

# Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby

Arranged for Three or Four Readers

by

Ellie Hallett

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**Narrators 1 and 2 can be read by the same person in a group of three.**

Simultaneous group reading works well as a whole class activity.

Most benefit is enjoyed if each reader owns a copy of the script with their picture choices pasted into the allocated spots.

The readers will probably want to re-read the story several times in the same lesson to experience different parts as well as re-visit it frequently in later lessons. Encourage this repetition to build the skills of expressive reading, articulation and vocal fluency.

Memorisation and performance should be encouraged.

**Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby** comes from the story retold from a traditional folk tale by Joel Chandler Harris under the penname Uncle Remus.

Brer is a short way to say 'brother', sometimes written as Br'er.

# Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby

by Uncle Remus

Arranged for Four Readers

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Narrator 1	<p>Brer Fox was always thinking up new ideas to outsmart and catch Brer Rabbit.</p> <p>One of these ideas was to make a tar baby.</p>
Brer Fox	<p>This will be my best-ever plan to catch that pesky rabbit! On goes a dress and an old hat - and now I'll sit my tar baby by the side of the road.</p> <p>Time to hide in these bushes and wait to see who walks by.</p>
Narrator 2	<p>Brer Fox didn't have to wait very long. A few minutes later along came Brer Rabbit, lippity-clippity, lippity-clippity - just as saucy as a jay bird.</p>

*Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby*

Narrator 1	Brer Fox lay low in the bushes, watching closely to see if Brer Rabbit saw the tar baby.
Brer Rabbit	Morning! Nice weather we're having.
Narrator 2	Brer Rabbit stood up on his hind legs and started a conversation with the tar baby. Brer Fox - he lay extra low in the bushes and smiled a crafty smile.
Brer Rabbit	<i>(cheerfully)</i> How you doing, tar baby?
Narrator 1	The tar baby sat very still and said nothing.
Brer Rabbit	<i>(loudly)</i> I said, HOW ARE YOU DOING? Are you deaf or something?
Narrator 2	Brer Fox didn't move a muscle.
Brer Rabbit	<i>(very loudly)</i> You have very few manners, whoever you are, and I'm going to cure you, that's what I'm going to do!
Narrator 1	Brer Fox chuckled in his stomach, he did, and he lay low.

Brer Rabbit	<p><i>(very loudly)</i> I'm going to teach you how to talk to respectable folks, and that's a fact!</p> <p>If you don't take off your hat and say howdy, I'm going to burst you wide open.</p>
Narrator 2	<p>The tar baby just sat, and Brer Fox in the bushes was so quiet that he almost stopped breathing.</p> <p>Brer Rabbit suddenly drew back his fist and blipped the tar baby on the side of her head.</p>
Brer Rabbit	<p>Oh no! <b>What</b> has happened to my hand? It won't come back to me! It seems to me I'm stuck fast.</p> <p>If you don't let me loose, Tar Baby, I'll knock you again on the other side of your sticky head.</p>
Narrator 1	<p>The tar baby said nothing at all – and Brer Fox – he lay low.</p> <p>Brer Rabbit quickly drew back his fist and blipped the tar baby on the other side of her head.</p>