

# The Story Bunny© Story

By Jerry & Ada Forney

Once upon a bunnytime, on a beautiful spring day, a bunch of special newborns arrived at the house of Mom and Dad Bunny. There were three boy bunnies and three girl bunnies. All of the newborns were a fluffy white color except one. This one boy bunny was bigger than the rest and he was blue and had a reddish nose! They named him Story after the famous astronaut Story Musgrave. They hoped that by calling him Story he would grow up to become an astronaut.

They hung a nice planet mobile over his crib and played space music every night. Dad bunny sent a letter to Kennedy Space Center requesting some posters for Story and received a beautiful package filled with photos, decals, flyers and lots of nice posters. Mom and Dad decorated the nursery with the posters and photos and it looked like Space Camp! Just in case Story decided not to become an astronaut, when he grew up, they named one of his smaller brothers Astro.

The bunny babies were soon out of their cribs and onto the floor. They practiced hopping, skipping, scampering and stopping. Story was the best at hopping. He could jump higher and further than his brothers and sisters. This convinced Mom and Dad that Story was destined for great heights...he was an astronaut bunny in the making!

Spring had now passed into summer and the bunnies had grown taller. They stood to Mom and Dads waist...all except Story. He stood an inch higher! He was also the first to learn how to read and the first to learn how to swim. He threw a baseball faster and further than even Dad could! While the little bunnies were out exploring the nearby farm or woods Story would often balance on a narrow fence or tree limb...on his head. "The world looks more interesting that way." His replied when asked why he did headstands.

Story's habit of swinging and flinging himself from trees, his flawless headstands and his other amazing acrobatics were all the proof Mom and Dad needed. They could easily picture Story floating around in zero-gravity while visiting the International Space Station or bouncing around on the light gravity of the moon. He was going to become an astronaut, they were certain of it!

The time finally came when Mom and Dad had to register all of the little bunnies at Bunny Prep School. Here they would decide what they were going to become once they grew into adult bunnies. Astro was going to become an astronomer. Art, Story's other brother, was going to become a graphic artist. The three sisters also had serious ambitions: Peaches was going to become an orchard keeper. Violet was going to manage a greenhouse and Star, the dramatic one, was surely going to become an actress. Story, well Story was...undecided.

"There are so many choices!" Story exclaimed. "I need more time before I make my decision!"

"Well, don't take too long", Mom and Dad advised. "Your studies will soon be tailored to the career you choose."

"I'll remember, Mom, Dad! I just need a little more time!"

Story would take long walks in the nearby fields filled with flowers and into the bright forest clearings. The bees and butterflies would gather in the fields and Story would tell them a little tale. Eventually the squirrels and the birds began to gather in the forest clearings to hear his stories too. Soon, all of the other forest creatures looked forward to Story's visits and his stories. "Here comes Story Bunny, here comes Story Bunny!" The little squirrels would yell. Story Bunny...yes, Story liked the sound of that.

Story knew what career path he would follow but he was afraid to tell Mom and Dad. They had such high hopes that he would become an astronaut. He didn't want to disappoint them! He had to make his choice known. How was he going to tell them? Somehow he must find the courage.

One morning everyone was sitting in Mrs. Patchwork's class. She was the Language teacher and she always included a story circle in her class. Each student would get up and tell their part of the story that was threading its way around the class. Everyone eagerly waited for Story to tell his part. He was so inventive. He made everyone laugh when the story was a funny one and he brought tears to everyone's eyes when the story was a sad one. He was the best storyteller in the class! This morning Mrs. Patchwork asked everyone to tell a short original story. It could be about any subject they wished.

When it got to be Story's turn, he cleared his throat and stood up. "The name of this story is the 'Sad Little Worm'. Once there was a little worm. His Mom and Dad always wished for him to become a butterfly. They gave him pictures of butterflies and even sent him to flying school. But the little worm didn't want to become a butterfly. He wanted to live in an apple and read books. He wanted to be a bookworm! One day he told his Mom and Dad. They were heart broken. They cried and cried. Even the little worm cried. Today, the sad little worm sits all alone in his apple with his books. No one ever visits him or talks to him. Maybe he should have kept his mouth shut. The end."

Story sat down and the room was silent. That was unlike any other story he had ever told the class. Even Mrs. Patchwork didn't know what to say. Once the class was over she asked Story to stay behind.

"Story," asked Mrs. Patchwork, "what does the story you told us today mean?"

"Well, Mrs. Patchwork, I guess I feel like that sad little worm." Said Story softly. "My Mom and Dad have always wanted me to become an astronaut, but I love my story books and I have always wanted to be a storyteller. It will break their hearts if I tell them. I'm afraid I will disappoint them. I could spend my days living alone, an outcast from the bunny family!"

Little tears had come to Story's eyes. Now Mrs. Patchwork understood the story.

"I have a little secret for you!" She said.

Story turned around and it was his brother Astro!

Astro walked up to Story and said, "I've always wanted to become an astronaut but I was afraid to tell Mom and Dad because they always expected YOU to go into space! So I planned on becoming an astronomer."

Mrs. Patchwork realized that Astro was the true butterfly and Story was the bookworm. Suddenly she had an idea. It was time for a little family meeting!

The next day, Mom and Dad Bunny sat in the conference room with Mrs. Patchwork and Principal Barnpowder. The door opened and Story entered and stepped to the front of the room.

"Welcome one and all. My name is Story Bunny and I have come to tell you a bunny tale."

Mom and Dad looked at each other and then to Mrs. Patchwork who smiled. She motioned for Story to continue.

"Once there was a bunny family who had six little bunnies. Mom and Dad had high hopes for their little bunnies. They wanted one of them to become an astronaut. So they named him...Astro!"

Astro and Star entered the room on cue and took a bow. Mom and Dad were surprised but were also amused.

"My name is Astro! I'm going to become an astronaut!" "My name is Star! I'm going to become a scientist!"

Story then told a wonderful story about the recruiting and training of astronauts and Astro and Star acted the story out. It was full of funny jokes and brave accomplishments. By the time Story was done telling the story everyone in the conference room had laughed heartily at the jokes and were inspired by the heroism hard work of the astronauts and the scientists at NASA.

“That was amazing!” Said Dad Bunny. “Yes. We have some talented offspring here!” Said Mom Bunny.

Mrs. Patchwork and Principal Barnpowder explained to Mom and Dad Bunny that sometimes our children have talents and interests that take them on career paths that no one expected.

“It’s important that we encourage them to pursue their dreams and strive for excellence!” Said Principal Barnpowder.

Mom and Dad Bunny gave Story, Astro and Star a big hug. Everyone laughed and a little tear came to the eye of Mrs. Patchwork. She knew that everything would be fine now.

So it was. Story graduated from school with honors. So did the other Bunny children. Astro became Astro Bunny, a famous astronaut and space explorer. The other bunny children were also successful: Art Bunny became a well-known graphic artist. Peaches Bunny became a keeper of the world’s biggest fruit orchard. Violet Bunny owned the world’s biggest greenhouse and Star Bunny became a famous scientist and educator (she also performs for the local community theater as an actress).

Story Bunny also had his dream come true: he became a professional storyteller! He learned hundreds of stories. Stories about space (he has wonderful stories to tell about his brother Astro Bunny), cowboys, Fairy Tales (and furry tails) and mythology. He learned funny stories and sad stories. Stories about bravery and stories about trickery. He learned stories about history and stories that taught a valuable lesson. Story Bunny had become a master storyteller!

Story Bunny was now in demand far and wide. He could barely keep up with all of his engagements. So, he bought himself a bus and called it the Story Bus. Story Bunny lived in the Story Bus and visited all of the schools and libraries and festivals in the country.

His Story Bus opened up into a stage where he told his stories. He set up a puppet theater on the stage and produced puppet plays there. He taught storytelling workshops and spread the word about storytelling everywhere he went. He played his flute and sung his wonderful songs. Wherever Story Bunny went he left behind memories of good stories and great music. Soon everyone, everywhere knew who Story Bunny was.

Now, you know Story Bunny too!

(There’s a picture of Story Bunny for you to color on the next page. Just print it out and have fun!)

# Story Bunny Loves ♥ Storytelling! ♥

