

Objectives

- To enjoy and understand the main idea of the story.
- To teach key vocabulary related to plants, animals and wildlife in the forest; seasons, weather and parts of the day; food; colours.
- To demonstrate understanding of a variety of words and expressions used throughout the story by using them in related activities.
- To teach how to talk about and express emotions: feeling alone/different/socially isolated/afraid/terrified.
- To teach the values of friendship and bravery.

Word bank

Key vocabulary

Nouns:

animal related: rabbit, fox, badger, deer, owl, hedgehog, squirrel, bat, fur, eyes, leg (have a bad leg).

plant related: oak, branch, daisies, tree(s), trunk.

seasons, weather and time related: winter, summer, spring, Christmas, night, clouds, snow, sun, year.

food related: carrots, cheese, basket, tray, picnic.

Verbs: to shake (branches, a stick); to trust (a person); to prepare (a party); to sniff (food); to rescue (a person); to attack; to invite.

Adjectives: old, different, white, grey, alone, delicious, full (of), best (of all), terrified, invisible, (to be) sorry, happy.

Key structures

Adjective ... like ... noun = to express similitude e.g. *white like snow*.

Noun ... after ... noun = to express repetition e.g. *read tale after tale*.

Prepositions: look at, different to, covered in (snow), near, at home, to be in danger, tell about, run around, fall on (the floor), inside (a trunk), invite to (a picnic).

Tips and ideas

Before reading

- Use visual support and TPR to pre-teach key vocabulary. Ask children to bring pictures of forest animals to school.

Talk about animals, their bodies, fur, colours and other features.

Ask children to group the animals according to different characteristics (animals that can/can't fly, big/small animals, dangerous/not dangerous, animals they like/don't like).

Next, ask them to imitate the actions the characters perform along the story, e.g. shake (branches, a stick), sniff, attack, run around, fall down, hide, celebrate.

During reading

- **Spot the error!** After reading the story twice, you can tell them the story again, but this time with errors. Ask the children to shout "WRONG" every time they hear something that does not belong in the story, e.g. The old rabbit said: *"Don't trust Snowy. He is invisible to the rest of the rabbits."*

After reading

- **Story collage.** Divide students into groups and ask them to create a collage around a theme, scene or a character from the story. For example, "Snowy collage", "Cave scene collage", "Picnic collage". The students can use different artistic techniques to express their ideas.

Teacher support activities

Great games: "Running words"

- Have the students sit in a circle. Pick one of them to be the rabbit and tell him/her to leave the circle for a few minutes so that he/she cannot see what the other students are doing.
- Choose one student to hold the real carrot behind their back. At the same time all the other students should pretend to hold it behind their backs as well.
- Ask the rabbit, the student who left the circle, to come back into the circle. The rabbit now has 3 chances to guess who has the carrot. Scaffold the language input: **"I think / I'm sure you have / he has the carrot."**
- If the rabbit guesses correctly, then the person who had the carrot behind their back now becomes the rabbit and has to leave the circle.

CLIL link: Physical Education

A rabbit's most prominent feature is its long, floppy ears. Let's make Bunny Rabbit Ears and pretend we are rabbits!

Materials: paper, tape, scissors, stickers and markers.

Procedure:

- Make a strip of paper long enough to go around the child's head like a crown.
- Draw, colour and cut out the ears. Tape the ears onto the strip of paper. Decorate the strip of paper with stickers or the markers.
- Tape the strip of paper in a loop so it fits on the child's head. Let everybody wear their rabbit ears!

English theatre: "Snowy is our hero!"

Characters: Old Oak, Snowy, Rabbits (chorus), Fox, Old Rabbit

SCENE 1

Old Oak: I'm Old Oak. I will tell you a story about rabbits.

(Moves arms as if shaking the branches.)

Rabbits (chorus): "We are grey. Snowy is white. He is different.

Snowy: Yes, I'm white like snow, like clouds, like daisies.

(The child shows cards with pictures representing key words.)

Old Rabbit: Don't trust Snowy! He is different.

(Old Rabbit points to Snowy who turns and goes to a corner in the classroom.)

Snowy: I don't have any friends. But I have lots of books.

(Reads books alone in the corner.)

Rabbits: It's Christmas! Let's have a party!

Old Rabbit: Look, I have a basket full of carrots and cakes!

Rabbits (chorus): Mmm, this is delicious!

SCENE 2

(Snowy observes the fox, while the old rabbit lies wounded on the floor.)

Fox: Mmm, this is delicious!

Snowy: Oh, Old Rabbit is in danger! *(seems very worried.)*

Rabbits: Danger, danger! Let's run away!

(They start to run around in a panic and fall on the floor.)

Snowy: I will help him. I am invisible.

(Comes closer to the fox, but the fox acts as if Snowy isn't there.)

SCENE 3

(Snowy is in the corner, protecting the Old rabbit.)

Rabbits (chorus): Snowy, you're the hero of the forest!

Old Rabbit: Snowy, I'm very sorry. Thank you! This is for you.

(The Old rabbit offers Snowy a basket full of cakes.)

Snowy: Let's celebrate!

Rabbits (chorus): We are happy!