

# EASTER ASSEMBLY 5a:

## Easter Bunnies & Bonnets (Story Version)

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- THEMES: Easter traditions - The Easter Bunny & Easter Bonnets / Boasting is not good.
- AIM: To learn about various Easter traditions and to learn that it's not wise to boast.
- STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be delivered by one adult. It consists of a discussion introduction, a story, summary and prayer. A scripted version of the same assembly, which can be performed by a class of children, is also included below.
- TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text* = text that can be read straight out.
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SONG 1: We're Egg-cited

INTRO: *Every Easter Sunday for many, many years, children all over the world have been watching and waiting for the Easter bunny to bring them Easter eggs, but let me tell you how the story of the Easter Bunny first started.*

*The idea of a rabbit was first used by the Anglo-Saxons during their annual festival of Eastre, where they celebrated spring. As far as the Anglo-Saxons were concerned, the hare and the rabbit were the two animals known to produce the most babies, so they were very good symbols of new life during the start of spring, when all around them new life was springing up with new baby animals being born and new flowers blossoming.*

*The idea of an actual Easter rabbit bringing Easter eggs started in Germany about 500 years ago. The first Easter bunnies that you could eat were also made there a few hundred years later, but they weren't made from chocolate. Instead they were made from sugared pastry. Yum!*

*So, on the day before Easter Sunday, the German children would build a nest in a quiet place somewhere around their home or garden. Often the boys would use their caps filled with twigs and leaves and the girls would use their bonnets. Then the 'Oschter Haws' or Easter Hare, would bring them some lovely coloured eggs, but only if the children had been good!*

*Slowly the tradition of the Easter hare spread around the world and by the 19th century, it had changed to the Easter Bunny who brought baskets of eggs, chocolates, sweets, and toys on Easter morning.*

*In this way, the Easter bunny has always been viewed as a generous, kind animal in the way he leaves lovely treats for children. But now I'm going to tell you a tale about a bunny who wasn't so nice. This is the story of the boastful bunny...*

STORY: *The Boastful Bunny*

*Once upon a time, all the woodland animals were having a party to celebrate the start of spring. The cold short days of winter had finally gone, and the warm*

*long days of spring sunshine had arrived at last, bringing animals out of hibernation, along with blossoming flowers and new leaves on trees.*

*As all the animals were gathered, the white bunny, who was too full of excitement, started to boast about how wonderful he was. The trouble started when Mr Snail finally managed to slide over to join everyone else.*

*“What time do you call this?” asked the bunny in a mocking way. “If you’d taken any longer to come and join us, it would have been winter again!” Then the bunny laughed and laughed at his own joke. But none of the other animals laughed. They all felt sorry for the poor snail.*

*“I may seem slow compared with an animal who is as fast as you,” replied the snail, “but at least I got here in the end.”*

*“Did you hear that everyone? Mr Snail says that I’m a fast animal!” boasted the bunny, “In fact I’m not just A fast animal, I’m THE fastest animal ever! I’m just so amazing!” Then he started going around all the other animals one by one, telling them all how he was so much better than them.*

*First the bunny bounced over to little Miss Mouse and said...*

*“I’m Mr Bunny and I’m the best,  
I am better than all the rest!  
You Miss Mouse just squeak and scurry,  
But in a race, I’d beat you in a hurry!”*

*... And as the bunny finished his gloating, he quickly ran in a ring around the watching little mouse.*

*“That’s not very nice!” squeaked little Miss Mouse. “I can’t help it if like Mr Snail I’m smaller than you.”*

*Next the bunny bounded over to the pond to see Mrs Frog...*

*“I’m Mr Bunny and I’m the best,  
I am better than all the rest!  
I know frogs can leap up high,  
But I can jump up to the sky!”*

*... And with that the boastful bunny bounced the biggest bounce he could.*

*“Well I never! What a cheek,” said Mrs Frog in disgust, “you are a rude little bunny!” And with that she dived under the water out of sight, leaving the young rabbit to hop over to Master Mole...*

#### WHAT’S IN THE REST OF THIS ASSEMBLY?

1. The remainder of this story (around another two pages in length)
2. It suggests then singing a further song: ‘Easter Bonnet Contest’
3. It then continues with a summary (which links the above story with the history of ‘Easter Bonnets’) and then concludes with a prayer.