



THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

by

BEATRIX POTTER

Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were—
Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail and Peter.

They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.



'Now my dears,' said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, 'you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor.'



'Now run along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out.'



Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.



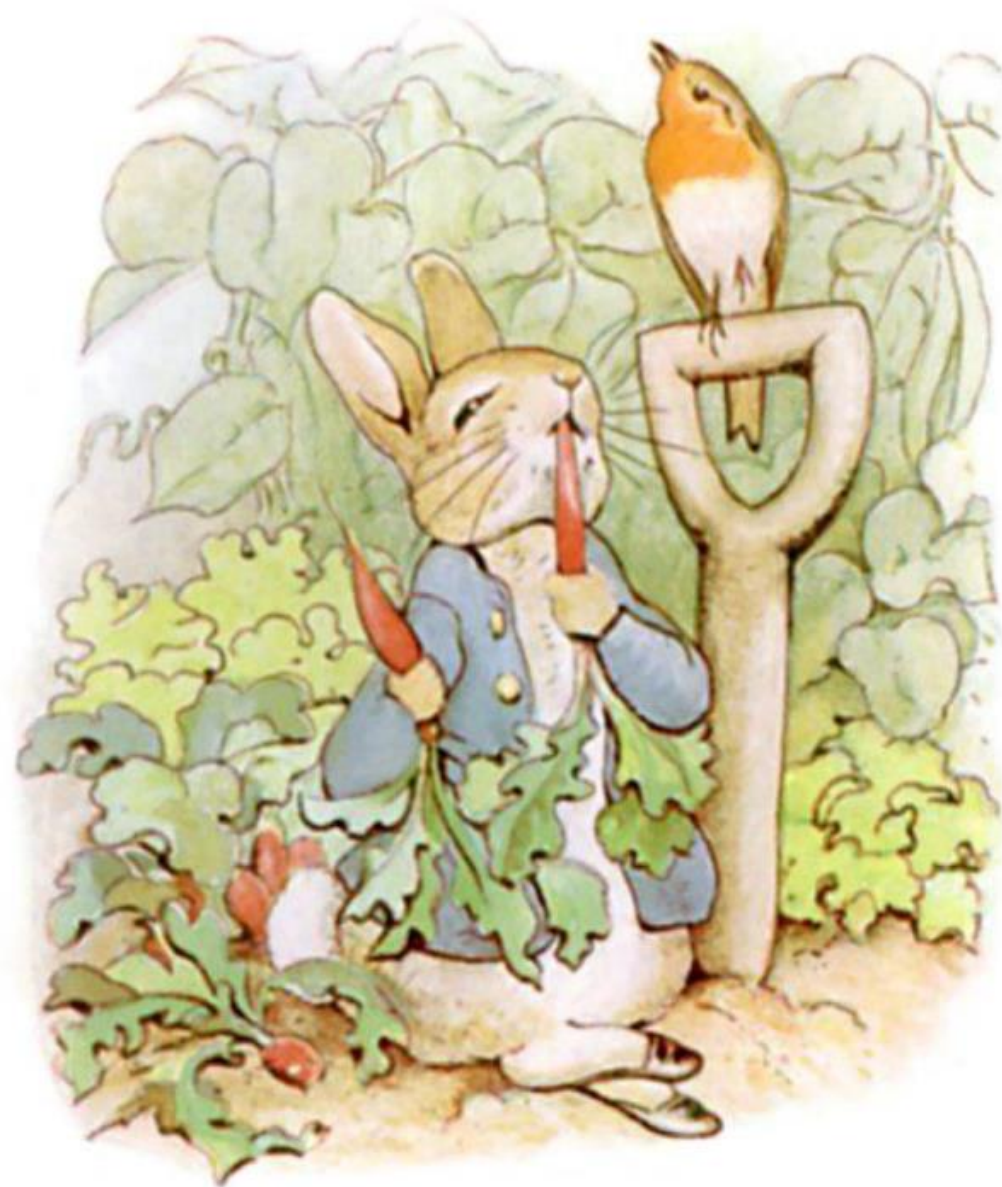


Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries:

But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and under the gate!



First he ate some lettuces and some French beans. Then he ate some radishes and then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.



But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

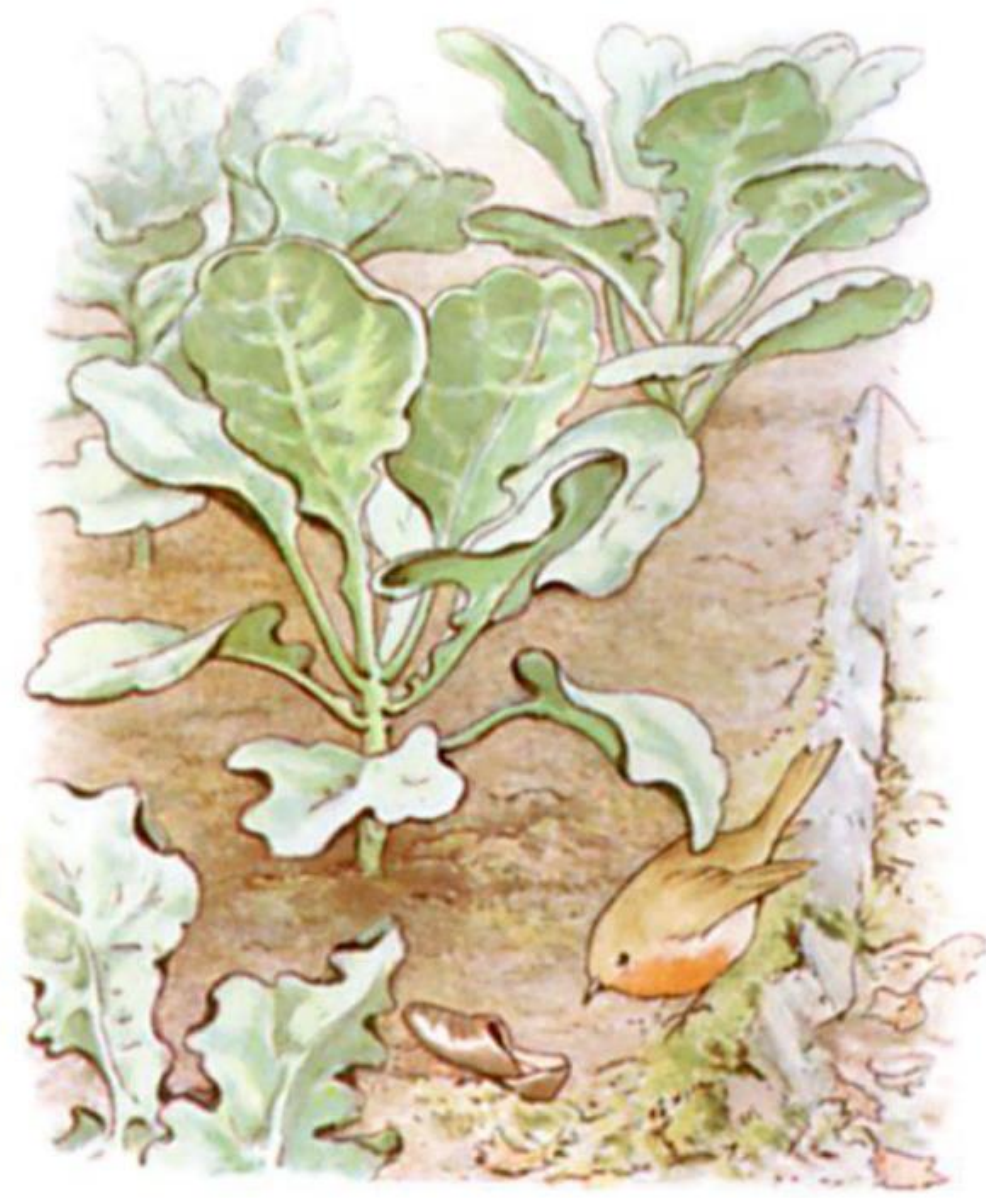
Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, 'Stop thief!'





Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.



After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.



Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.



Mr. McGregor came up with a sieve, which he intended to pop upon the top of Peter; but Peter wriggled out just in time, leaving his jacket behind him.



Peter rushed into the tool-shed, and jumped into a can. It would have been a beautiful thing to hide in, if it had not had so much water in it.



Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the tool-shed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each.

Peter sneezed—'Kertyschoo!' Mr. McGregor was after him in no time.



Mr. McGregor tried to put his foot upon Peter, who jumped out of a window, upsetting three plants. The window was too small for Mr. McGregor, and he was tired of running after Peter. He went back to his work.



He found a door in a wall; but it was locked, and there was no room for a fat little rabbit to squeeze underneath.

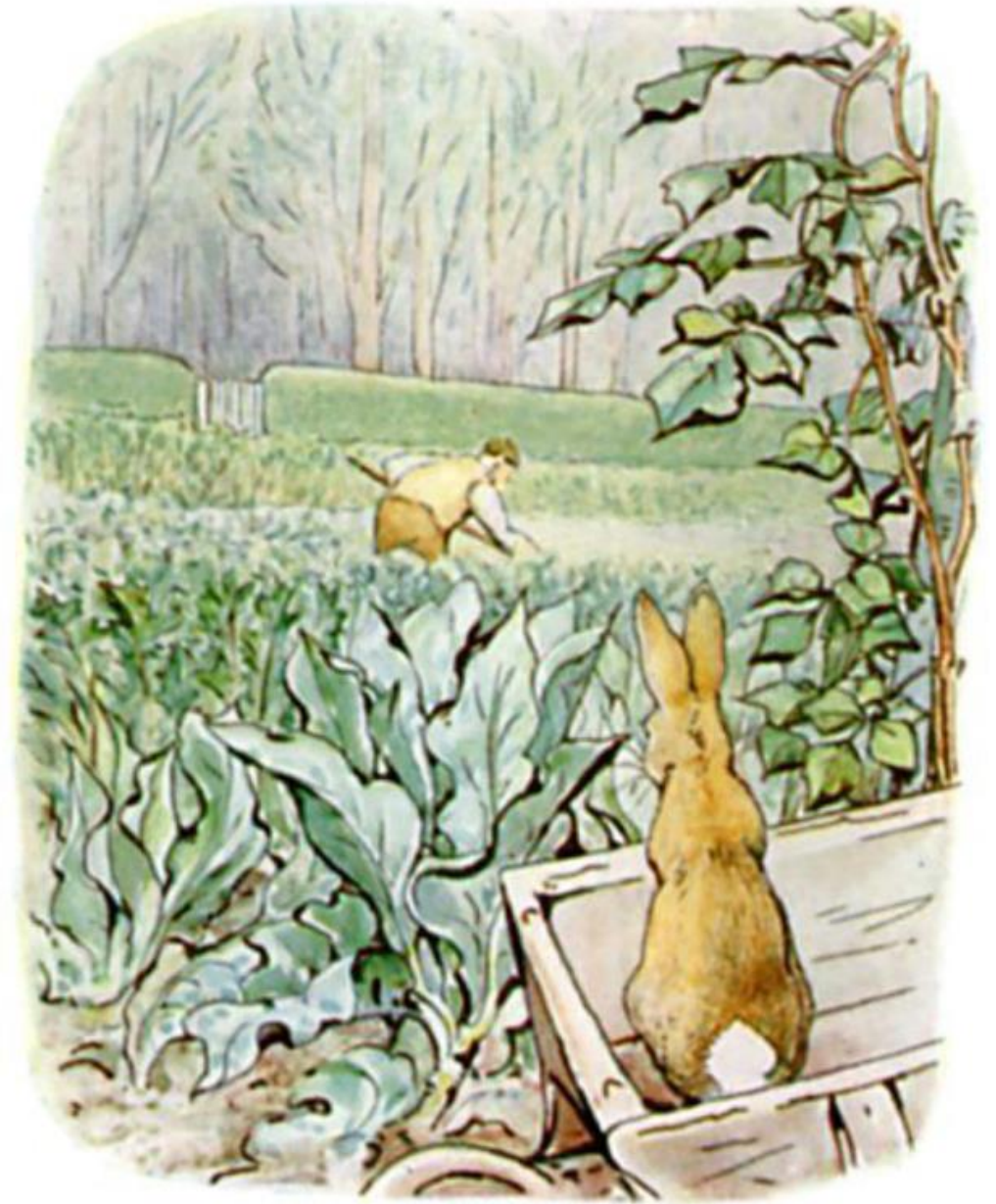
An old mouse was running in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood. Peter asked her the way to the gate, but she had such a large pea in her mouth that she could not answer. She only shook her head at him. Peter began to cry.



Then he tried to find his way straight across the garden, but he became more and more puzzled. Presently, he came to a pond where Mr. McGregor filled his water-cans. A white cat was staring at some gold-fish, she sat very, very still, but now and then the tip of her tail twitched as if it were alive. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her; he had heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny.



He went back towards the tool-shed, but suddenly, quite close to him, he heard the noise of a hoe—scr-r-ritch, scratch, scratch, scritch. Peter scuttered underneath the bushes. But presently, as nothing happened, he came out, and climbed upon a wheelbarrow and peeped over. The first thing he saw was Mr. McGregor hoeing onions. His back was turned towards Peter, and beyond him was the gate!



Peter got down very quietly off the wheelbarrow; and started running as fast as he could go, along a straight walk behind some black-currant bushes.

Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was safe at last in the wood outside the garden.



Mr. McGregor hung up the little jacket and the shoes for a scare-crow to frighten the blackbirds.

Peter never stopped running or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree.



He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole and shut his eyes. His mother was busy cooking; she wondered what he had done with his clothes. It was the second little jacket and pair of shoes that Peter had lost in a fortnight!



I am sorry to say that Peter was not very well during the evening.

His mother put him to bed, and made some camomile tea; and she gave a dose of it to Peter!

'One table-spoonful to be taken at bed-time.'



But Flopsy, Mopsy, and
Cotton-tail had bread and milk
and blackberries for supper.



English Task: Persuasive writing

Today we are thinking about this part of the story.



Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries:

But Peter, who was very naughty, ran away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and under the gate!



English Task: Advice

Imagine you are Peter's sisters. What might they say to Peter to **persuade** him not to go to Mr. McGregor's garden?

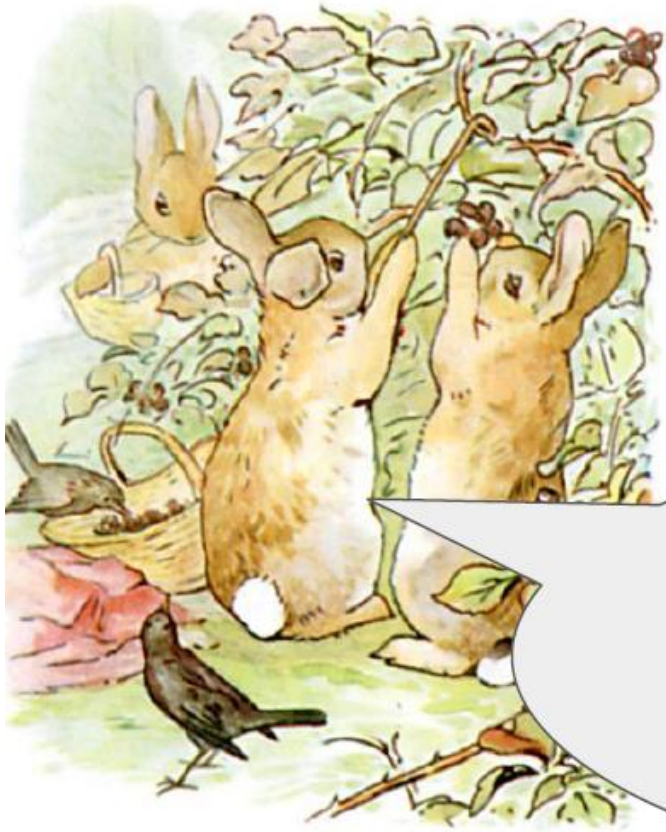
Mother said...

You should...

You might...

If you... you will...

dangerous	father	pie
worried	blackberries	garden
Mr. McGregor	please	trusted



English Task: Character description

Today we are going to write a character description of Peter Rabbit.

First we are going to describe his **personality**. That is what his character is like on the inside.

Then we will describe his **appearance**. That is what he looks like on the outside.



Can you see the difference between a description of personality and appearance?

Mr. McGregor

Personality

Mr. McGregor is a superb gardener! He enjoys planting vegetables in the spring time and eating the pies that Mrs. McGregor makes for him. He doesn't like it when rabbits sneak into his garden and eat his plants.

Appearance

He has a long, white beard and a red nose. He wears an old, brown waistcoat with shiny, silver buttons. He also has round glasses.



English Task: Character Description

Write some sentences to describe Peter's personality.

Personality

Peter is a rabbit

He always

He never

Peter likes.... but he doesn't like....

adjectives	verbs	nouns
crafty	sneaks	Mr. McGregor
mischievous	explores	cats
naughty	listens	vegetables
sneaky	eating	



English Task: Character Description

Write some sentences to describe Peter's appearance.

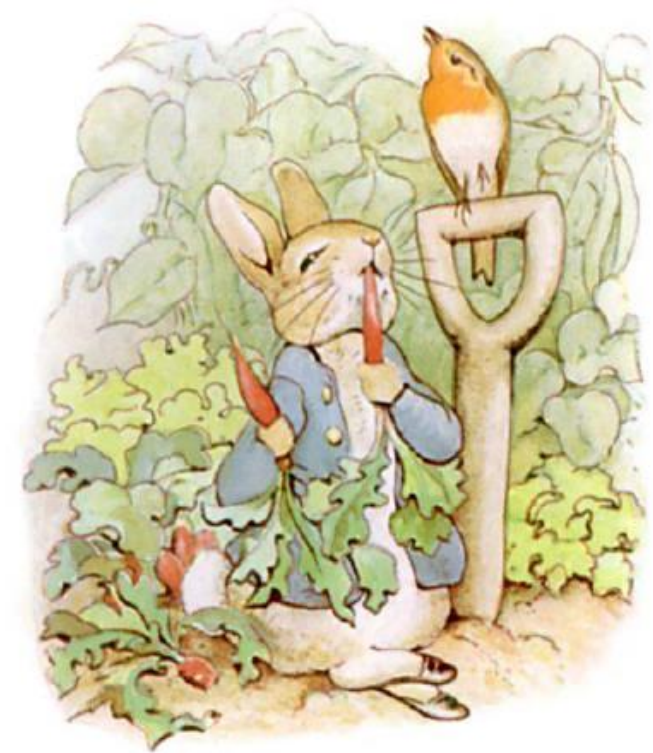
Appearance

Peter has

He wears with

He also has.

adjectives	nouns
long	ears
pointy	tail
blue	jacket
brass	buttons
brass	shoes
white	shoes



English Task: Wanted Poster

Mr. McGregor is furious with Peter! He would like to catch him.



Can you make an eye-catching poster with illustrations to ask other people to look out for him? Use your sentences from yesterday's task which describe Peter to help you.

Title Ideas

WANTED

Have you seen this mischievous rabbit?

Sentence Starter Ideas

Keep your eyes peeled for a ... rabbit.

He is

He is wearing

If you see him, be sure to

If you find him, call

English Task: Commas in a list

Commas are used to separate items in a list. They go between every item except the last one. Put '**and**' between the last two items in your list.

e.g.

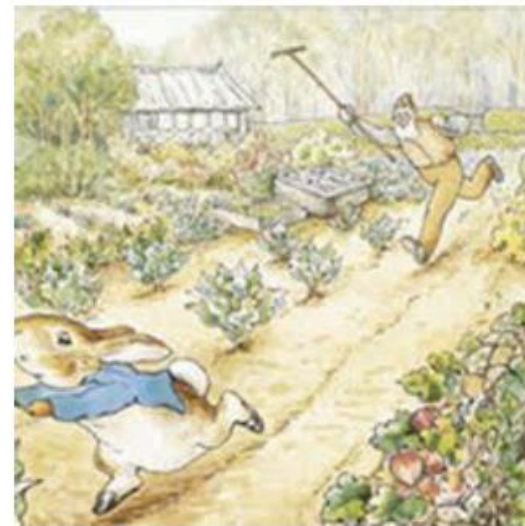
Mrs. Rabbit's children are Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail **and** Peter.

At the baker's, Mrs. Rabbit bought five currant buns, a loaf of brown bread **and** a some crusty rolls.

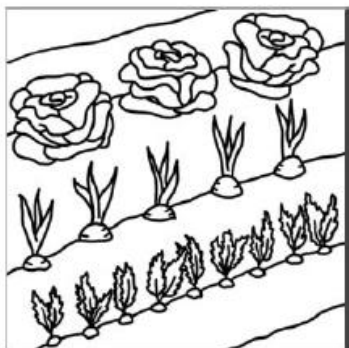


English Task: Commas in a list

1. Draw and label a picture of some of the vegetables in Mr. McGregor's garden. Write a sentence about it using commas to separate the items.
2. Draw and label a picture of Mr. McGregor's tool shed. Write a sentence about it using commas to separate the items.



In Mr McGregor's _____ there were _____, _____, _____ and _____.



vegetables		tools	
cabbages	peas	rake	watering can
lettuces	radishes	sieve	seeds
carrots	potatoes	flower pot	spade

English Task: Persuasive writing

Today we are thinking about this part of the story.

Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.



Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.

This means that Peter didn't think he would be able to get out of the net and escape Mr McGregor. Peter stopped trying to get out of the net.

Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.

This means
Peter was crying
noisily.

A sparrow is a
type of bird.



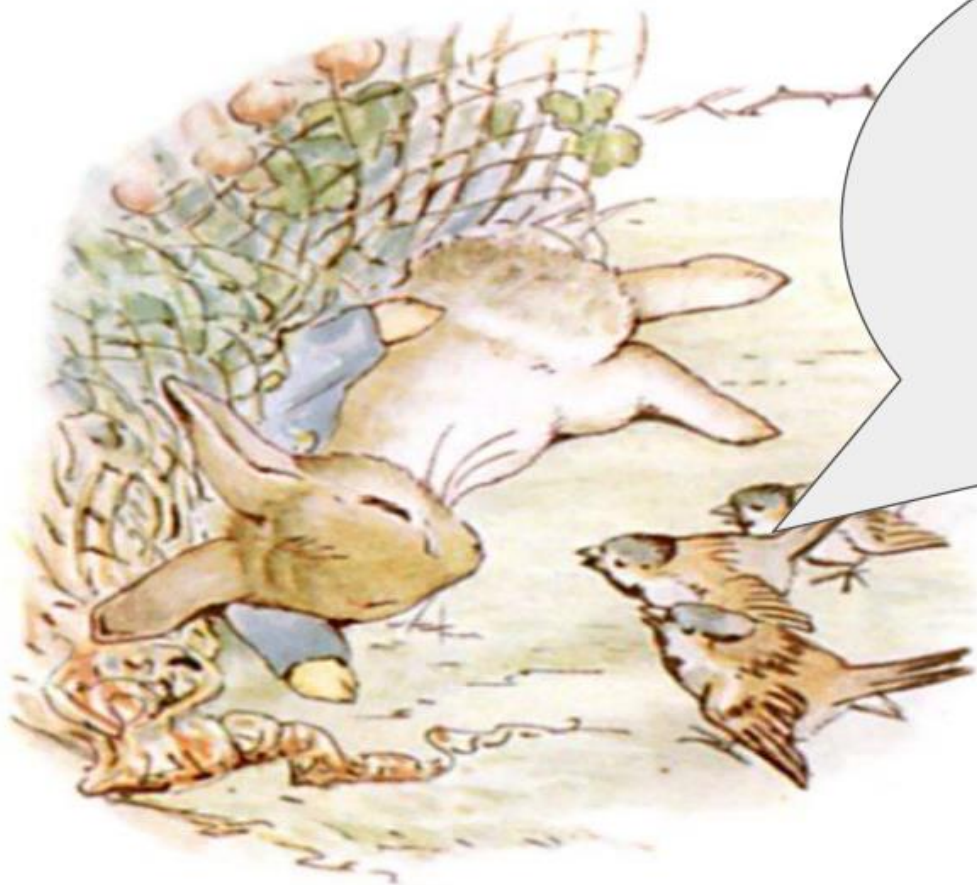
Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.

implored means asked

If you exert yourself
you use all your
energy and try your
best.

English Task: Advice

Imagine you are the sparrows. What might they say to Peter to **persuade** him not to persevere?



You should...

You must...

If you.. you will...

Don't...

Try to be...

Please stop...

strong	escape	energy
believe	sobbing	clever
give up	persevere	strength



Peter



Lily