

Huge Harold

by Bill Peet

Huge Harold has a lot of difficult situations to overcome, but his good-natured spirit and his never-give-up attitude is unfailingly captured in the colored-penciled illustrations and in the fast-pasted storyline.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What would you do if you saw a HUGE rabbit?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how much lettuce the rabbit will eat out of the garden?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Huge Harold*

- gracious: kind and polite
- prediction: statement about the future, guessing what might happen
- hollow: having empty space, not solid
- wailed: make mournful cry
- galloped: fastest pace of horse, in which all four feet are off the ground at the same time
- meadow: grassy field used for producing hay or for grazing livestock
- pasture: land for grazing
- ravine: deep narrow valley
- eerie: unnerving
- beady: small, round and shiny like a bead
- fierce: deeply and intensely felt and often aggressively expressed
- banquet: big meal, elaborate or lavish meals of many courses
- frantic: out of control emotionally
- trough: container for animal food or water
- grimy: covered in dirt or soot
- aroma: a smell, especially a pleasant one
- panic: overpowering fear or anxiety
- despair: cause of hopelessness, a feeling of no hope
- cattails: a tall, slender marsh plant, brown and tube-shaped

Rare Words in *Huge Harold*

- raged: sudden and extreme anger
- rafters: sloping roof support, usually made of timber
- cottontail: a small rabbit with brown or gray fur and a white cottony tail
- outwit: outsmart somebody
- clever: showing intelligence and creativity
- commotion: a scene of noisy confusion or activity
- hullabaloo: noisy excitement or fuss
- foxtails: a grass with soft cylindrical spikes resembling the tail of a fox
- buggy: horse-drawn vehicle, lightweight
- harness: straps for animals so they can be attached to a cart or carriage for pulling
- reins: leather straps that are attached to a harness and used to steer horses

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did Harold's mother send him away?
- What scared Harold in the woods?
- Why didn't the pigs want Harold in their pen?
- Why did the farmer shoot at him?
- Where did Harold go during the thunderstorm?
- Who did he scare? Who was hunting for him?
- Where did Harold go when he was running from all the hunters?
- Who found Harold in the barn?
- What did the farmer feed him?
- What did Harold win at the races?

Do

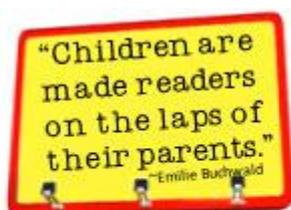
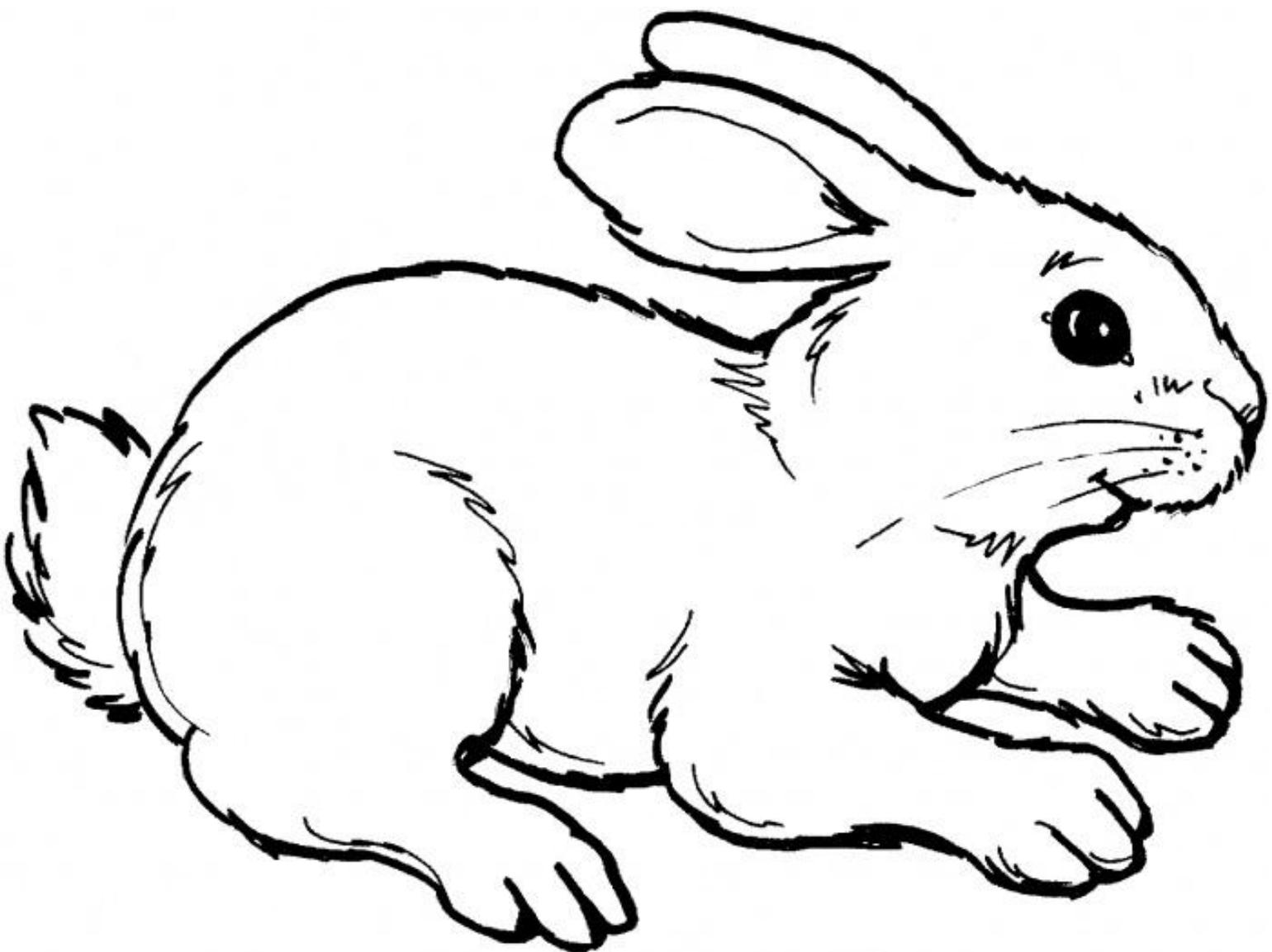
Color a Cottontail

You will need: cotton balls, crayons/markers, *Cottontail Rabbit* sheets and glue sticks

Give each child the *Cottontail Rabbit* sheet, glue sticks and cotton balls. The children will color their rabbit and glue the cotton balls on the tail.

My Name: _____

Cottontail Rabbit



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