

Bunnicula

Recommended for Grades 4-8

Book Summary: Bunnicula

A manuscript is brought to the author, which details the events of one family after a rabbit is adopted through the viewpoint of a dog, Harold. He and the cat Chester live happily with the Monroe family until a bunny is brought home late one night. The bunny has strange markings and appears to only sleep during the day. Chester suspects that Bunnicula is more than an ordinary rabbit and begins to watch him.

One night, a white tomato is found with all the juice sucked out of it and Chester is convinced that Bunnicula is a vampire; he starts to do everything he can to stop Bunnicula and to save his family. Chester begins to stay up all night and uses garlic to keep Bunnicula from escaping. As the days wear on, Harold begins to notice Bunnicula acting oddly and realizes that Chester is starving him.

[Spoiler]

Harold breaks Bunnicula from his cage, trying to get him to food, but is intercepted by Chester who attacks the bunny to save his family. The Monroe's catch Chester in the act. The next morning, the Monroe's take the pets to the vet and find that Bunnicula has been starving and the rabbit is put on a liquid vegetable diet. Chester is taken to see a cat psychiatrist. Bunnicula improves and seems happier, which Chester says proves his point that Bunnicula is indeed a vampire.

Author Biography: Deborah Howe

Deborah Howe was born August 12, 1946 in Boston Massachusetts. She graduated from Boston University and worked as a theater actress before she turned to writing. She wrote only two books with her husband, James, which were then published after her death. Although James Howe had the idea for *Bunnicula*, it was Deborah Howe who thought to make it into a children's book.

She died June 3, 1978 from cancer. She is survived by her husband and parents.



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Discussion Questions: Bunnicula

1. The story is presented as a true story from the point of view of Harold, a dog. Does this influence how you feel about the story? Does it make the story feel like it really happened? If so, how?
 2. The Monroe's have great respect for their pets' intelligence and prove it by often explaining things to them as though they can understand. How do you think this influences Chester and Harold's personalities? Do you ever do this with your pets? Why or why not?
 3. Both Pete and Toby have different ideas about who should be in charge of the new bunny. How do they settle their differences? How do you settle arguments with your siblings or friends?
 4. Do you think Chester would ever have begun to suspect Bunnicula of being a vampire if he couldn't read? What do you think the world would be like if cats could read?
 5. How does Bunnicula change the daily dynamics of the Monroe household?
 6. After the first night Bunnicula escapes his cage, the Monroe's find a white tomato with all the juice sucked out. What is your theory about what happened to the tomato? Is there a logical explanation? Why or why not? How would this happen in real life?
 7. Chester explains his reasoning about why Bunnicula is most likely a vampire. Do you believe his theory? Does he have compelling evidence to support it? Why or why not?
 8. Chester tries to convince the Monroe's that Bunnicula is a vampire. Why was he unsuccessful? How else could he have tried to give them the message?
 9. Why do you think that Chester and Harold can talk to each other but they can't understand Bunnicula?
 10. Do you think Bunnicula is as dangerous as Chester thinks he is? Why or why not?
 11. Should Harold have been more worried about Bunnicula being dangerous? Why or why not? Do you side with Harold or Chester about Bunnicula? Why?
 12. Was Chester doing the right thing in trying to keep Bunnicula from food? Why or why not? How could he have treated the rabbit more humanely while still protecting his family?
 13. Is Bunnicula a real vampire? Why or why not? Do you think he would make a good pet?
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