

■ **Text analysis: “The Tale of Peter Rabbit”**

1. Who is the narrator of this story?
2. Where does the story take place? What period of time does the story cover?
3. Is the structure linear or circular? Explain.
4. Discuss the characters.
5. Does Potter pay attention to the details of the small world that she depicts? Give examples from the illustrations and the text.
6. Do the illustrations add new elements to the text? Do they depict characters from far away or from close? Do you think that the illustrations make us identify ourselves with a particular character? How is that achieved?
7. Do you think this story is an “archetypal naughty boy story with an appropriate moral ending” (Mackey)? Is the narrator’s tone sentimental or detached, socially correct or rebellious?
8. Potter described her writing style as short and plain. Give examples of this in the text (sentence length and type, use of nouns and adjectives, tone). Does she use any nonsense word?
9. Explore the Peter Rabbit website. Do you find it useful? It provides some activities for class use. Think of some other ways to use the story in the classroom.



Photograph: “Beatrix Potter”. (c) Piddy77, 2007. In flickr with cc licence.