



Bobby's Books

Book: The Velveteen Rabbit

Possible Themes: Friendship, Love

Publisher, Publishing Date and ISBN Number: Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1994, 0-886-82732-9

Author: Margery Williams

Illustrator: William Nicholson

Recommended Age of Child: Ages 4-10

Description of Book:

A stuffed toy rabbit (with real thread whiskers) comes to life in Margery Williams's timeless tale of the transformative power of love. Given as a Christmas gift to a young boy, the Velveteen Rabbit lives in the nursery with all of the other toys, waiting for the day when the boy will choose him as a playmate. In time, the shy Rabbit befriends the tattered Skin Horse, the wisest resident of the nursery, who reveals the goal of all nursery toys: to be made "real" through the love of a human. This sentimental classic--perfect for any child who's ever thought that maybe, just *maybe*, his or her toys have feelings--has been charming children since its first publication in 1922.

Quote from Book: "'Real isn't how you are made,' said the Skin Horse. 'It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.'"

Lesson Plan Ideas:

Distinguish between real and not real.

Have children bring a stuffed animal or have enough donated for each child.

Use this book as a springboard for teens to write and discuss their own opinions on the definition of "real."

On white construction paper, draw two velveteen rabbits. Make one look brand new. Make one look shabby.

Create a collage showing "new things" and "old things" such as a baby and an old man, a seed and an apple, a new house and an old one.

Show a progression of one item as it goes from new to old. For example, choose a tree, a baby animal, a pet, or a book.

Materials Needed: stuffed animals, construction paper, crayons, markers, scissors, glue and writing materials