

Light and Shade by Imogen Lewis

(Finalist, 7 years and under category, Janis Clark Short Story Competition)



Once upon a time in the wood were little rabbits called Rosie, Ben, Carrot, Lavender and Basil.

They lived in a shady forest all nice and calm, because no one could find them.

The sun shone through the trees, the rain came (not too much) and there were rainbows with bright colours. The rabbits were happy.

But one day a nasty, grumpy fox arrived in the darkest part of the forest. The fox had a bushy tail with a white tip. He had big sharp teeth and a very clever nose.

The fox was hungry. He chased the rabbits. The first time they ran away but one dark day Ben was eaten.

The rabbits became scared and sad. There was a badger who felt sorry for them. He was black and white and friendly. He wasn't bossy.

The badger and rabbits needed a plan to get rid of the fox – and quickly.

The badger dug a really big hole with the help of the rabbits.

They covered it with sticks and leaves to make it into a trap.

Remembering the fox had a clever nose and might smell the trap they wanted to cover it with nice smelling things like flowers.

Rosie chose rose petals.

Lavender used lavender stalks.

Basil wanted basil leaves.

Carrot found some carrot sticks.

Fox walked along following the smell of rabbits and day-dreaming about eating them.

Then he came upon the sun shining on some pretty petals, leaves and sticks in the middle of the forest. He slowly bent his head down to smell them.

'ATISHOO,' he sneezed loudly and as he sneezed the sticks snapped and he fell DOWN into the shady, dark hole.

They trapped him there forever and the rabbits lived happily ever after.