

THE TALE OF
JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK



BY
BEATRIX POTTER

[F. WARNE & CO.]

THE TALE OF
JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK



BY
BEATRIX POTTER

[F. WARNE & CO.]

THE TALE OF
JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK



BY
BEATRIX POTTER

[F. WARNE & CO.]

Beatrix Potter (1866 - 1943)



Helen Beatrix Potter was an English writer, illustrator, natural scientist, and conservationist best known for her children's books featuring animals. She was interested in every branch of natural science save astronomy. Botany was a passion for most Victorians and nature study was a popular enthusiasm. Beatrix loved collecting fossils, studying archaeological artefacts from London excavations, and interested in entomology. In all these areas she drew and painted her specimens with increasing skill.

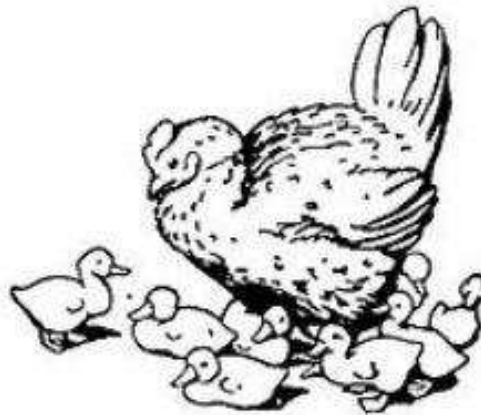
By the 1890s her scientific interests centred on mycology. First drawn to fungi because of their colours and evanescence in nature and her delight in painting them.

Curious as to how fungi reproduced, she began microscopic drawings of fungus spores (the agarics) and in 1895 developed a theory of their germination.

THE TALE OF JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK

BY
BEATRIX POTTER

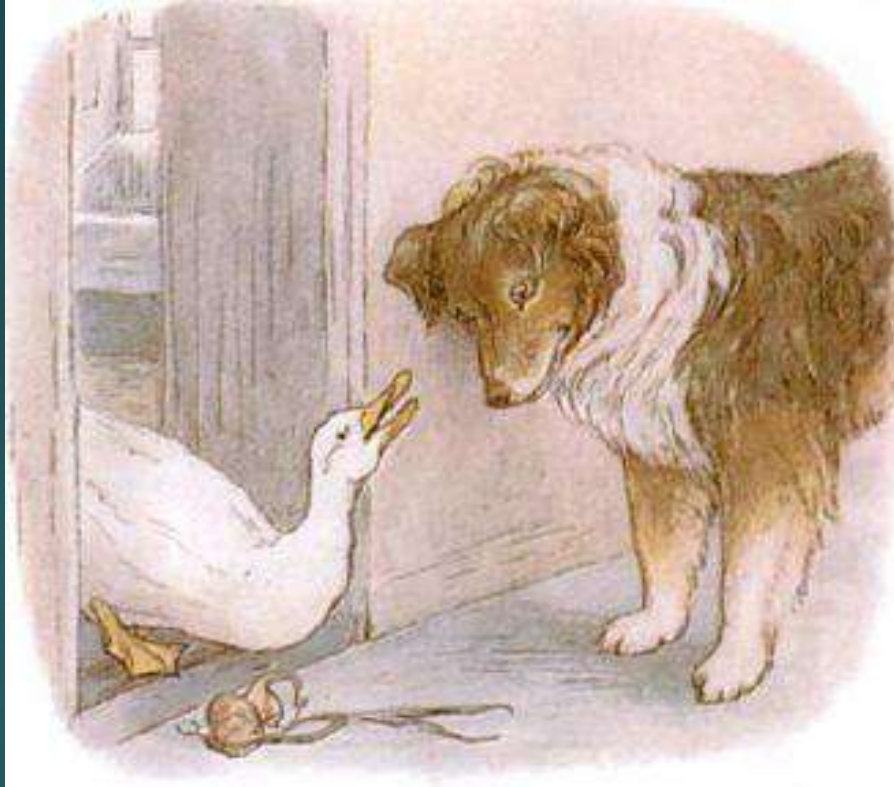
Author of
"The Tale of Peter Rabbit", &c.



LONDON
FREDERICK WARNE & CO., LTD.
AND NEW YORK

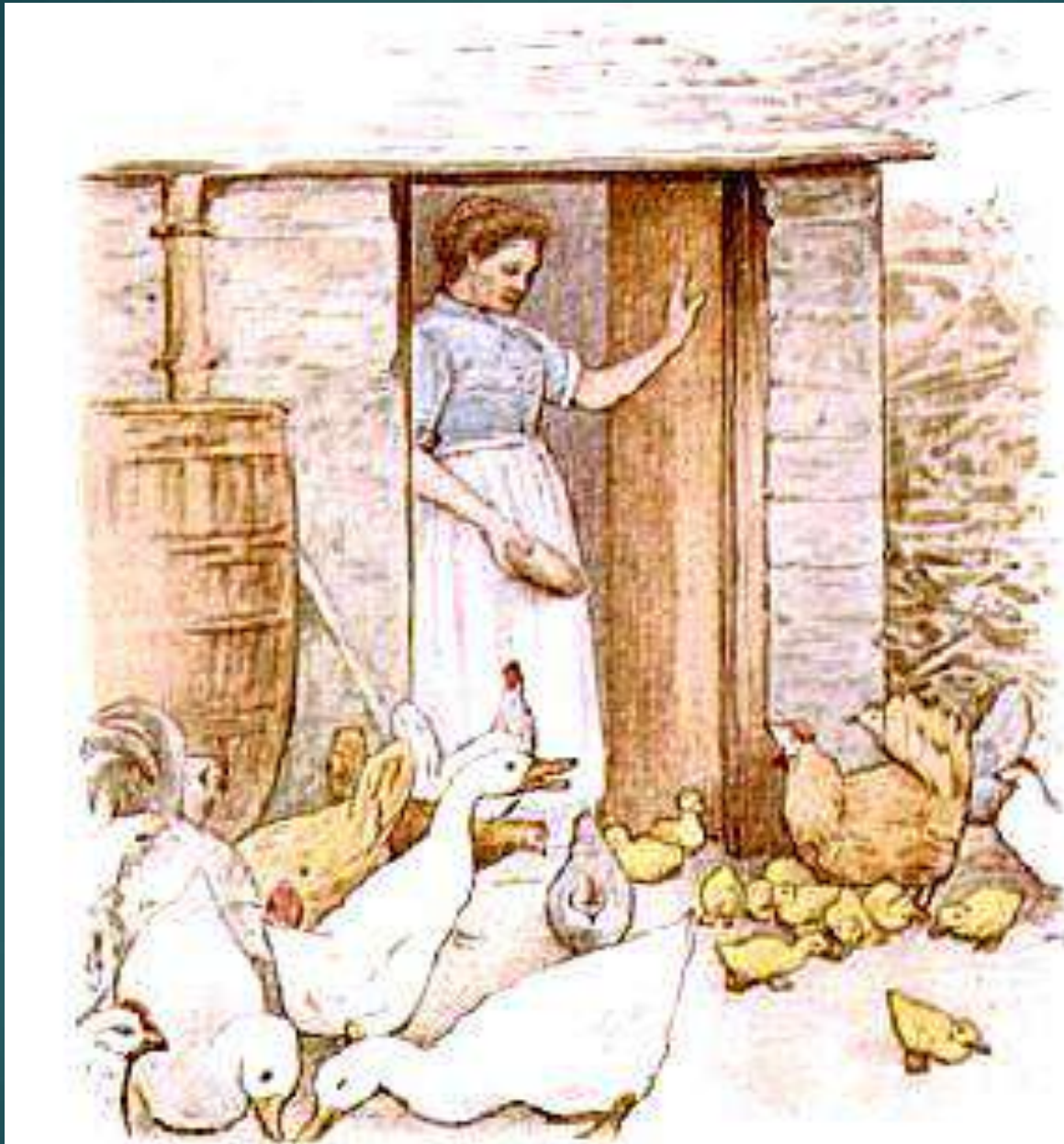
[All rights reserved]

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

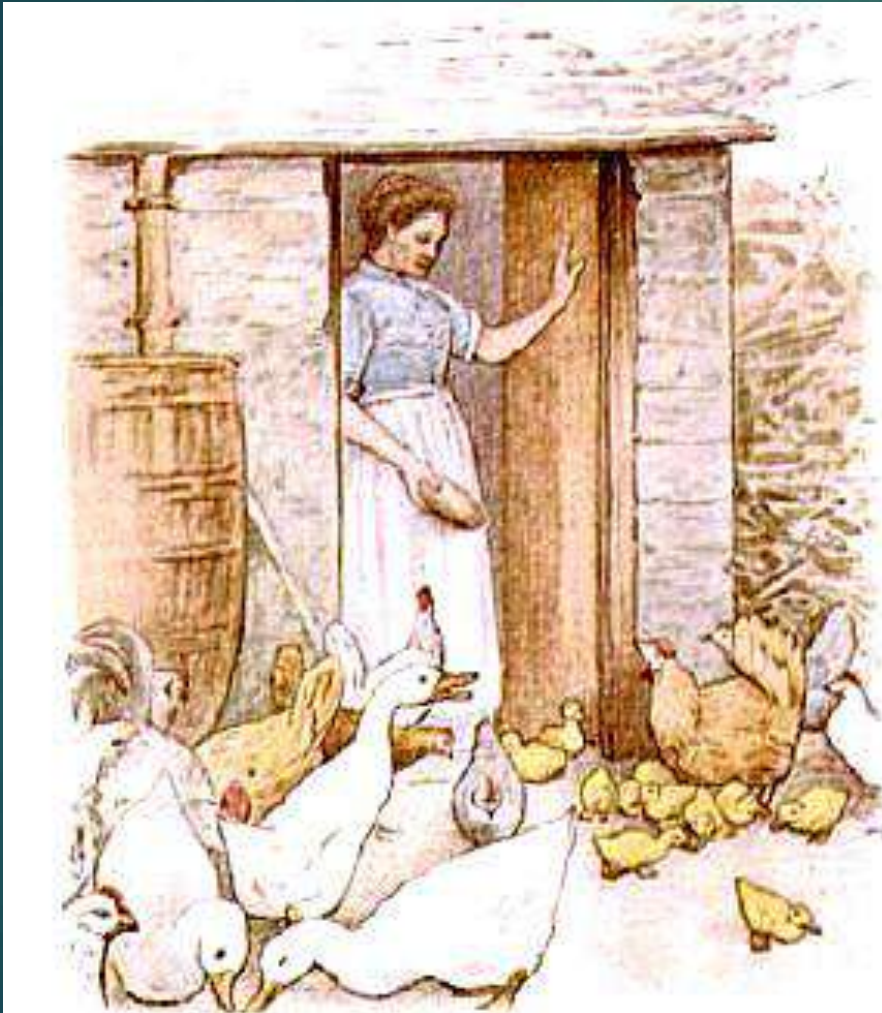


A
farmyard tale
for Ralph
and Betsy

Frederic Warne
First Published in 1908



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



What a funny
sight it is

to see a
brood of
ducklings
with a hen!

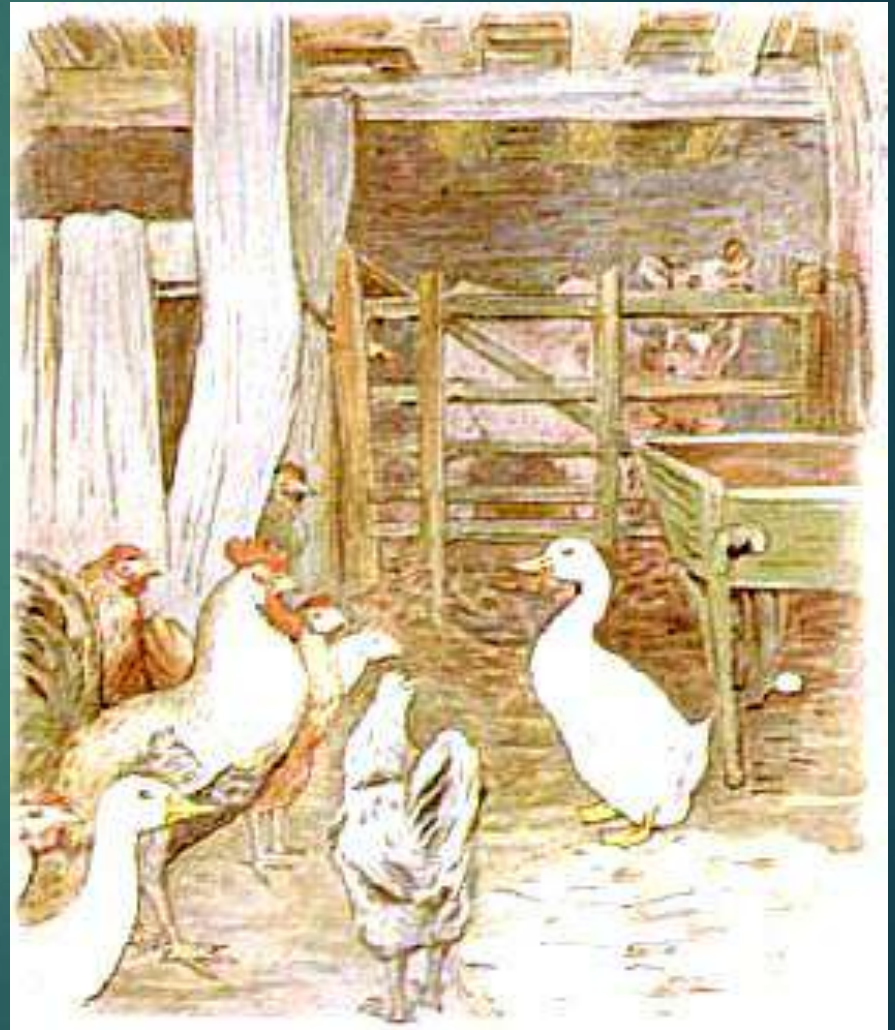
The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

This tale,
is the story of
Jemima Puddle-Duck,
who was annoyed
because
the farmer's wife
would not
let her hatch
her own eggs.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Her sister-in-law,
Mrs. Rebecca
Puddle-Duck,
was
perfectly willing
to leave
the hatching
to someone else



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

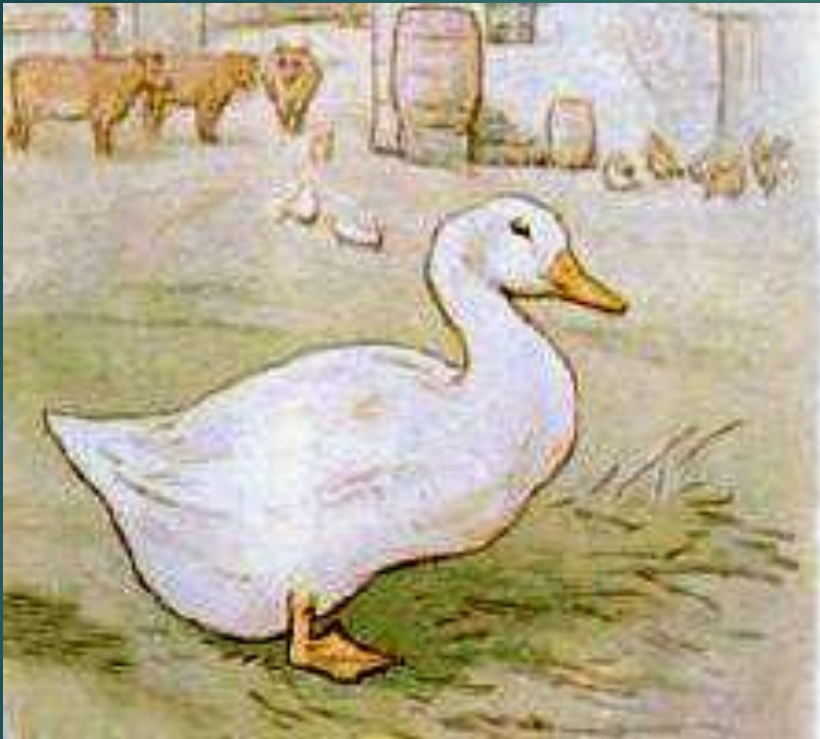


"I have not the patience
to sit on a nest
for twenty-eight days;

and no more have you,
Jemima.

You would let them go cold;
you know you would!"

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



"I wish
to hatch
my own eggs;

I will hatch them
all by myself,"

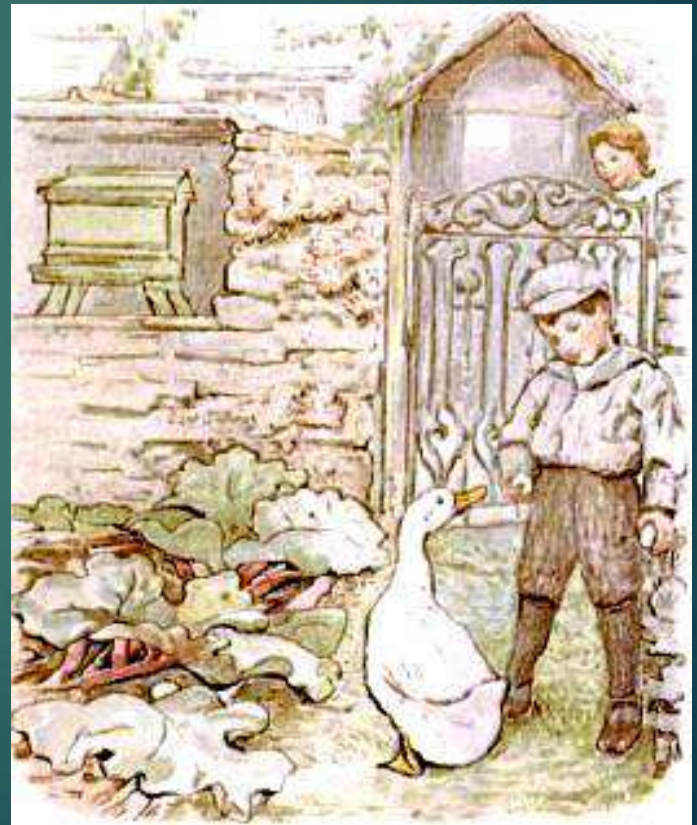
quacked Jemima
Puddle-Duck.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

She tried to hide her eggs;
but they were always found
and carried off.

Jemima Puddle-Duck
became quite desperate.

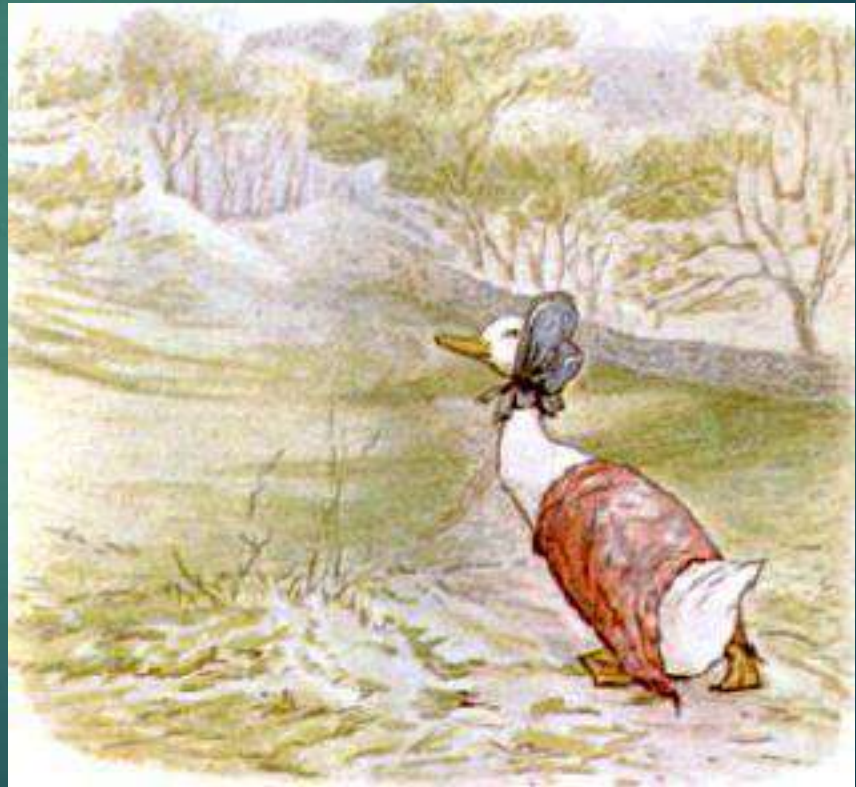
She determined to
make a nest, right away
from the farm.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

She set off on a fine spring afternoon
along the cart-road that leads
over the hill.

She was
wearing a shawl
and a
poke bonnet.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



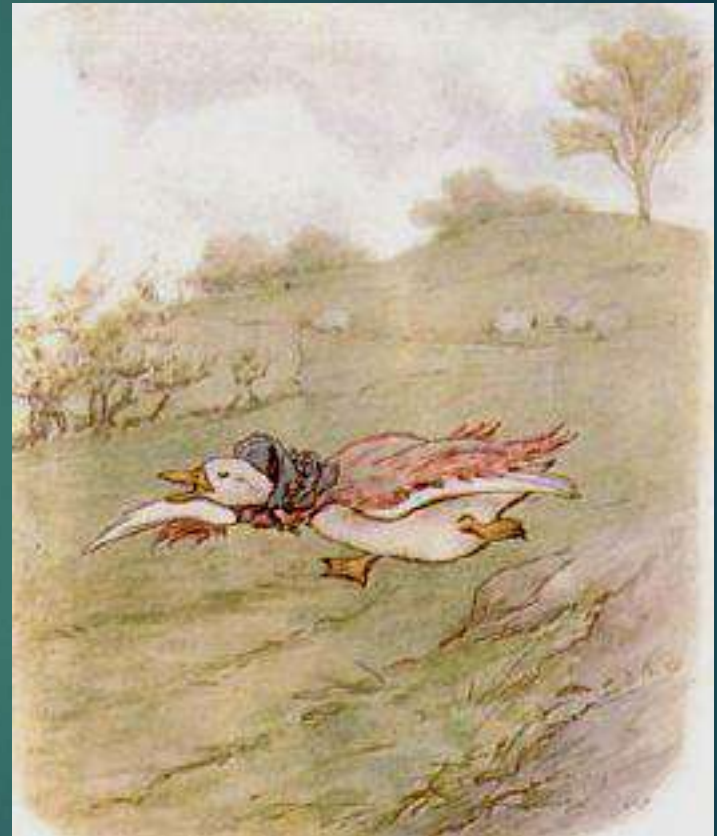
When she reached
the top of the hill,
she saw a wood
in the distance.

She thought
it looked
a safe quiet spot.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima Puddle-Duck
was not much in the
habit of flying.

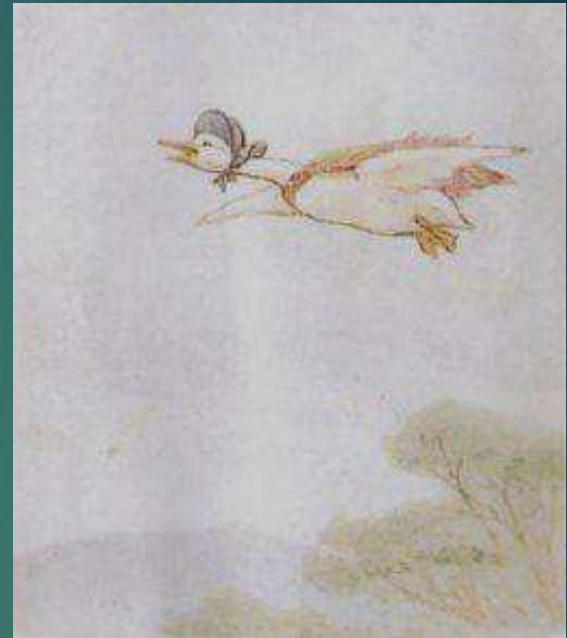
She ran downhill
a few yards
flapping her shawl,
and then she jumped
off into the air.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

She flew beautifully,
once she had got
a good start.

She skimmed along
over the tree-tops
until she saw
an open space in the middle of the wood,
where the trees and brushwood
had been cleared.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima alighted rather heavily,
and began to waddle about
in search of
a convenient
dry nesting place.

She rather fancied
a tree-stump
amongst
some tall fox-gloves.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



But, seated
upon the stump,
she was startled
to find,
an elegantly
dressed gentleman
reading a newspaper

He had black prick ears
and sandy coloured whiskers.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"Quack?" said Jemima Puddle-Duck,
with her head
and her bonnet
on one side,
"Quack?"



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



The gentleman
raised his eyes
above his
newspaper

and
looked curiously
at Jemima.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"Madam, have you lost your way?"
said he.



He had a
long bushy tail
which he was
sitting upon,
as the stump
was somewhat
damp.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima thought him
mighty civil
and handsome.

She explained that
she had not lost her way,
but that she was
trying to find
a convenient dry
nesting-place.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"Ah! is that so? indeed!"
said the gentleman
with sandy whiskers,
looking curiously
at Jemima.

He folded up
the newspaper,
and put it in his
coat-tail pocket.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima complained
of the
superfluous hen.

"Indeed!
how interesting!
I wish I could meet
with that fowl.

I would teach it
to mind its own business!"



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"But as to a nest, there is no difficulty:
I have a sack full of feathers
in my woodshed.

No, my dear madam,
you will be in
nobody's way.

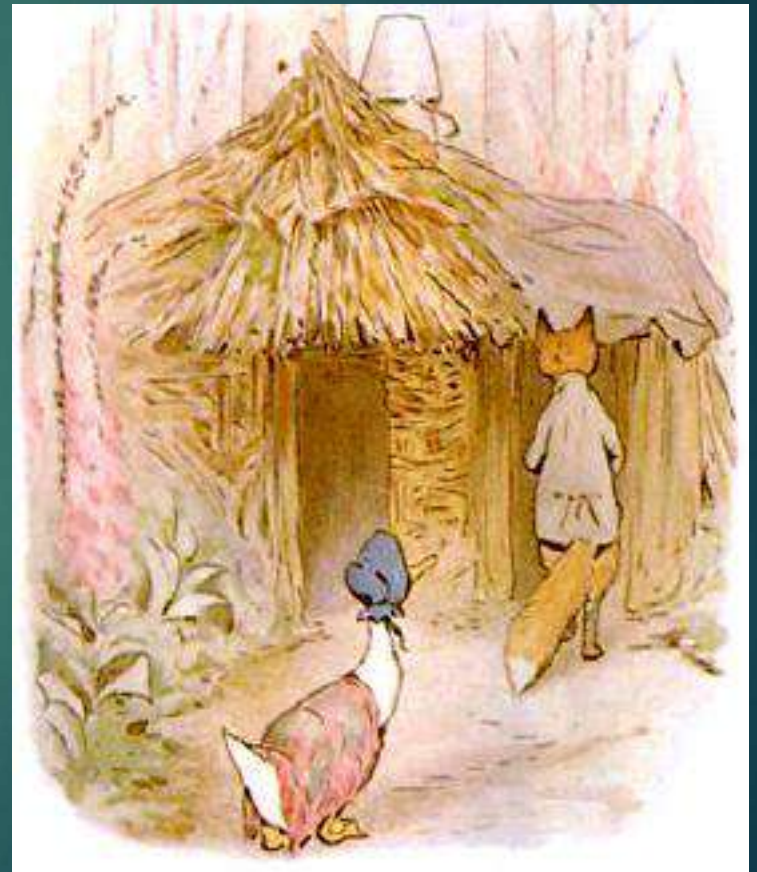
You may sit there
as long as you like,"
said the bushy, long-tailed gentleman.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

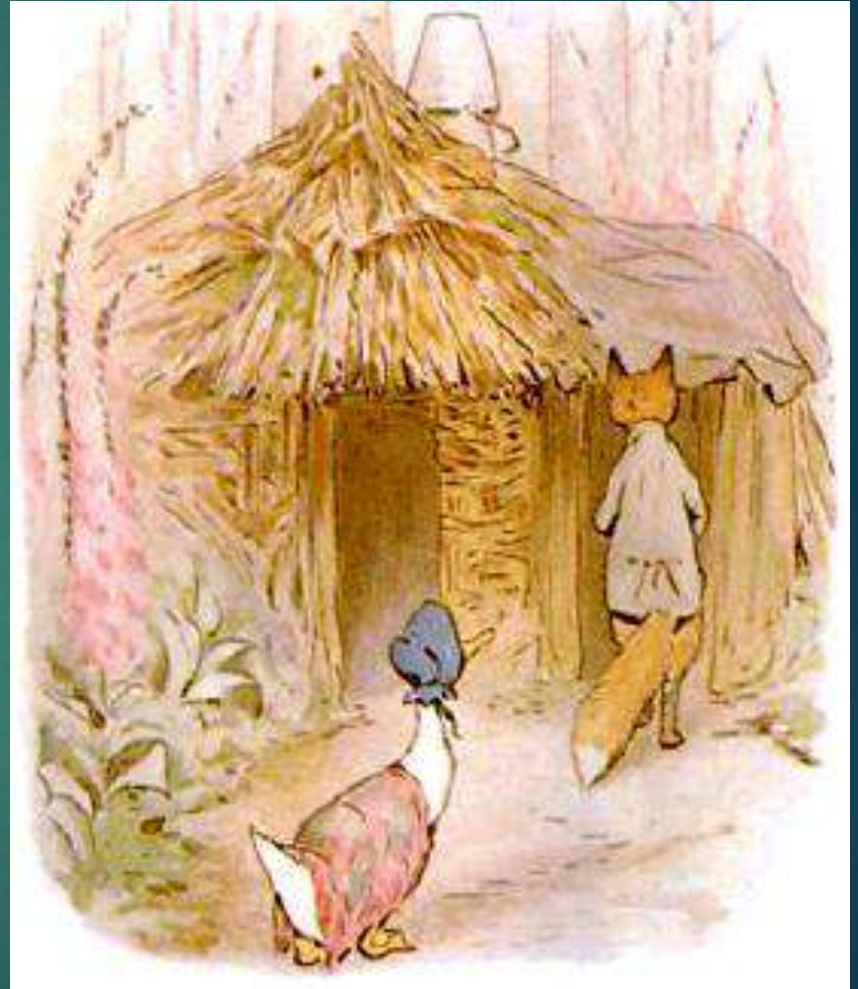
He led the way to a very retired,
dismal-looking house
amongst the fox-gloves.

It was built of
faggots and turf,
and there were
two broken pails,
one on top of another,
by way of a chimney.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"This is my
summer residence;
you would not find
my earth,
my winter house,
so convenient,"
said the
hospitable
gentleman.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

There was a tumble-down shed
at the back
of the house,
made of
old soap-boxes.

The gentleman
opened the door,
and showed
Jemima in.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

The shed was
almost quite
full of feathers,

it was almost
suffocating;

but it was
comfortable
and very soft.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima Puddle-Duck was rather surprised to find such a vast quantity of feathers.

But it was very comfortable;

and she made a nest without any trouble at all.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

When she came out,
the sandy whiskered gentleman
was sitting on a log
reading the newspaper,
at least, he had it
spread out,
but he was looking
over the top of it.

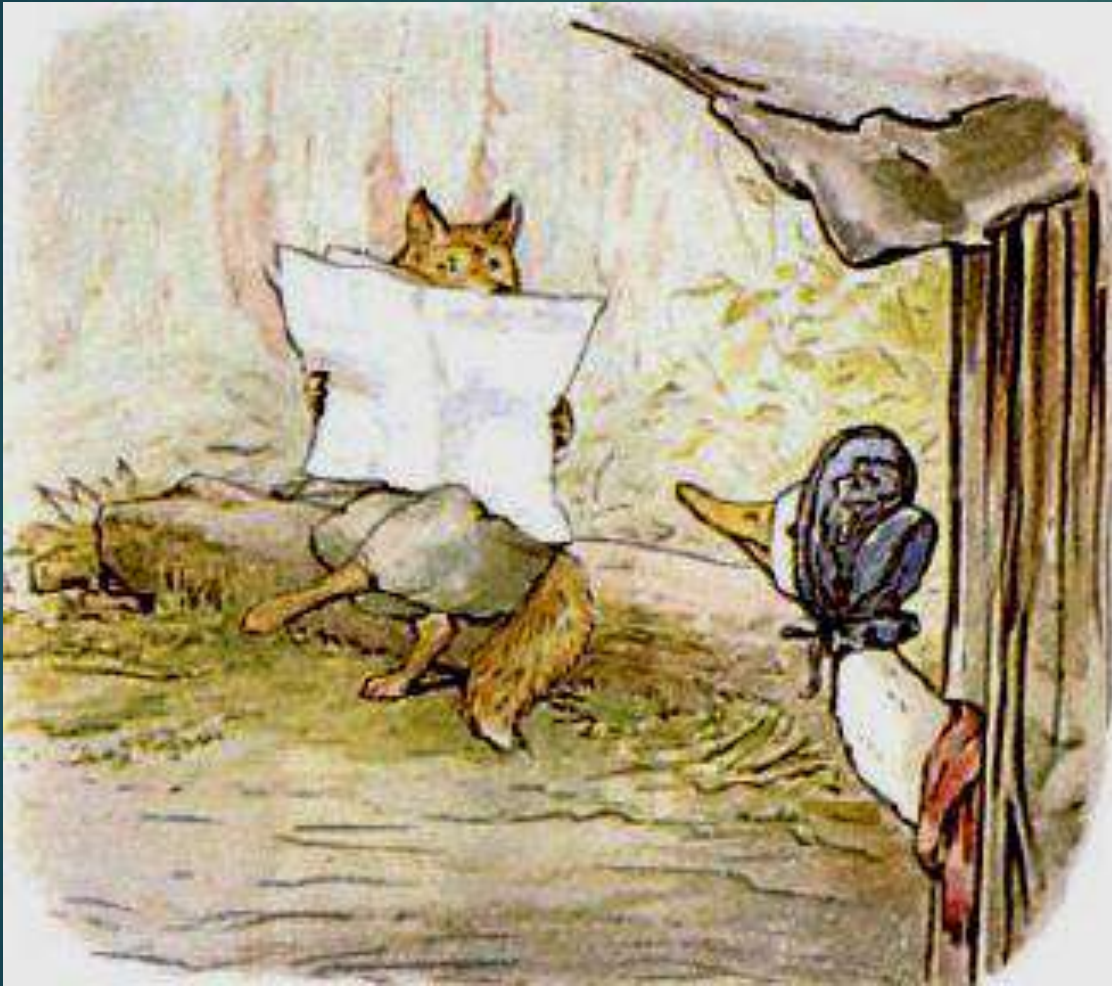


The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

He was so polite,
that he seemed
almost sorry
to let Jemima
go home
for the night.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



He promised
to take
great care
of her nest
until
she came
back again
next day.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

He said
he loved eggs
and ducklings;

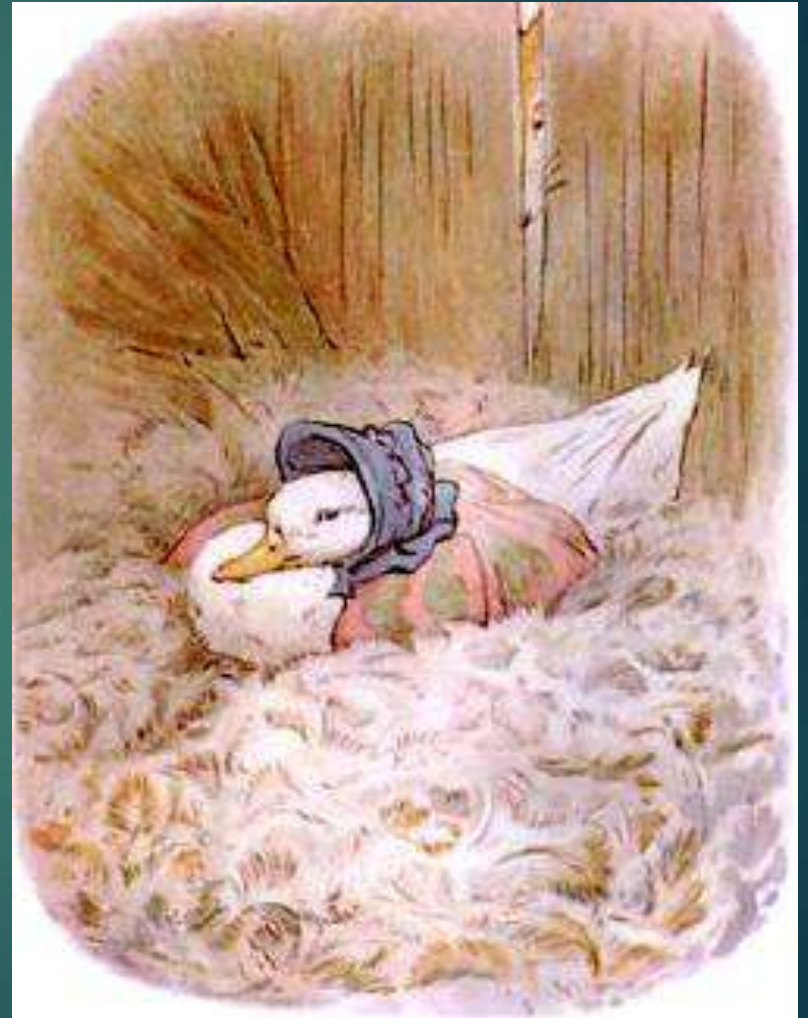
he should be
proud to see
a fine nest-full
in his wood-shed.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima Puddle-Duck
came every afternoon;
she laid nine eggs
in the nest.

They were
greeny white
and very large.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

The foxy gentleman
admired them
immensely.

He used to
turn them over
and count them
when Jemima
was not there.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

At last Jemima told him that she intended to begin to sit next day,

"and I will bring
a bag of corn with me,
so that I need
never leave my nest
until the eggs are hatched.



They might catch cold,"
said the conscientious Jemima.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"Madam,
I beg you not to
trouble yourself
with a bag;

I will
provide oats.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



But before you
commence your
tedious sitting,
I intend to
give you a treat.

Let us have
a dinner-party,
all to ourselves!

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

May I ask you to bring up some herbs
from the farm-garden
to make
a savoury omelette?

Sage and thyme,
and mint,

two onions,
and some parsley.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



I will provide lard
for the stuff—

lard
for the omelette,"

said the
hospitable gentleman
with sandy whiskers.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima Puddle-Duck was a simpleton:

not even
the mention
of sage
and onions
made her
suspicious.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

She went round the farm-garden,
nibbling off snippets
of all the different
sorts of herbs
used for
stuffing
roast duck.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

And she waddled
into the kitchen,
and got two onions
out of a basket.



The collie-dog Kep
met her coming out.

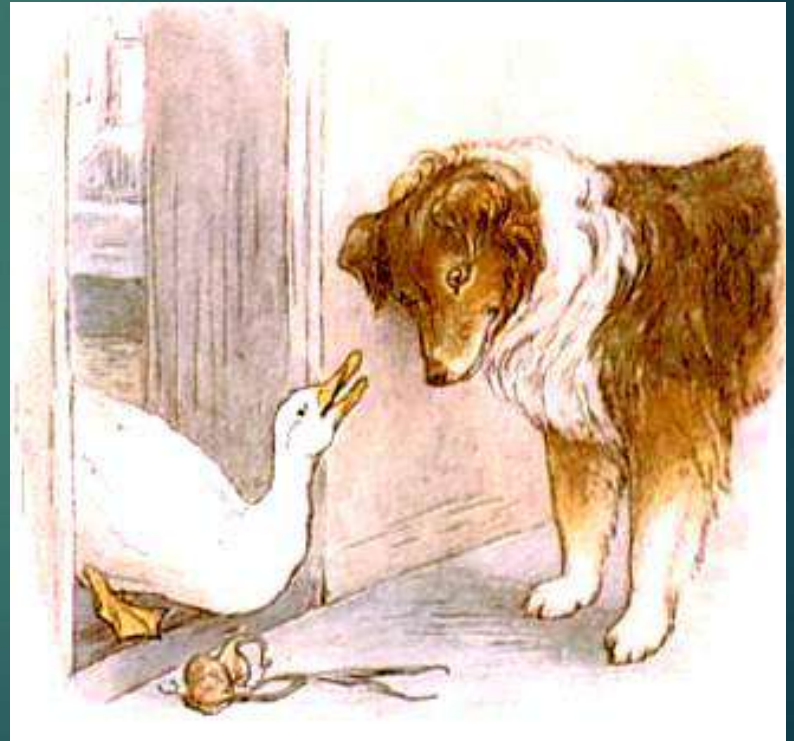


The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"What are you doing with those onions?"

Where do you go every
afternoon by yourself,
Jemima Puddle-Duck?"

Jemima was rather
in awe of the collie;
she told him
the whole story.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

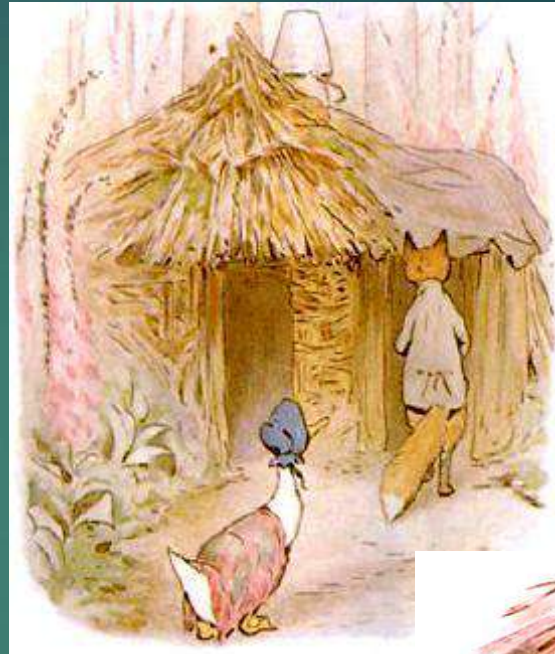
The collie listened,
with his wise head
on one side;

he grinned
when she described
the polite gentleman
with sandy whiskers.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

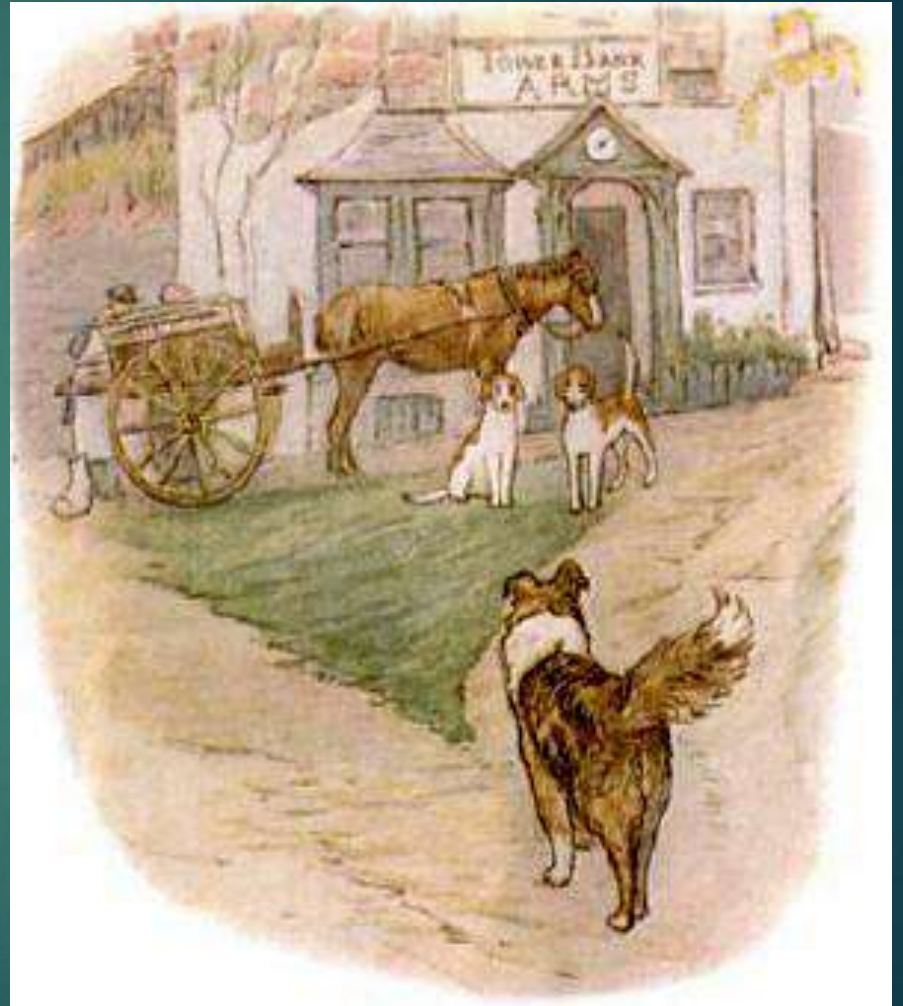
He asked
several questions
about the wood,
and about
the exact position
of the house
and shed.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Then he went out,
and trotted
down the village.

He went to look
for two
fox-hound puppies
who were
out at walk
with the butcher.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

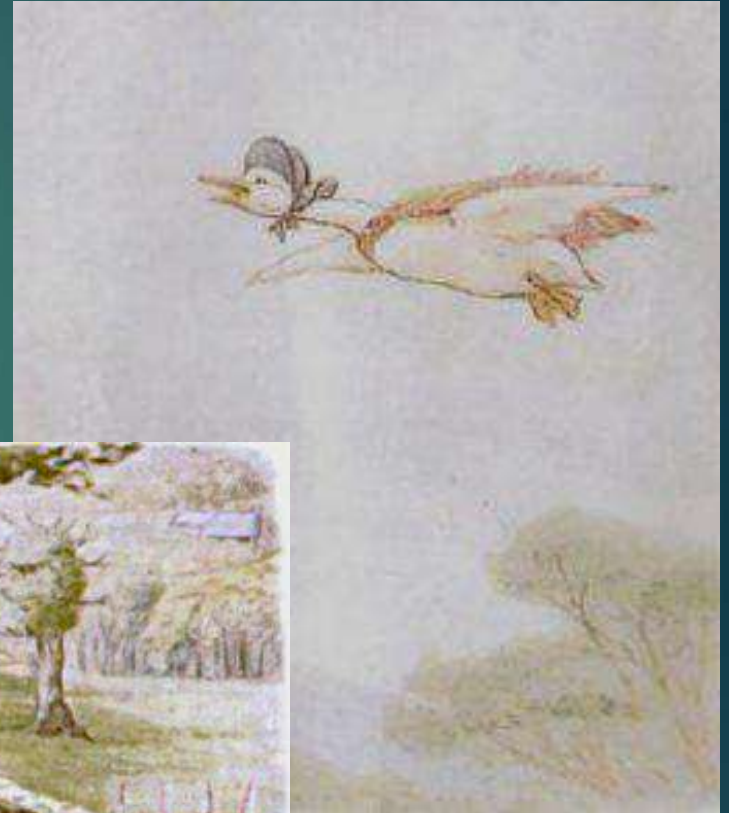
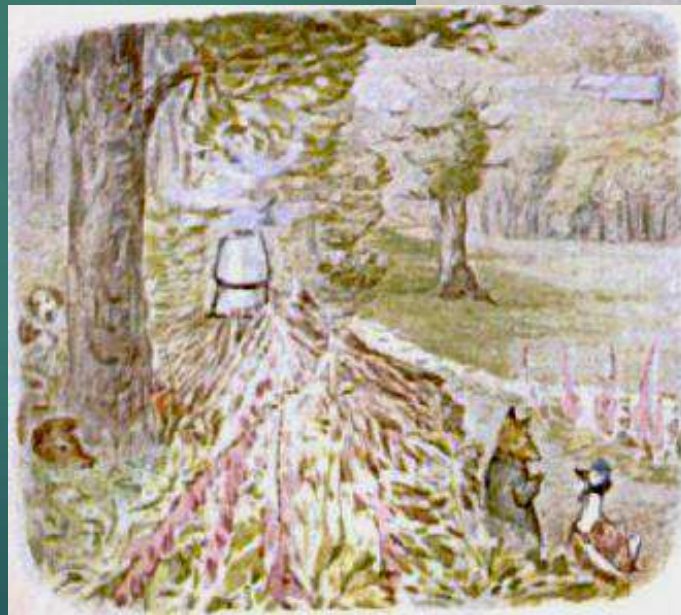
Jemima Puddle-Duck went
up the cart-road
for the last time,
on a
sunny afternoon.

She was rather
burdened with
bunches of herbs
and two onions in a bag.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

She flew
over the wood,
and alighted
opposite
the house
of the bushy
long-tailed
gentleman.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



He was sitting on a log;
he sniffed the air,
and kept
glancing uneasily
round the wood.

When Jemima
alighted he quite jumped.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

"Come into the house
as soon as you
have looked
at your eggs.

Give me the herbs
for the omelette.

Be sharp!"



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

He was rather abrupt.

Jemima Puddle-Duck
had never heard
him speak
like that.

She felt
surprised,
and
uncomfortable.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

While
she was
inside

she heard a
pattering
of feet,

come round
the back
of the shed.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Someone,
with a
black nose,
sniffed
at the bottom
of the door,
and then
locked it.



Jemima became much alarmed.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

A moment afterwards there were the most awful noises ...

barking,
baying,
growls and howls,
squealing
and groans.



And nothing more was ever seen
of that foxy-whiskered gentleman.

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Presently Kep
opened the door
of the shed,
and let out
Jemima Puddle-Duck.

He had a bite
on his ear
and both of the puppies were limping.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

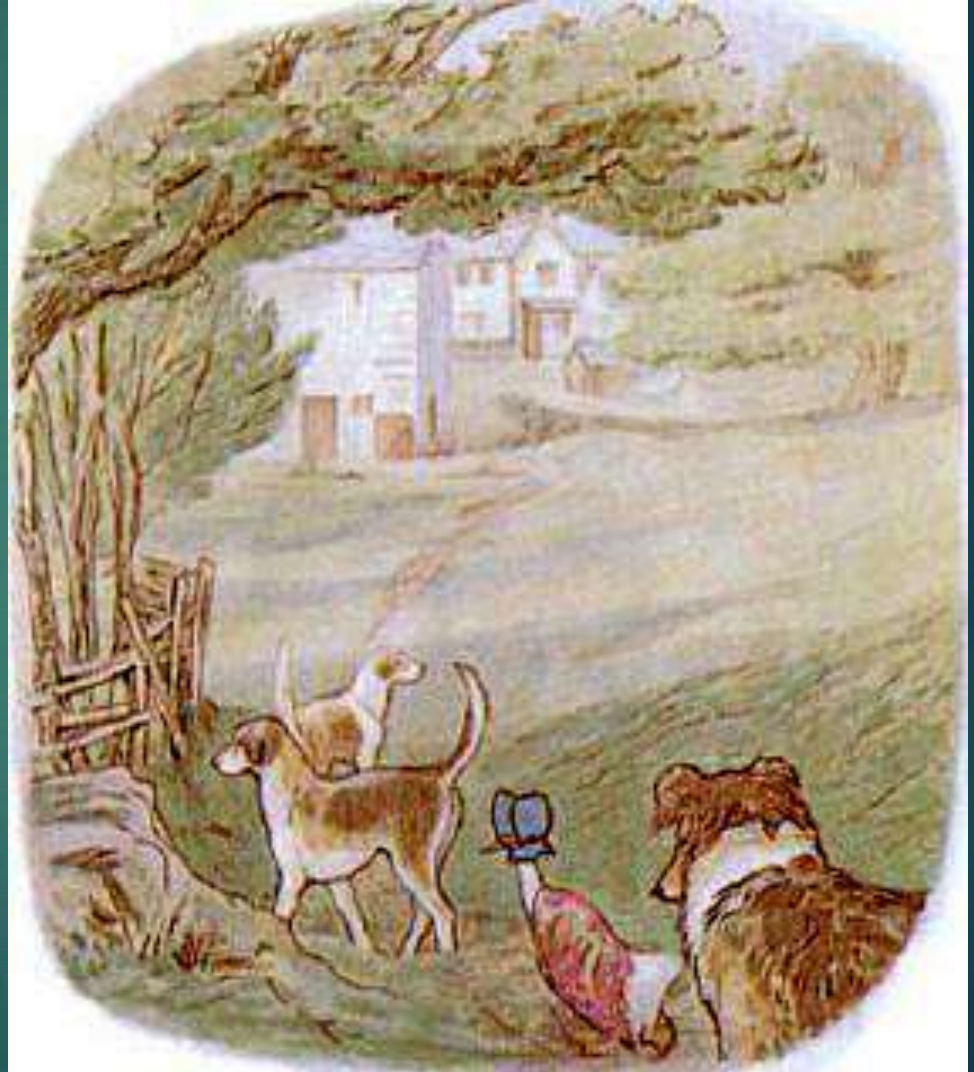
Unfortunately
the puppies
rushed in

and gobbled up
all the eggs
before he
could stop them.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima
Puddle-Duck
was escorted
home in tears
on account
of those eggs.

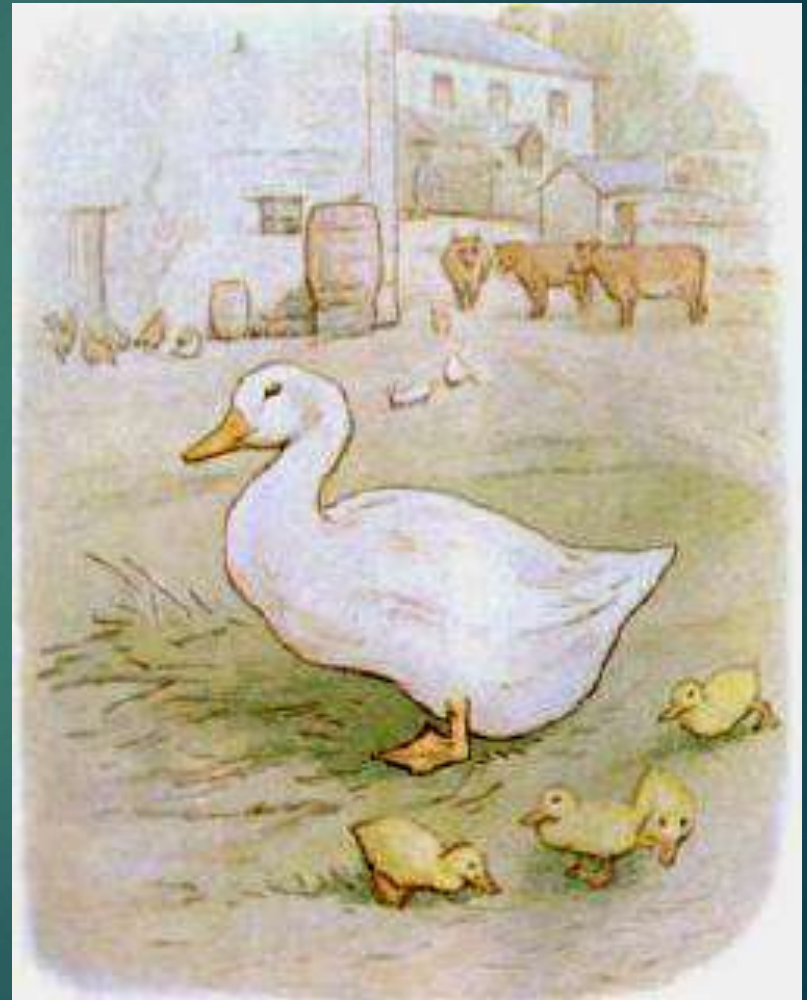


The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

She laid some more
eggs in June,

and she was
permitted
to keep them
herself:

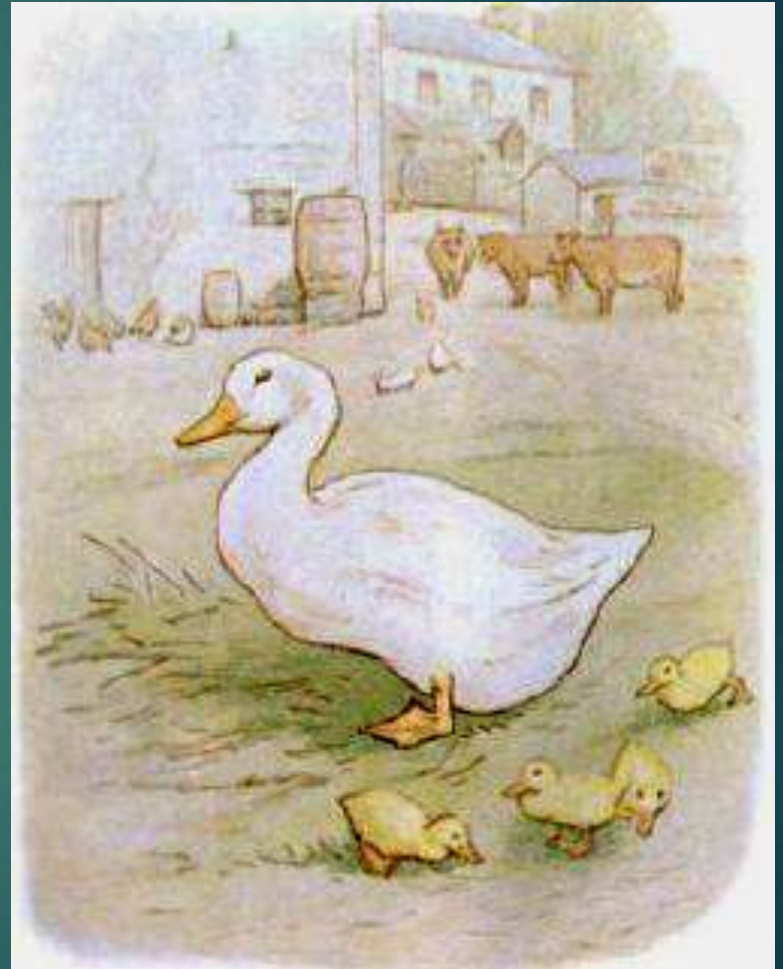
but only four
of them hatched.



The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

Jemima Puddle-Duck
said it was because
of her nerves;

but she
had always been
a bad sitter.

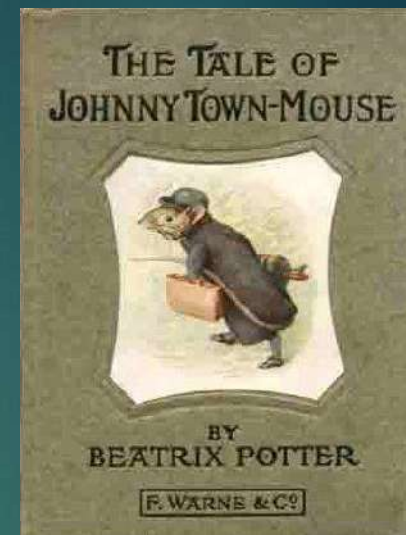
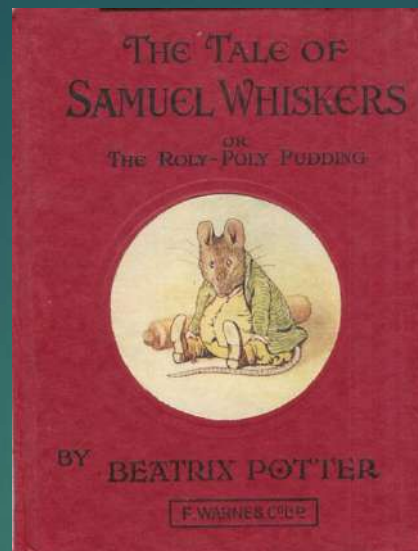
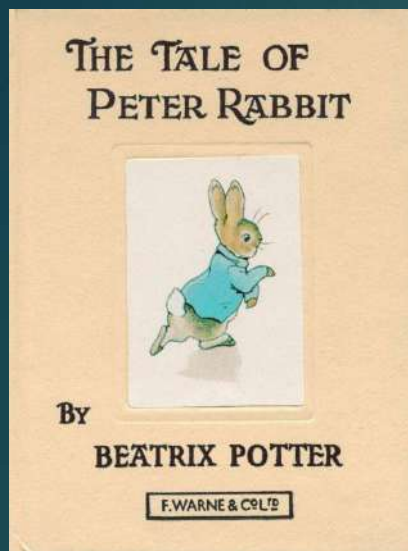


The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck

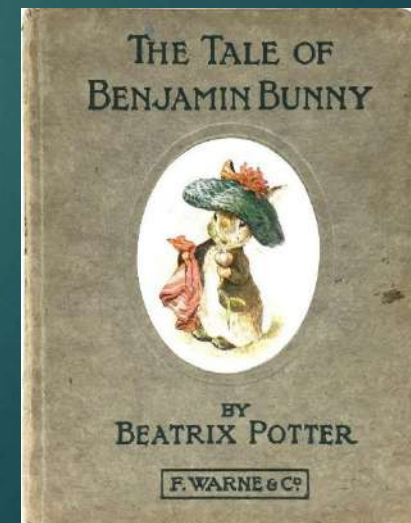
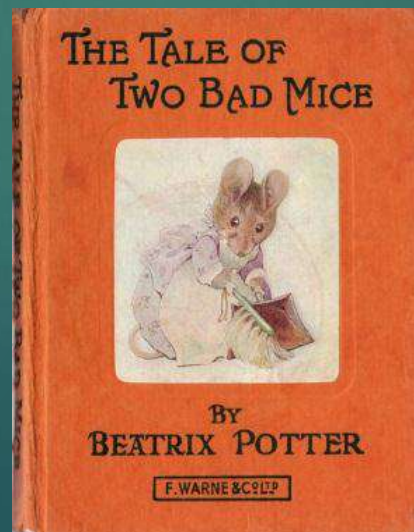
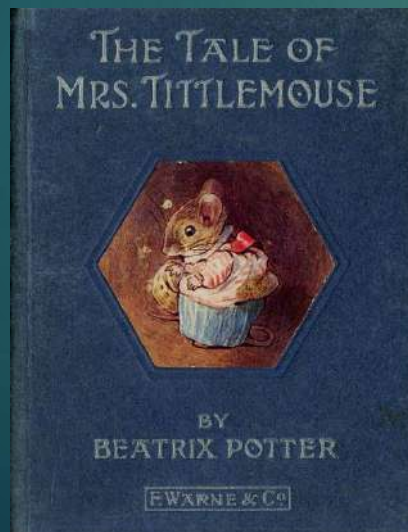


THE
END

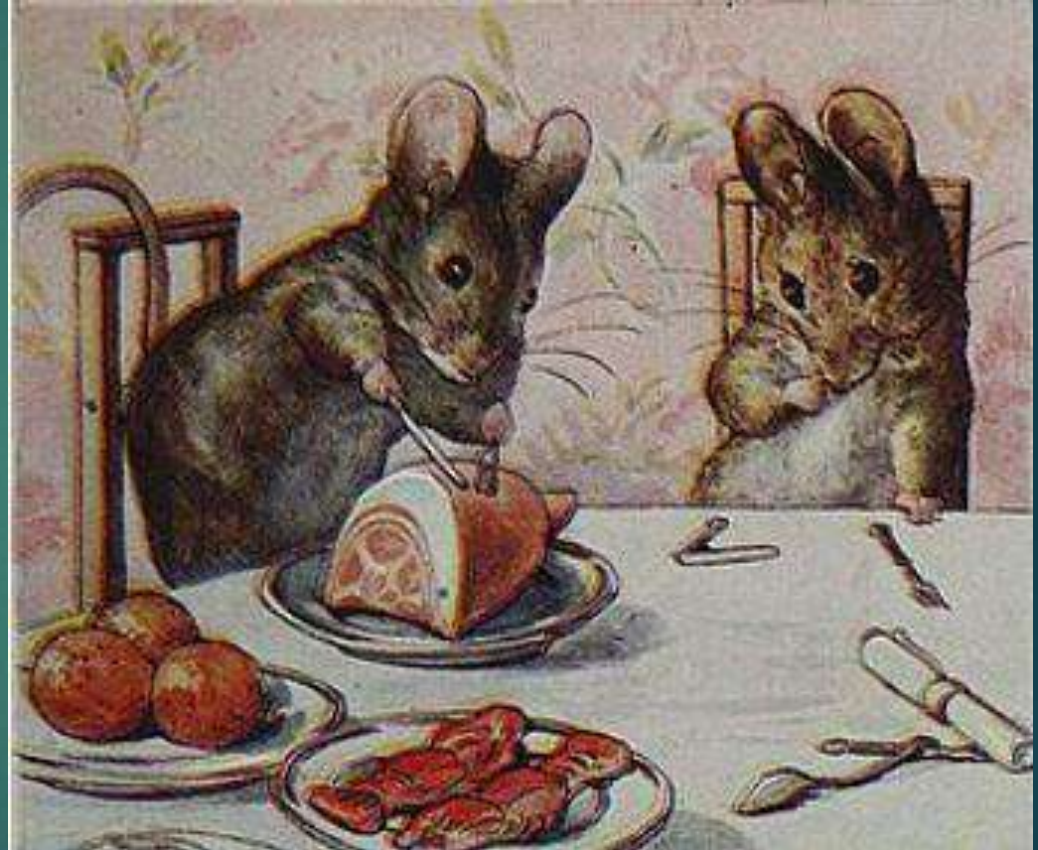
Frederic Warne
First Published in 1908



*Beatrix Potter available at the
Free Kids Books website 2019*



The Tale of Two Bad Mice *Beatrix Potter*

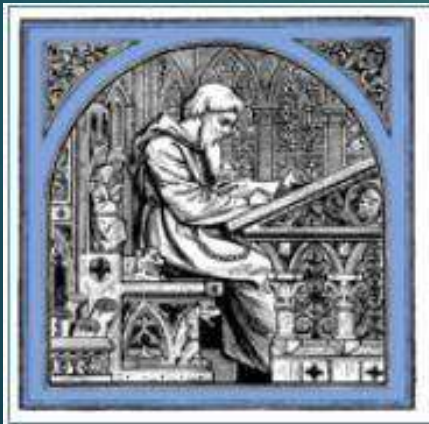


Soon to be released

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck



Welcome to [Wikisource](#),
the free library that anyone can improve.
437,277 texts in English



**My Thanks
to
WikiSource**

- [Site index](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sandbox](#)

free kids Books

Join us at Free Kids Books to enjoy a picture book, early reader, young adult fiction, and even wordless books, as well as many classic books and literacy resources from all around the world.

All the good things in life are free! www.freekidsbooks.org,

Literacy for All :-) [Free Kids Books on Facebook](#)



A KIWI OPA PRODUCTION

Want to find more great books
like this one?



<https://www.freekidsbooks.org>
Simply great free books -

Preschool, early grades, picture books, learning to read,
early chapter books, middle grade, young adult,

Pratham, Book Dash, Mustardseed, Open Equal Free, and many more!

Always Free – Always will be!

Legal Notice: This book is in **PUBLIC DOMAIN**- YAY!!! That means you can reuse it in pretty much any way you wish, We appreciate if you credit to us as a source by including a link to our site (<https://www.freekidsbooks.org>) on your post, but it is neither required, nor obligatory, if you do feel you want to, we very much appreciate it and say a big THANKS!!!. Please reach out and contact us if you want more information, or want to share your project with us! Otherwise, enjoy this, and many more free kids books on our site :-)