

EASTER ASSEMBLY 5b: Easter Bunnies & Bonnets (Play Script 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 performed by a class of children. It consists of an introduction, a play, summary and prayer. A story version of the same assembly, which can be delivered by one adult, is also included above.
- 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:

- CHILD 1: *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 us tell you how the story of the Easter Bunny first started.*
- CHILD 2: *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.*
- CHILD 3: *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!*
- CHILD 4: *So, on the day before Easter Sunday, 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!*
- CHILD 5: *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.*
- CHILD 6: *So, the Easter bunny has always been a generous, kind animal, in the way he leaves lovely treats for children. But now we're going to tell you a tale about a bunny who wasn't so nice. This is the story of the boastful bunny...*

PLAY: *The Boastful Bunny*

[NOTE: A variety of printable masks are included below this assembly, one for each animal mentioned below]

CHILD 7: [Enter bunny, mouse, frog, mole and owl] *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.*

CHILD 8: [Enter snail who crawls over to join the other animals VERY slowly] *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.*

BUNNY: *What time do you call this? If you'd taken any longer to come and join us, it would have been winter again! HA! HA!!!*

CHILD 9: *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.*

SNAIL: *I may seem slow compared with an animal who is as fast as you, but at least I got here in the end.* [Snail exits slowly]

BUNNY: *Did you hear that everyone? Mr Snail says that I'm a fast animal! In fact, I'm not just A fast animal, I'm THE fastest animal ever! I'm just so amazing!*

CHILD 9: *Then the boastful bunny started going around all the other animals one by one, telling them how he was so much better than them. First, he bounced over to little Miss Mouse and said...*

BUNNY: *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!*
[He runs a ring around the mouse to prove how fast he is]

MOUSE: *That's not very nice! I can't help it if like Mr Snail I'm smaller than you.* [Exit mouse]

CHILD 10: *Next the bunny bounded over to the pond to see Mrs Frog...*

BUNNY: *I'm Mr Bunny and I'm the best,
I am better than all the rest...*

WHAT'S IN THE REST OF THIS ASSEMBLY?

1. The remainder of this play (around another three 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.