

## ***A Hare a Hound & Shy Mousey Brown*** **Teacher Notes**

**Written by Julia Hubery**

**Illustrated by Jonathan Bentley**

### **Synopsis**

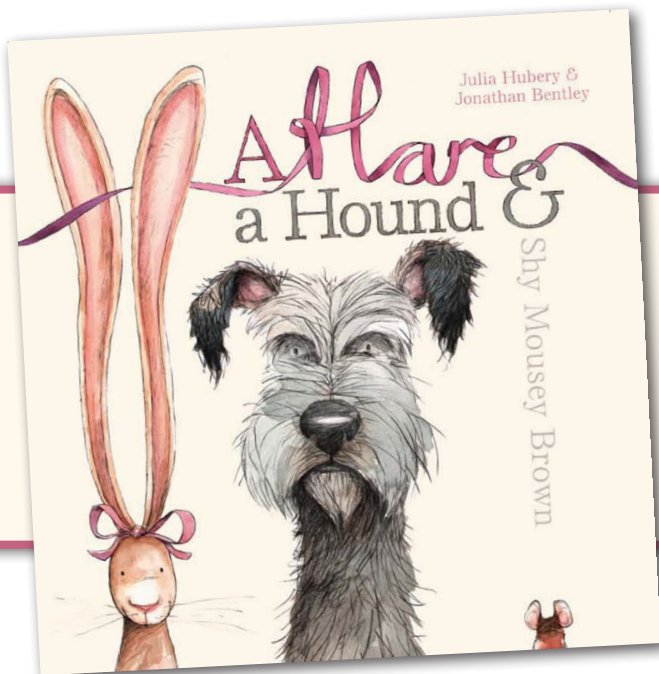
*A Hare, a Hound and Shy Mousey Brown* is an enchanting tale of bravery and romance. The story is written in a playful manner and is peppered with many colourful verbs that make it a pure joy to read aloud. Yet whilst the story is playful, it is rich in vocabulary which younger children will need support to understand in order to appreciate the true beauty of this story. The illustrations perfectly capture the sense of adventure and joy that runs through this story as well as the dark and menacing presence of the hound.

The story itself is both beautiful and simple: The Hare is celebrating the beginning of springtime. Whirling and bounding her way around the farm, she chances upon the hound and attempts to coax him out of his slumber. What the hare doesn't know is that the sleeping hound is not sleeping at all. Rather, this sly dog is patiently waiting for the opportunity to pounce. Now shy Mousey Brown may be timid, but he is both observant and clever and knows exactly what the horrid hound is up to. But when mouse's biggest bellow fails to alert the hare of the danger that awaits her, the shy mouse summons the courage to confront the hound and save his beloved hare. In that moment of bravery, the mouse is transformed and he summons the courage to introduce himself to the mouse and in doing so, initiates a relationship that will last forever.

### **Themes**

- Rhyme
- Courage
- Romance
- Springtime





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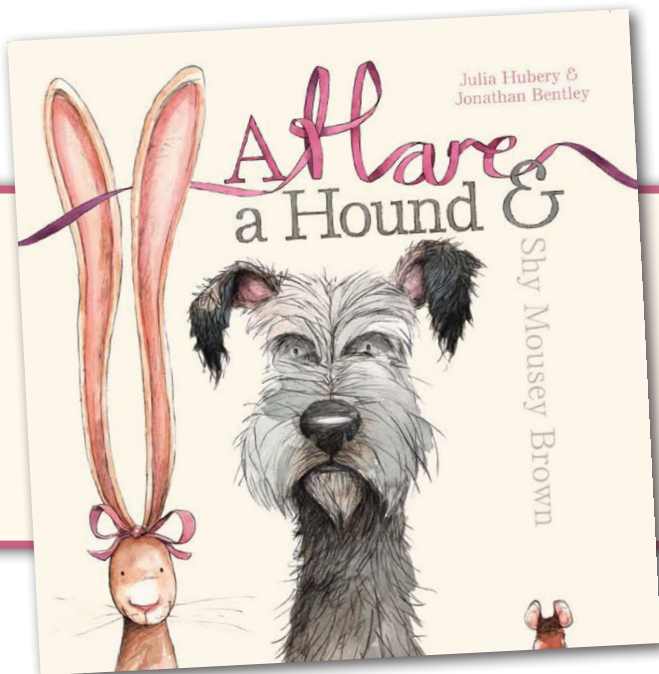
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### **Questions/Comprehension**

- Why is the hare so joyous?
- *How could I hope that she'd even see me?* Why does Mousey Brown doubt that the hare will notice him?
- What does Mousey Brown know about the hound that hare does not? How does Mousey Brown know this?
- How does Mousey Brown first attempt to warn the hare about the hound's intentions?
- When that doesn't work, what does Mousey Brown do?
- Mousey Brown tickles the hound but how does he end up in such a tangle?
- How does Mousey Brown feel after he stops the hound from eating the hare? How is this different to the way he sees himself at the beginning of the story?
- What does the hare promise Mousey Brown after he rescues her?
- Why would the mouse and the hare be considered a curious pair?
- Is there a mention of the setting in this story? What do you think the setting of the story is and why?

### **Activities**

- Invite students to write a diary entry detailing the events of the day from the perspective of one of the characters. Choose entries from the three characters to compare and discuss.
- With student's help, create a list of interview questions they would ask Mousey Brown in response to his courageous act of saving the hare from the jaws of the hungry hound.
- Create a before and after list as a means of illustrating how Mousey Brown changed as a result of rescuing the hare.



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### Activities

- Examine the vast and colourful variety of adjectives in the story by playing a character/adjective association game. Write each adjective on a separate flashcard. Enlarge an image of each character and place it at the front of the room. Read and explain each adjective to students and have them nominate which character it best describes.
- Allow students access to a collection of musical instrument and experiment with sounds to convey moods and emotions or represent interesting verbs in the story. Read the story, stopping frequently to give students the opportunity to experiment with sounds. Mark the places in story that students agree suits a musical representation. Now re-tell the story accompanied by student-created music.
- Re-read the story, advising students to listen for words that rhyme with one another. Have the words written on flashcards before reading the story. As students identify the words that rhyme, place them together on the floor. Once all rhyming words have been found, place them on a pre-prepared chart illustrating their relationship. Assist students to examine and add to the words where possible.

<b>ground</b>	rhymes with	<b>sound</b>	and	<b>found hound round</b>	These words all end in 'ound'
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- While the illustrations don't convey the fact that it's spring, the text tells us that the hare is indeed 'singing in the spring'. Ask students to use craft materials to create a piece of art that celebrates spring. Artwork may be accompanied by a short poem.