



MISS POTTER



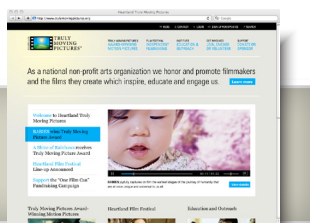
Synopsis

Beatrix Potter, author of the *Peter Rabbit* series for children, remained a single woman into her thirties, focusing on her art and storytelling rather than marriage. Referring to her illustrations as her friends, Potter found solace in recounting the tales of clever animals like Peter Rabbit, entertaining friends and family alike. When she takes her first book to a publisher and unexpectedly is accepted, her life begins to change in ways she'd never imagined.

Discussion Questions

- Miss Potter was nervous about city life and dealing with publishers. Once she found out she would be published, she decided to consider this new life an adventure. Have you ever been nervous about doing something new in your life? How did you respond to the new situation?
- Beatrix Potter was 32 when her first book was published. At this age she still had a maid who was always there to chaperone her. How has life changed for women since the Victorian Age? What is dating like for women today and how was dating different for Miss Potter and Mister Warne?
- In Potter's day, a woman being able to support herself was very rare; however, Beatrix Potter had enough money to support herself for the rest of her life. So why were her parents so concerned about her future with Norman?
- How did Beatrix Potter begin to recover from her grief over the death of Norman? What are things that you do to pick yourself up after a sad event in life?
- Have you ever read the *Peter Rabbit* series? After viewing this film and learning more about Beatrix Potter's life, do think about the *Peter Rabbit* series any differently? Why?
- Have you ever dreamt up characters that were so real to you, like Beatrix Potter, that you had to bring them to life through art or creative stories? What inspired the characters you imagined?

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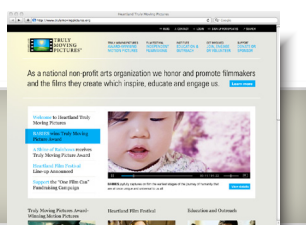
Activities

- Buy a copy of *Peter Rabbit* or borrow it from the library. Imagine the real life animals that must have inspired her illustrations as you're reading.
- Create your own children's book. Write a story that reminds you of your favorite childhood place. Use Miss Potter's personality, as someone who bucks tradition, to create your main character.

Get Involved

- When Beatrix Potter moved to the Lake District full-time, she began to learn about developers who were attempting to urbanize her rural place of refuge. This type of development has probably occurred near where you live as well. Take part in a land conservation group, like Miss Potter did, and protect the land around you. Not all of us can afford to buy it, but we can help groups that work to preserve it.
- Land conservation is also a problem in areas with rich resources. There are places near the equator with amazing rainforests that are being chopped down, destroying the homes of the species of animals that live there, as well as removing the healthy benefits the trees bring to the air. Create a fundraiser to earn enough money to buy an acre or two of rainforest to help prevent future exploitation of the land. Visit these websites for more information:

- www.worldlandtrust.org
- adopt.nature.org



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