



# THEATRE IV

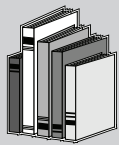
## Classroom Connections Teacher Resources



### In the Classroom Teachers & Students Grades K - 5

*The Velveteen Rabbit* and  
the Classroom Connections

Study Guide are produced in support of the teaching of Language Arts: Literary Classic, History, Music, Puppets, Dramatic Arts and these VA SOLS: English K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.6, K.8, 1.1, 1.2 1.3, 1.4, 1.7, 1.9, 2.1,2.2, 2.3, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6; History K.1, K.2, K.6, 1.1, 1.10, 2.10.



### At the Library

*The Velveteen Rabbit*  
by Margery Williams Bianco

### *Winterbound,*

by Margery Williams Bianco  
(*Newberry Honor book, 1937*)

### *The Skin Horse,*

by Margery Williams Bianco

### *Forward, Commandos!*

by Margery Williams Bianco



### On the Web

Theatre IV [www.theatreiv.org](http://www.theatreiv.org)

### Wikipedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/  
Margery\\_Williams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margery_Williams)

# The Velveteen Rabbit

adapted by Thomas W. Hammond from the original  
book by Margery Williams Bianco  
Music and Lyrics by Ron Barnett



This fanciful musical production adapted from the classic story, centers around a boy and his love for his favorite toy, a rabbit covered with velveteen and stuffed with sawdust. Although the rabbit is not modern and mechanical, the boy loves the rabbit more than anything and takes the rabbit everywhere. After the boy recovers from Scarlet Fever, the family must get rid of the contaminated rabbit. As the rabbit awaits his fate, a magical fairy blooms from a flower and turns the beloved plaything into a real, live rabbit showing us the power and magic of unconditional love.

*"When a child loves you for  
a long time, not just to play  
with - but REALLY loves you  
- then you become real."  
- The Skin Horse*

## Fantasy

is a genre of literature characterized by its use of magic or other supernatural forms as a primary element of plot, theme, setting, or character. Fantasy comprises works by many writers, filmmakers, and artists, and spans from ancient myths and legends to modern-day films and novels for all ages.

## Words from the Play

velveteen

nursery

internal

Scarlet Fever

bracken

### ★ Easy Activity:

Working with a partner and a dictionary, use a word from above to complete each sentence. Use context clues to help you!

1. The room where the boy slept and played was called his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When the boy got sick, the doctor said he had \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The rabbit had no \_\_\_\_\_ parts. He was stuffed with sawdust and covered in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When the boy played outside with the rabbit, he put him among the \_\_\_\_\_ to make him comfortable.

### ★ Challenge Activity:

1. Use a dictionary to look up the words above. For each, write the part of speech and a short definition.
2. Which of the words above could be found on a dictionary page with the following guide words:

boulder / broken: \_\_\_\_\_  
nun / nylon: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tip: If the word you are looking for comes alphabetically between a dictionary page's two guidewords, you'll know to look on that page for the word!**

# Reality and Fantasy

***"Real isn't how you're made. It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long time - not just to play with, but REALLY loves you - then you become real."***  
- The Skin Horse

In *The Velveteen Rabbit*, as in many stories, there are elements of fantasy that help capture the audience's interest and imagination. Which of the following objects are real, and which are only found in the world of make-believe, or **fantasy**?

goblin      stuffed bear      butterfly      fairy  
bicycle      doctor      witch      magic wand

Real	Fantasy

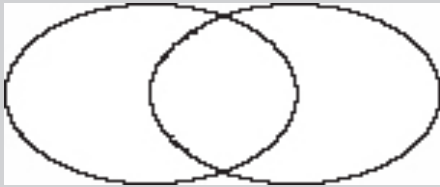


# Make a Book!

1. Illustrate each event from the story on the "book pages" to the right.
2. Cut and sequence the pages to create a book.
3. Number the pages in your book.
4. Add a book cover with an illustration.
5. Staple the book pages together.

## ★ Easy Activity:

Read *The Velveteen Rabbit*, by Margery Williams Bianco. Compare the book and the play. In what ways are the characters, setting, and plot alike? In what ways are they different?



## ★ Challenge Activity:

The play, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, is about the love a boy has for his favorite toy, the velveteen rabbit. The boy cherishes the rabbit and they are inseparable. Write about a time when you have cared very much about a special possession.

What made it special to you?

In what ways was it like a friend, and in what ways was it different than having a friend?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The boy gets sick with Scarlet Fever.	The boy gets a rabbit made of velveteen for Christmas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The boy forgets and leaves his toy rabbit out in the garden.	The boy's favorite toy is Skippy, a china dog.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nana must get rid of the rabbit after the boy gets well again.	The rabbit becomes the boy's favorite toy.





# The Theatre Team

**Actors** learn the play and perform it live on stage in front of you.

**The Director** tells the actors when and where to move on the stage and oversees the work of everyone involved in the play.

**The Stage Manager** is responsible for calling lighting and sound cues and for supervising the technical crew.

**The Playwright** writes the play. What they write tells the actors what to say on stage.

**The Prop Master** is in charge of the objects used by the actors on stage.

**The Costume Designer** plans the clothing the actors wear, called costumes. Costumes give clues about when and where a story takes place, and about the characters who wear them.

**The Set Designers** plan the scenery for the play.

Theatre IV Presents  
*The Velveteen Rabbit*

*adapted by Thomas W. Hammond  
Music and Lyrics by Ron Barnett*

Theatre IV:  
Bruce C. Miller,  
Artistic Director

Phil Whiteway,  
Managing Director

Classroom Connections Study Guide  
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[www.TheatreIV.org](http://www.TheatreIV.org)



## YOU Have an Important Part to Play

It wouldn't be a play without you! Your part is to pretend the play is real. Part of this includes accepting certain theatre ways, or *conventions*:

1. Actors tell the story with words (dialogue), actions (blocking), and songs.
2. Actors may sing songs that tell about the story or their feelings.
3. Actors may speak to the audience.
4. An actor may play several different characters ("doubling") by changing their voice, costume or posture.
5. Places are suggested by panels on the set, and by props.

### How to Play Your Part

A play is different from television or a movie. The actors are right in front of you and can see your reactions, feel your attention, and hear your laughter and applause. **Watch** and **listen** carefully to understand the story. The story is told by the actors and comes to life through your imagination.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS

THIS ARTS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE

VIRGINIA  
COMMISSION  
for the



AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS