

The Forgotten Rabbit

Written by Nancy Furstinger, Illustrated by Nancy Lance



RedRover Readers Program Objective 3: Lesson 3A

Goals and Objectives: Students will relate narratives to their own lives to understand how people and animal characters in a story may feel and do things differently or the same as they would.

Time: 40 minutes (25 reading and discussion, 20 writing activity)

Materials: Anchor text (“The Forgotten Rabbit”)

1. Before Reading: As a class, discuss the following topics:

- Who has *seen* a rabbit before? Share the cover and ask students to describe the rabbit’s face and then make a prediction about what the book will be about.
- Define the vocabulary words “forgotten” and “remember.”

2. During Reading: Read the book to the class. Pause on different pages and discuss the story.

- On the page with the children smiling and the rabbit binkying (binkying is when a rabbit springs around, jumps in the air and kicks their legs out to the side), ask, “How do you think the children are feeling? How can you tell?” “How do you think the rabbit feels?” “What makes you think that?”
- On the page where the children are playing outside ask, “What has changed?” (Children’s behavior, the weather/seasons). “Have you ever been very excited to play with someone or something at first and then started to play with them or it less often like the children in this story?” “How do you think the rabbit feels in this picture?” “How would you feel?”
- On the page where Rosalita is making salad ask, “What does Bella have now with Rosalita that she didn’t have in her cage?” (Warmth, a friend, space to move around, a name). “What is Bella learning about people by how they treat her and the choices they make?”

3. After Reading: Review the story’s illustrations with students and ask to reinforce and extend their understanding of the text:

- What responsibility do people have when they get a pet like a rabbit? How long do those responsibilities last?
- What would you do if you saw a rabbit alone in a cage in the snow? What choices would you have in this situation?

4. Role Play Activity: Choose two students to stand in front of the class and imagine a conversation between Bella and Rosalita. What would Bella say (if rabbits could speak) to Rosalita about the choices she made to help the rabbit? How would Rosalita respond?



5. Writing Activity: “I am most like _____ (character) in the book *The Forgotten Rabbit* because _____.”
Encourage students to write about who they identify with from the story and explain why. Invite students to share their responses as time allows.

5. At the End of the Lesson: Ask students to reflect on these questions. Try this with the whole group, in a sharing circle or ask students to fill out index cards.

- How did you feel about today's book and discussion?
- Did today's book and discussion change how you think about anything in your life?
- What did you learn from today's book and discussion that you didn't know before?

6. Report about your reading: Please share your students' response in your online report by going to RedRover.org/teach, and click on the link near top of the page that reads [\[Report about your reading\]](#)

