

All About Beatrix Potter

Part B

Beatrix Potter is famous for writing and illustrating, among other stories, 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'.

Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington, London, on 28th July 1866. She had a younger brother, Bertram, and they both enjoyed drawing as children.

Beatrix did not go to school. Her parents paid for teachers to teach her at home. She worked hard in all her lessons but her favourite subjects were art and nature. Beatrix's drawings were very detailed and she particularly enjoyed drawing things from the natural world. She drew her pets, especially her rabbits, Benjamin and Peter. She had a special interest in fungi. As well as making drawings of different types of fungi, she also wrote a scientific paper on the subject. (Fungi are living things but they are not animals or plants. Mushrooms and yeast are examples of fungi.)



Before Beatrix's books were published, she illustrated other people's texts and drew designs for greetings cards. When she decided that she wanted her story 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' to be published, she could not find a publisher that was willing to publish the book. She paid for the book to be published herself and, as it was very popular, a publisher

then agreed to publish her book. The first copies of 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' published by F. Warne & Co. appeared in the autumn of 1902 and the book was very successful. Beatrix went on to write many more stories and have lots of them published.

Beatrix was always involved in any decisions to do with her stories because she wanted to make sure that any products sold would have good pictures on them and would be true to her original books. She arranged for a soft toy of Peter Rabbit to be made to sell to fans and she designed a Peter Rabbit board game.

Beatrix spent much of her life in the Lake District. She spent the money she made from the sales of her books on buying and running farms there. She kept Herdwick sheep and won prizes for her sheep in farm shows. She felt strongly that the Lake District should be kept as a beautiful place for all to enjoy.

When Beatrix died in 1943, she left her farms to the National Trust, a charity which works to keep beautiful and important places safe so that everyone can enjoy them now and in the future. One of her farmhouses, Hill Top Farm, is now a popular tourist attraction.

Beatrix Potter's books are still loved by readers around the world and millions of copies of the books are sold each year.



Comprehension

1. How did Beatrix Potter learn lessons as a child?

2. What subject did Beatrix Potter write a scientific paper on?

3. What did Beatrix Potter do when she couldn't find a publisher to publish her books?

4. Why did Beatrix Potter make sure she was involved in any decisions about products linked to her books?

5. Why do you think she gave her farms to the National Trust?

6. Read the following statements. If you think a statement is true, write a 'T' next to it. If you think a statement is false, write an 'F' next to it.

Beatrix Potter is still alive today. ()

Beatrix Potter was born in the Lake District. ()

She was a talented artist. ()

Beatrix Potter loved nature. ()

Beatrix Potter had an older brother. ()

The only book Beatrix Potter wrote was 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'. ()

Challenge Task

Can you write some sentences about Beatrix Potter which could be included in the book 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' to tell readers about the author?



