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Opening extract from

Why is the Sky Blue ?

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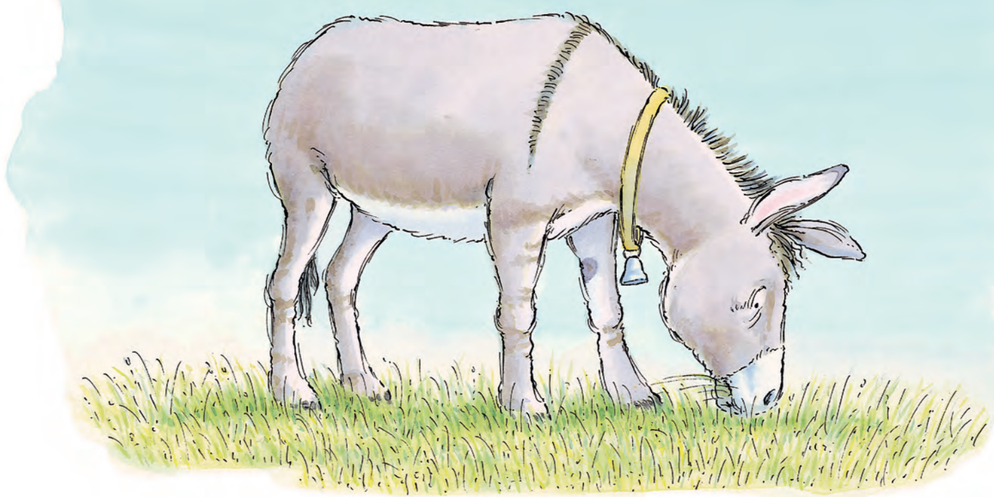
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RABBIT AND DONKEY lived in the same field. Donkey spent his days in the corner nodding his head wisely and chewing on grass.





Rabbit popped up all over the place. His burrow had many openings, and he used them all.











Donkey was very old and knew a lot of things.

"I am very old," he told anyone who would listen, "and I know a lot of things."

Rabbit was very young and wanted to learn.

"I want to learn everything there is to learn," said Rabbit.

"I will teach you what I know," said Donkey, "which is a lot. Listen and you will learn."

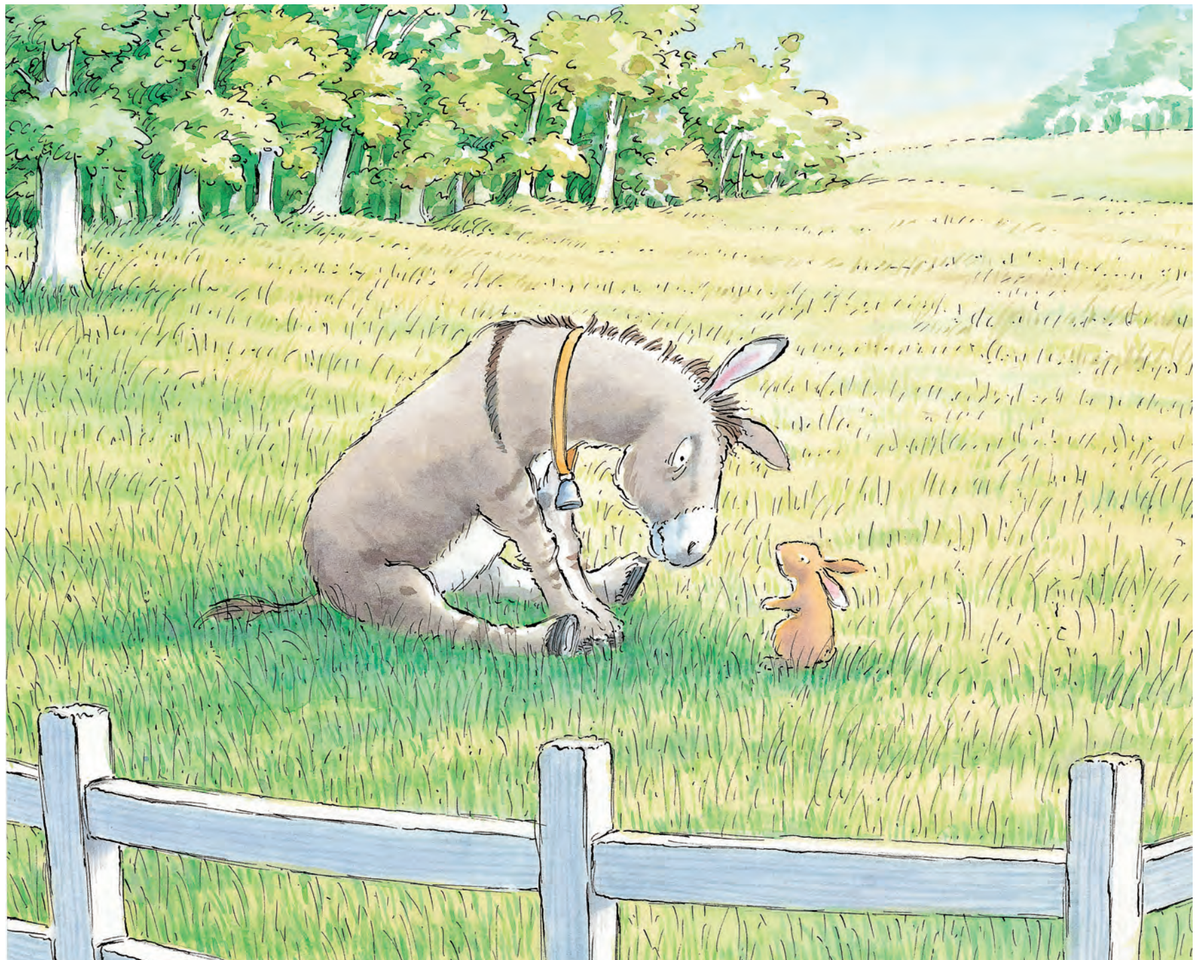
"Goody," said Rabbit. "Yes, please."

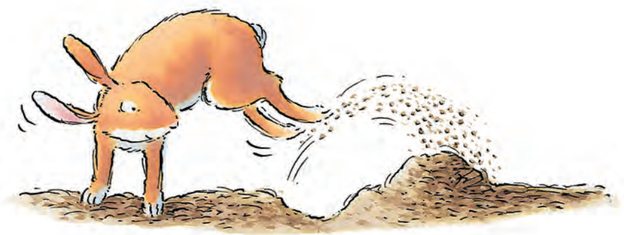


And he jumped and he ran and he rolled and he bounced across the field and back again.

"I will teach you what I know," said Donkey, "which is a lot. But I will only teach you if you sit still."

"I will sit still," said Rabbit. "I will sit still and listen."





Donkey began. "I am going to tell you why the sky is blue."

"Goody," said Rabbit. "I really want to know why the sky is blue."

But before Donkey had got very far, Rabbit wanted to know why the earth is brown. And before he had got any further, Rabbit was jumping around the field pointing at yellow flowers and red berries and white butterflies.





Donkey chewed on a piece of grass and waited. When at last he came back, Rabbit said eagerly, "I found out why berries are red. Shall I tell you why?"

"I know already," said Donkey. "And today's lesson is over now."

"Oh, but I missed why the sky is blue," said Rabbit. "And I really want to know why. Can I come back tomorrow and have another lesson?"

"I will only teach you if you sit still and listen," said Donkey.

"I will sit still," said Rabbit. "I will sit still and I will listen."

"Then tomorrow I will teach you what I know," said Donkey, "which is a lot."

Rabbit leapt in the air in excitement and ran and rolled and bounced across the field all the way home to tea.

