

Easter Reading Comprehension

Easter Worksheet

Read the story. Then answer each question.

Mr. Easter Rabbit

An old German legend

By Carolyn Sherwin Bailey

A long time ago, in a far-off country, there was a famine. This is how it came about. In the early spring, when the first grass peeped out, the sun shone so hot that the grass dried up. No rains fell through the long summer months, so that the seed and grain that were planted could not grow. Everywhere the fields and meadows, usually so green and rich, were a dull gray-brown. Here and there a tree waved its dusty branches in the hot wind. When fall came, there was great emptiness; and instead of happy fathers and mothers, there were grave, troubled ones.

But the children were just as happy as ever. They were glad that it had not rained, as they could play outdoors all day long.

The people had to be mindful of the food they had saved from the year before. That following winter, by being very careful, they managed to provide

simple food for their families. When Christmas came there were not many presents, but the children did not miss them as we would, because in that country they did not give many presents at Christmas-time.

Their big holiday was Easter Sunday.



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On that day they had a great celebration, and there were always goodies and presents for the little boys and girls. As the time came nearer, the parents wondered what they should do for the children's holiday. Every new day it was harder than the day before to get just plain, coarse bread to eat. Where would they find all the sweet treats and pretty things that the children had always had at Easter time?

One evening some of the mothers met, after the children were in bed, to talk about what they should do.

One mother said, "We can have eggs. All the chickens are laying."

Another mother chimed in, "The children are so tired of eggs, because they eat them every day."

They decided that eggs would not be a good Easter treat. They went home feeling sad, thinking that Easter would come and go like any other day.

One mother was more sorry than any of the others. Her little boy and girl had been planning and talking about the beautiful time they would have on the great holiday.

After the mother had gone to bed, she wondered and thought if there was any way in which she could give her little ones a happy time. All at once she cried right out in the dark, "I know, I have thought of something to make the children happy!"



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She could hardly wait until morning. The first thing she did was run into the next house to tell her neighbor about her bright plan. The neighbor told someone else, and so the secret flowed until, before night, all the mothers had heard it, but not a single child.

There was still a week before Easter, so there was a good deal of whispering. The fathers and mothers smiled every time they thought of the secret. When Easter Sunday came, everyone went, first of all, to the great stone church—mothers, fathers and children. When church was over, instead of going home, the older people suggested walking to the great woods just behind the church.

“Perhaps we’ll find some flowers,” they said.

They all went to the woods, and soon the happy children were scattered through the woods, among the trees. Then a shout went up—now here, now there—from all sides.

“Mom, dad, look here!”

“See what I have found: some beautiful eggs!”

“Here’s a red one!”

“I’ve found a yellow one!”

“Here’s a whole nest: all different colors!”



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The children came running, bringing different colored eggs they had found in the soft moss under the trees. They were too large for birds' eggs. They were large, like hens' eggs, but who had ever seen a hen lay such wonderfully colored eggs?

Just then, from behind a large tree where the children had found a nest full of eggs, there jumped a rabbit. With long leaps he disappeared in the deep woods, where he was hidden from view by the trees and bushes.

"It must be the rabbit that laid the pretty eggs," shouted one little girl.

"I am sure it was the rabbit," said her mother.

"Hurrah for the rabbit! Hurrah for the Easter rabbit!" the children cheered.

This is the story of the first Easter eggs. Ever since then, in that far-away land and in other countries too, the Easter rabbit has brought little children at Easter-time some beautiful colored eggs.



Easter Reading Comprehension—Exercises

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1. Multiple choice

Why were the mothers and father grave and troubled?

- A. because the children were naughty
- B. because there was a famine and there wasn't much to eat
- C. because the Easter rabbit wasn't coming
- D. because they were not feeling well

At the mothers' meeting, what did one mother suggest they surprise the kids with?

- A. ice cream
- B. chocolate cake
- C. baked beans
- D. eggs

How were the eggs the Easter rabbit brought different?

- A. they were covered in chocolate
- B. they tasted like chocolate
- C. they were square in shape
- D. they were all different colors

Easter Reading Comprehension—Exercises

Easter Worksheet

2. Fill in the blanks

Word bank:

behind suggested Sunday thought whispering church

There was still a week before Easter, so there was a good deal of _____ . The fathers and mothers smiled every time they _____ of the secret. When Easter _____ came, every one went first of all, to the great stone _____—mothers, fathers and children. When church was over, instead of going home, the older people _____ walking to the great woods just _____ the church.

3. What Easter surprise would you want to plan for your family and friends? How would you surprise them with it?

Easter Reading Comprehension—Answers

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1. Multiple choice

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There was still a week before Easter, so there was a good deal of **whispering**. The fathers and mothers smiled every time they **thought** of the secret. When Easter **Sunday** came, every one went first of all, to the great stone **church** — mothers, fathers and children. When church was over, instead of going home, the older people **suggested** walking to the great woods just **behind** the church.

3. What Easter surprise would you want to plan for your family and friends? How would you surprise them with it?

Answers will vary