



Name: _____

Date: _____

Beatrix Potter's Rabbits

Beatrix Potter stood at a window of her home in London, England. She watched two children walk by. The young girl wanted to play with them, but she didn't know them. Beatrix was often alone. She had a brother, but he was away at school. She did not see her parents very much. They were too busy. A nurse took care of her.

Each day was the same. Before lunch Beatrix played with her dolls. Later her nurse took her for a walk. Then, they went back to the empty house. Beatrix grew older, but she did not go away to school. A teacher came to her house. She still had few friends. One summer Beatrix was sent to the country. For the first time, she saw a live farm animal. She liked to watch the cows and sheep. She laughed at the pigs, but she loved the rabbits best of all.

Beatrix made some of these animals her pets. She gave them names. She drew pictures of them. She made up stories about them. In her stories, the rabbits walked on two legs. They wore little coats. Some even wore hats. These rabbits were like real friends to her. At the end of that summer, Beatrix went back to London. She never felt quite so lonely again. Now, she had her animal friends to write about and to draw.

Years went by and Beatrix was a young woman. One of her teachers had a small boy. He was very ill, and he had to be in bed for a long time. Beatrix knew how lonely he must feel, so she wrote him letters. She told him stories about the rabbits, and she drew pictures to go with them. The boy liked the stories. He showed them to his friends.

They liked them too, so Beatrix Potter put the stories and pictures into a book. Children all over the world have read it. Maybe you have too. It is called "The Tale of Peter Rabbit."