

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to the people who don't understand."

"I suppose you are Real?" said the Rabbit. And then he wished he had not said it, for he thought the Skin Horse might be sensitive. But the Skin Horse only smiled.

"The Boy's Uncle made me Real," he said. "That was a great many years ago; but once you are Real you can't become unreal again. It lasts for always."

The Rabbit sighed. He thought it would be a long time before this magic called Real happened to him.



Questions

1.

Where were the Rabbit and the Skin Horse?

- 1) ☐ In the nursery toy box.
- 2) ☐ Near the nursery fender.
- 3) ☐ In the nursery kitchen.
- 4) ☐ Near the nursery garden.

2.

What are the Rabbit and the Skin Horse? Choose the best answer.

- 1) ☐ animals
- 2) ☐ toys
- 3) ☐ people
- 4) ☐ children

3.

Why do you think the Rabbit is asking questions about what it means to be real?

- 1) ☐ He is passing time.
- 2) ☐ He is being polite.
- 3) ☐ He wants to understand.
- 4) ☐ He is bored.

4.

"Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby."

What does "shabby" mean? Choose the best answer.

- 1) ☐ scruffy
- 2) ☐ dirty
- 3) ☐ old
- 4) ☐ smelly

5.

According to the Skin Horse, how can you become Real? Choose the best answer.

- 1) ☐ A child must really love you for a long time.
- 2) ☐ You must wait for a long, long time.
- 3) ☐ A child must play with you.
- 4) ☐ You must be carefully kept.

6.

Highlight one word that tells you the Rabbit thought the Skin Horse might be easily upset.

"I suppose you are real?" said the Rabbit. And then he wished he had not said it, for he thought the Skin Horse might be sensitive. But the Skin Horse only smiled."

7.

Who made the Skin Horse Real?

- 1) ☐ The boy's uncle.
- 2) ☐ The boy's aunt.
- 3) ☐ The boy's mother.
- 4) ☐ The boy's father.

8.

Choose the best summary of what the Rabbit wanted to know.

- 1) ☐ He wanted to know if Real was how you were made, if it hurt, if it took a long time, and if it made you ugly.
- 2) ☐ He wanted to know if Real meant having a stick-out handle, if you had to be wound up, if it happened all at once and if your eyes dropped out.
- 3) ☐ He wanted to know what it meant to be Real, if it hurt, if it happened all at once and if the Skin Horse was Real.

9.

The word "real" does not usually start with a capital letter. Why do you think the writer has written the word "Real" with a capital letter?

- 1) ☐ To start the sentence.
- 2) ☐ To make it seem different.
- 3) ☐ It's a name.
- 4) ☐ To show that it is special.

10.

Read the extract and decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
The Rabbit asks a lot of questions about becoming Real, which shows he would like to become Real himself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Skin Horse is Real but won't always be Real.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Rabbit thinks it will be a long time before he is Real and he is disappointed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

