



The Good Little Bunnies

A Chinese Folktale

Once Upon a Time, Mother Rabbit and her three babies, Red Eyes, Short Tail, and Long Ears, lived together in an old tree stump.

One day, Mother Rabbit said to her three babies, “I’m going out to the field to pull some carrots for dinner. When I go out, I want you to close the door behind me and lock it tight. Don’t open the door until I come home, no matter who comes knocking. Can you do it?”

“Yes, Mother!” said all three little bunnies. And so, Mother Rabbit left.

Red Eyes, Short Tail, and Long Ears remembered what their mother had said. They closed and locked the door behind her. Then, they sat by the door and waited for her to come back home.

But outside lurked a big, hungry wolf, who had noticed Mother Rabbit leaving without her babies. The wolf wanted to eat the baby bunnies as a snack! But the little bunnies kept the door closed tightly, and the wolf couldn’t figure out how to get in.

While the wolf was thinking about how he could get a delicious baby bunny snack, Mother Rabbit came home. The wolf hid in a nearby bush and watched as the mother came near the door. Mother Rabbit pushed on the door and found that it was still closed tight. Then she knocked on the door, and sang a song to her three little bunnies.

“My three little bunnies, you have done so good! Mommy’s home, so open up, as you know you should!”



Inside, Red Eyes, Short Tail, and Long Ears cried, “Mommy’s home! Mommy’s home!” and opened up the door for her. They helped her carry the basket of carrots inside, and Mother Rabbit kissed each of her babies.

But outside, the big, hungry wolf had been watching and listening. “Ha!” he said. “Now I know the secret to getting those little bunnies! I will come back tomorrow,” and he went back to his home to wait.

The next day, Mother Rabbit said to her three babies, “Today, I’m going out to gather mushrooms. I want you to close the door behind me and lock it tight. Don’t open the door until I come home, no matter who comes knocking. Can you do it?”

“Yes, Mother!” said the three little bunnies. And so, Mother Rabbit left and the three little bunnies closed and locked the door, just as they were told.

A little while later, the big hungry wolf came to the rabbit’s house. The wolf remembered Mother Rabbit’s song, so he knocked on the door and did his best imitation of Mother Rabbit. He sang:

“My three little bunnies, you have done so good! Mommy’s home, so open up, as you know you should!”

Red Eyes and Short Tail heard the song and thought it was their mother singing. “Mommy’s home! Mommy’s home! Open the door for her!” they cried.

But Long Ears was not fooled. He peeked outside and saw who was really there: the wolf! Long Ears told the other little bunnies that the wolf was trying to trick them, and called through the door to the wolf, “We do not believe you! If you are our mother, stick your tail through the crack in the door so that we can see!”

The wolf stuck his tail through a crack in the door and the bunnies could see that it was indeed NOT their mother’s tail. Quickly, the bunnies slammed the door, right on the wolf’s tail! The wolf howled in pain. Just then, Mother Rabbit came home and saw what was happening. She put down her basket of mushrooms and picked up a big stick.

“You wolf!” she shouted. “Get away from my babies!” Well, the pain in his tail and an angry Mother Rabbit were too much for the wolf, and he ran away home as fast as he could. Mother Rabbit was relieved. She put down the stick, picked up her basket, knocked on the door and sang,

“My three little bunnies, you have done so good!
Mommy’s home, so open up, as you know you should!”

Inside, Red Eyes, Short Tail, and Long Ears heard their mother’s voice and cried, “Mommy’s home! Mommy’s home!” and opened up the door for her. They helped her carry the basket inside, and Mother Rabbit kissed each of her babies. She was proud of what the little bunnies had done, and the bunnies felt proud, too.

