

One Runaway Rabbit

By David Metzenthen & Illustrated by Mairead Murphy

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A stylish and satisfying picture book about a curious pet rabbit who accidentally escapes the safety of her backyard, and then must survive in the wilds of suburbia at night.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Pets
- Foxes
- Hunting and hiding
- Suburbia

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before opening *One Runaway Rabbit* look at the title and cover design. Discuss what students think the story might be about and the clues in the picture that make them think that. Ask questions such as:

- What is a runaway and what do you think a runaway rabbit is likely to do?
- Where do you think this story will be set – a suburb near a city or in the quiet countryside?
- Will it be set during the day or night?

After reading the story ask students the following comprehension questions:

- What is the rabbit's name?
- Where does Lulu live?
- Does Lulu runaway because she is unhappy?
- Who is her friend?
- Who is her enemy?
- What does she do to trick the fox?
- Can you tell how long Lulu was away from home?
- Compare the book's front and back endpapers. What do both show and what do the back endpapers tell us about just how far Lulu travelled?
- Imagine you are the fox. How might you describe what happened that night? What might the title of your story be?
- What do you think happened to the mouse after the fox started to chase Lulu? Come up with a whole new adventure involving the mouse and a cat.
- Turn to the page where the fox is chasing Lulu and their path is marked by blue broken lines. Study the picture carefully and discuss what is different here? How does perspective change the way we see the houses, the flamingo and the garden gnomes? Why are there so many different images of Lulu but only one of the fox?
- Look closely at the image of Lulu watching the sun rise and find three other living things also awake at that hour.
- Does Lulu look happy to have returned home on the last page?