

Brer Rabbit at the Well

by Sharon Richards
illustrated by John Kurtz



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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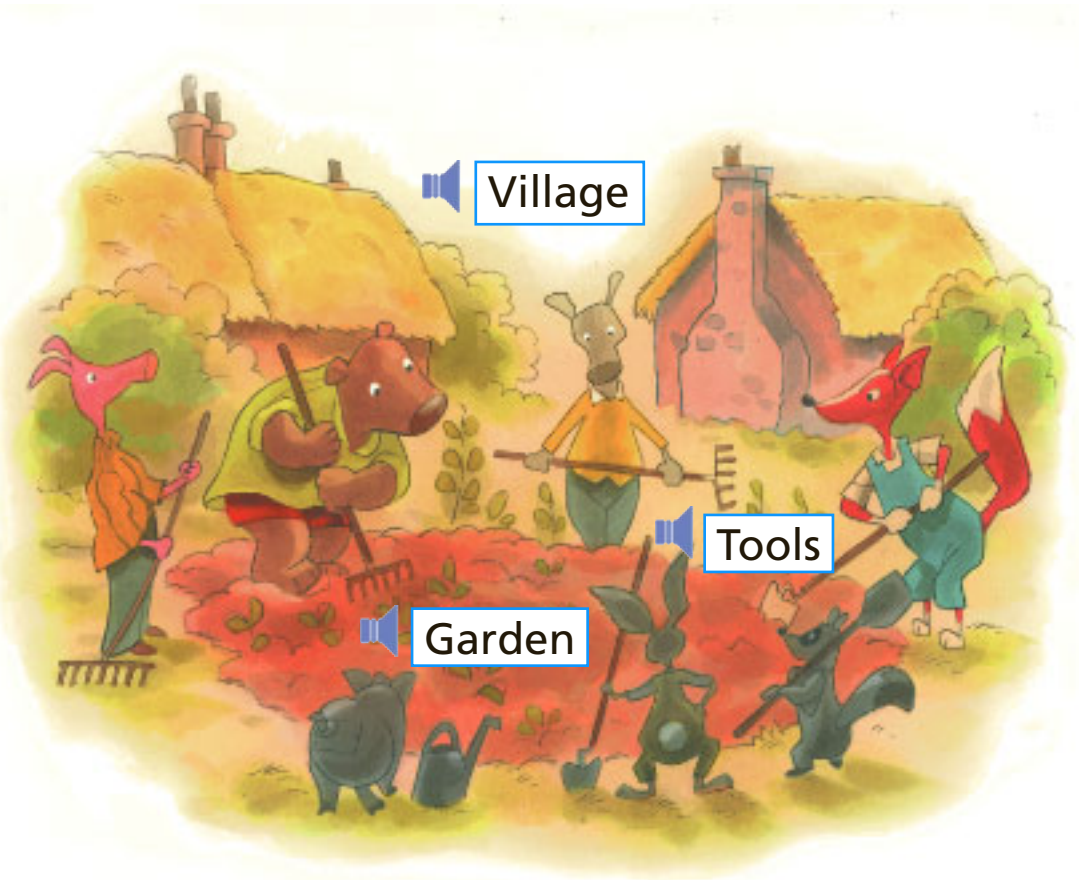
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▶ The animals in the **village** decided to plant a garden, so they got some tools and seeds. Brer Rabbit joined in.



🔊 Planting the garden was hard work.

🔊 Brer Rabbit **leaned** on his hoe. He was tired and wanted to take a nap.

Then Brer Rabbit had an idea. "Ow!" he cried.

"I have a thorn in my paw."



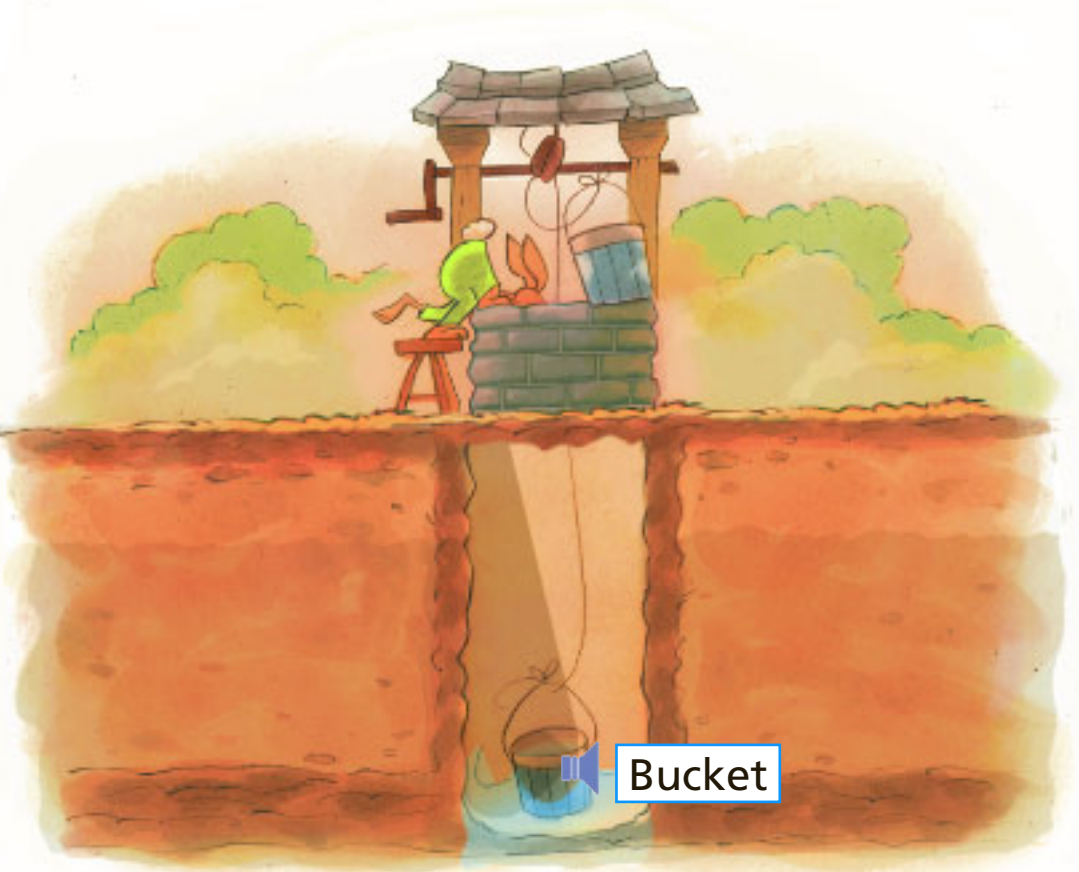
🔊 “Pull out the thorn,”
said Brer Bear.

“Wash the cut at the well,”
said Brer Wolf.

🔊 Brer Rabbit **tossed** his hoe aside.
He went to the well to take a nap!
“Let the other animals work,”
thought Brer Rabbit.



- ▶ Brer Rabbit saw two buckets hanging inside the well.
- ▶ An empty bucket was at the top. A bucket full of water was at the bottom.



▶ Bucket

Brer Rabbit jumped into the empty bucket for a nap, but he was heavier than the bucket of water. He dropped to the bottom of the well.



Brer Fox had followed Brer Rabbit to the well.

He wanted to see if Brer Rabbit was really washing his cut.



Brer Fox looked into the well.
“What are you doing down there?”
asked Brer Fox.
Brer Rabbit thought quickly.
“I’m fishing,” he said.



- ▶ Brer Fox jumped into the bucket so he could fish, too.
- ▶ His bucket went to the bottom, and Brer Rabbit's bucket went to the top.



Brer Rabbit jumped from his bucket and ran back to the village.

Brer Fox had to wait until a farmer came along.

The farmer pulled up the bucket and was startled by what he saw. Brer Fox jumped from the bucket and ran home, too!



Farmer

Responding



TARGET SKILL Understanding

Characters What did you learn about Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox in the story?
Copy and complete the chart below.

Character	Action	What It Means
Brer Rabbit	He says there's a thorn in his paw.	He can trick others.
Brer Fox	?	?



Write About It

Text to Text What other stories have you read about characters who play tricks? Write a few sentences that tell how you feel about one of those characters. Give examples to support your ideas.



TARGET VOCABULARY

contained
grateful
leaned
odd

search
startled
tossed
village



TARGET SKILL **Understanding**

Characters Tell more about the characters.



TARGET STRATEGY **Summarize**

Stop to tell important events as you read.



GENRE A **folktale** is a story that is often told by people of a country.

Level: I

DRA: 16

Genre:

Folktale

Strategy:

Summarize

Skill:

Understanding Characters

Word Count: 268

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