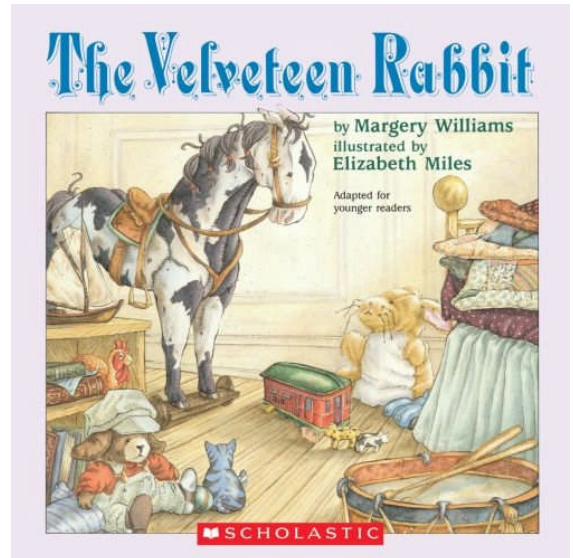


THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

By Margery Williams

*Real isn't how you are made.
It's a thing that happens when a child loves you.*



The Velveteen Rabbit is an adaptation of a well-known and well-loved story about a boy's love of his toy rabbit—which turns it into a real rabbit.

It is a simple tale, simply told, but the message is profound: time and attention from a friend can open a new world to you, and the power of love can transform you.

The story can be used to lead discussions on different types of toys, health and illness, qualities of real animals, the difference between real and make-believe, and the importance of friendship.

Classroom Activities

Objectives

Students will:
be introduced to the concept of empathy.
practise listening skills.
cultivate communication skills verbally and through writing.

Guided Discussion

Read the book as rhythmically as possible.
Discuss the value and importance of special toys and friendships, and pose the question 'What is real?'
Tim has many toys: a rocking horse, a plane, a train and a boat. All were probably made of wood. Look together at the cover and find as many toys as possible. Ask what toys your students have. What are they made of?
Ask each student to act out being a rabbit (nose-twitching, hopping); a plane (wings outspread); a train (choo-choo noise); or a horse (gallop, neigh). Can other students guess what they are?
Choose a page from the book and an object on the page and say, 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with...(first letter)'. Have students guess what it is. The child who guesses correctly can then be next to find an object and say 'I spy with my little eye...'

Teaching Tip

Collect items of soft material (wool, velvet, cotton wool) as well as items of rough texture (sacking, sandpaper) to make a wall collage. Have students close their eyes, approach the picture, feel it and describe what they feel: 'It's rough', 'It's soft', 'It's like ...' and so on.