

17th Saint Joseph English Speech Contest for the Mayor's Cup

Elementary School Division Recitations: Choose and memorize one of these two short stories. You can find a recording of each recitation on the school website (sjjg.ac.jp).

① **The Tale of Peter Rabbit** *(based on the story by Beatrix Potter)*

Once upon a time, there were four little rabbits: Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, and Peter. They lived with their mother under a big fir tree. "Now, my dears," said Mrs. Rabbit one morning, "you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden!"

While his sisters gathered blackberries, naughty Peter ran straight to Mr. McGregor's garden. He squeezed under the gate and ate lettuce, French beans, and radishes. Then he felt sick. Looking for parsley, he ran into Mr. McGregor. The gardener shouted "Thief!" and chased him.

Peter lost his shoes and his new blue jacket while running away. He got trapped in a net by the buttons, so he left his clothes behind. He hid in a watering can, but it was cold and wet. Peter sneezed – "Kertchoo!" Mr. McGregor heard him. Peter ran.

Peter finally found the gate and escaped the garden. He ran home, so he was very tired. His mother thought, "Where are his clothes?" She put him to bed with some warm tea, while his sisters had bread and milk and blackberries for supper.

② **Pooh Gets into a Tight Place** *(based on a story from 'Winnie the Pooh' by A.A Milne)*

Once upon a time, a little bear named Winnie-the-Pooh felt his tummy rumble. He was hungry, but his honey pot was empty. He decided to visit his friend Rabbit. Rabbit was very polite, and offered him honey, and then more and more. Pooh, of course, said “Yes, please!” every time. When it was time to leave, Pooh tried to squeeze through the doorway, but he had eaten far too much. He was stuck!

“Oh, bother,” said Pooh. Rabbit sighed and called for Christopher Robin.

“If we can’t pull you out,” said Christopher Robin, “we’ll have to wait for you to get thin again.”

Every day, Christopher Robin visited Pooh outside the doorway, and Pooh felt himself getting thinner and thinner. At the end of the week, Christopher Robin said, “Now!” He held Pooh’s paws and Rabbit held him and all their friends held Rabbit and together they pulled... and pulled... and pulled!

For a long time, Pooh said only “Ow!” and “Oh!” but then, suddenly, they heard a “Pop!” Christopher Robin and all the friends fell back ... and on the top of them fell Winnie-the-Pooh—free!