

Bookfolio for **The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit**

Author: [Julius Lester](#)

Illustrator: Jerry Brian Pinkney

First Publication Date: 1987

Publisher: Dutton

ISBN: 080370271X

Recommended for: [Grades 3-5](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Legends and Folktales](#)

MultiCulture: African American

Story Summary: The Uncle Remus stories of Joel Chandler Harris represent a collection of Afro-American folktales Julius Lester describes as "the cornerstone of Afro-American culture." In this book Julius Lester retells forty-eight of these tales. The stories are mostly talking-beast tales, and the hero is Brer Rabbit, the weakest and seemingly most harmless of animals, but far from helpless. Brer Rabbit is a trickster. He outwits his adversaries Brer Bear, Brer Wolf, Brer Fox, Mr. Man, and the lesser animals. Occasionally he gets what he has coming to him.

Characters may die in one tale and be alive and well a few pages later. This is not a flaw of the collection but rather an invitation to suspend reality and bask in the wit and charm of the tales.

Read-aloud Recommendation: "Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby," pages 10-16

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

| The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit - Independent Activities | Skills |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Trickster Tale (Writing a trickster tale) | D , R , S |
| 2. Wanted: Dead or Alive (Making a poster) | D |
| 3. Double Trouble (Rewriting the ending to a tale) | D , W |
| 4. Dear Professor Lester (Writing a letter) | W |
| 5. Historical Context (Giving a book talk) | R , S , W |
| 6. Underground Railroad (Writing a report) | R , W |
| The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit - Group Activities | Skills |
| 1. "Why the _____ Has _____" (Writing a pourquoi tale) | D , S , W |
| 2. Compare Two Tales (Comparing two tales) | R , W |
| 3. Henny Penny? (Exploring the cumulative tale pattern) | S |
| 4. More Trickery and Cunning (Exploring elements of the trickery tale) | R , S , W |
| 5. You Can't Fool Mother Nature (Preparing a report) | D , R , S , W |
| 6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story) | L , S |

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