunny hopped away.

How many bunnies are left?
Four!

Hippety hop and hippety hay,
Four little bunnies went out to play.
Hippety hop and hippety hay,
One little bunny hopped away.

How many bunnies are left now?
Three!

Hippety hop and hippety hay,
Three little bunnies went out to play.
Hippety hop and hippety hay,
One little bunny hopped away.

Now, how many bunnies are there?
Two!

Hippety hop and hippety hay,
Two little bunnies went out to play.
Hippety hop and hippety hay,
One little bunny hopped away.

How many bunnies are left now?
One!

Hippety hop and hippety hay,
 One little bunny went out to play.
 Hippety hop and hippety hay,
 All the bunnies have hopped away.

Oh, I hope they all come back to play.

(The song ends. All the rabbits come back on stage to take a bow. The CHORUS bow and sit down. MRS RABBIT enters, in full costume, carrying the extra costume bits of her four rabbits - but not BENJAMIN's.)

BENJAMIN

Hello, Mrs Rabbit.

MRS RABBIT

Gracious me, Benjamin Bunny! What are you doing here?

BENJAMIN

Oh, I just came to play with Peter.

MRS RABBIT

Well your mother and father are looking for you. Off you go now.

BENJAMIN

Yes Mrs Rabbit. Bye Peter, Bye Flopsy, Bye Mopsy, Bye Cottontail.

EVERYONE

Goodbye Benjamin!

(BENJAMIN leaves. MRS RABBIT hands out the clothes - aprons and cloaks for FLOPSY, MOPSY and COTTONTAIL and a jacket for PETER. She helps them get dressed while she talks.)

MRS RABBIT

Now, my dears. I have to go shopping, so you can go out and play. You could pick some blackberries for tea, if you like. You can go out in the lane and the fields but you must *never* go into Mr McGregor's garden. And why is that children?

FLOPSY

Because Mr McGregor caught our father...

MOPSY

...who was eating some lettuces...

COTTONTAIL

...and Mr McGregor is a very mean man...

PETER

...and he made our father into a rabbit pie!

(The girls start crying)

THREE GIRLS

We don't like that story! It's so sad!

MRS RABBIT

Of course it is. Now dry your eyes and pick some blackberries. I'll be home soon.

(MRS RABBIT exits. The three girls mime picking blackberries. PETER sits down and looks fed up.)

FLOPSY

Aren't you going to help us, Peter?

PETER

No. Picking blackberries is boring. I'm going to find Benjamin and have an adventure.

MOPSY

Well, be careful, Peter.

COTTONTAIL

And be back in time for tea.

ALL THREE GIRLS

And don't go into Mr McGregor's garden!

PETER

See you later.

End of scene/