

## Who Stopped the Rain?

*A story that explores the impact of litter on a rabbit family's farm*

Rusty the Rabbit and his rabbit friends are farmers. They plant and harvest the best fruits and vegetables in the land. They must clear the rocks from the garden, turn the soil, dig the holes, plant the seeds and very importantly, make sure the garden gets rain.

High up in the mountains live the Rainmakers that give the gift of rain to all who take care of the land. The Rainmakers promise to always give the gift of rain as long as the rabbits promise to always:

Take care of the garden  
Take care of the land  
Take care of the river  
And the rain will come.

One day their friend, Penny the Peacock, shows up to ask if she can serve their fruits and vegetables in her new café. The rabbits help her decide what dishes to serve and even design her menu. Penny's café turns out to be a smashing success! It is so busy that some of the rabbits even help out as waitstaff – serving their lovely fruit and vegetable dishes. The rabbits become so busy helping Penny that they hardly notice that their farm as well as the surrounding areas have begun to fill up with litter.

The next day the rabbits are shocked to discover litter has affected their garden so much that all their plants have dried up and shriveled! Hoping the Rainmakers will save their garden with rain, they call them – but the Rainmakers don't respond.

The worried and concerned rabbits journey, with the help of a map, to the mountain home of the Rainmakers to find out why they have stopped bringing rain to the rabbits' garden. On the way, they meet Frog, who is sick from accidentally eating litter. They also meet Fish and Shrimp trapped in a plastic bag floating in their river home. The rabbits help free them before continuing on.

When they finally reach the Rainmakers' home, they find the Rainmakers are packing and getting ready to leave because the land isn't being taken care of as litter is everywhere!

Together, the rabbits and the Rainmakers grapple with the problem of the growing litter. What will happen if the rain stops falling? Who is responsible for the litter? What happens when the land is full of litter? Who is responsible for taking care of the land? They explore these questions and make a plan of action; remembering that they must always:

Take care of the garden  
Take care of the land  
Take care of the river  
And the rain will come.

