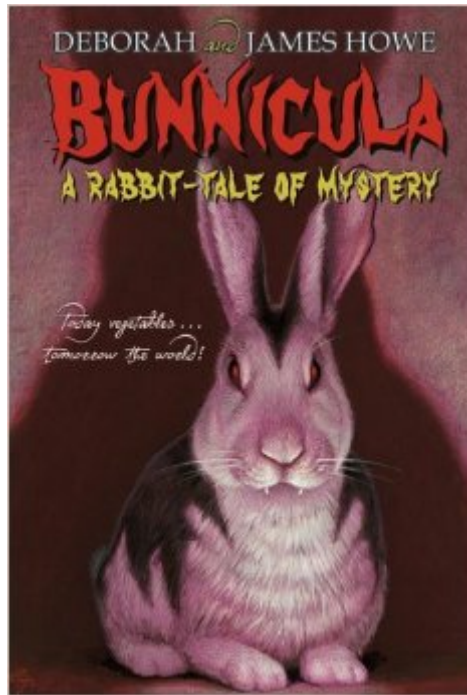


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# Bunnicula: A Rabbit-Tale Of Mystery



## Synopsis

BEWARE THE HARE! Is he or isn't he a vampire? Before it's too late, Harold the dog and Chester the cat must find out the truth about the newest pet in the Monroe household -- a suspicious-looking bunny with unusual habits...and fangs!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: GREAT SOURCE; Reprint edition (May 5, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416928170

ISBN-13: 978-1416928171

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (261 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,136 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

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Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Children's librarians have to prepare for certain kinds of questions. When a child walks up to your Reference Desk, you need to be ready to get them the exact book they're looking for at the exact moment that they want it. I get a lot of young kids, mostly girls, who want a good vampire book of their very own. Aside from the usual "Vampire State Building" and "Dracula Is a Pain In the Neck", both by Elizabeth Levy, there's really not a lot out there to recommend wholeheartedly. In fact, nine times out of ten, I find myself suggesting that most accessible of vampirism books, "Bunnicula". It doesn't star a human vampire, but you can hardly blame me. Now just this past week I found myself in the unenviable position of needing to find lots and lots and lots of copies of a single book for the upcoming meeting of my homeschooler bookgroup. And what delightful chapter book did I have enough copies in my library branch to satisfy screaming hoards of homeschooled kiddies? Again, it's "Bunnicula" to the rescue. It may not seem at first glance to have earned itself the moniker of "classic children's book", but I can attest right here and right now that when it comes to lifesaving

go-to titles, I'll take "Bunnicula" over "Bridge To Terebithia" or "Are You There God, It's Me Margaret", any day. Some dogs have an inherent dignity about them that sees them through even the most ridiculous of situations with their heads held high. Harold is such a dog. Harold lives, with his close companion Chester the cat, with the Monroe family. Life with the Monroes has never been what you would call "exciting". That is, until the family comes back one day from a "Dracula" film with a tiny shivering rabbit found in the theater. They promptly name him Bunnicula in honor of the film but the bunny is not much of a companion. He sleeps all day and never seems to touch his food. When Chester becomes convinced that the rabbit is actually a vampire he takes it upon himself (with a reluctant Harold in tow) to defeat this new nemesis to the Monroe home. Bunnies are the quintessential unexpected villains of books and films. When you've already been pegged as the world's most harmless mammal, it's amazing how threatening you become out of context. Movies like "Donnie Darko", "Sexy Beast", "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", and television shows like "The Maxx" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" have all played on evil-rabbit (or rabbit fearing) situations. It makes perfect sense that a children's book would do the same. In this book, husband/wife team of Deborah and James Howe strike just the right balance between creepy-crawly threat and completely ludicrous situation. For this reason, Harold is the perfect narrator. He may not be as clever and well-read as Chester, but he has a kind of down-to-earth common sense that keeps him clear of Chester's fads and frenzies. Though the book was written originally in 1978, the part of the book where the cat becomes enamored of self-help and self-esteem books (such as "Finding Yourself By Screaming A Lot") rings as true, if not truer, today. It's the humor that buoys up the book. The Howes aren't afraid to plug in little jokes that kids may not get here and there. For example, when Chester and Harold are discussing what vampires actually do, Chester says that they bite people on the neck. Harold responds (with some alarm) that Mrs. Monroe has bitten Mr. Monroe on the neck and does that make her a vampire? Chester scoffs at this. "Boy, are you dumb. She's not a vampire. She's a lawyer". Cue the adults reading this book aloud to their kids thinking to themselves that the difference may not be so great after all. The pacing of "Bunnicula" commands some appreciation as well. Though a slim 98 pages, the Howes have found a way to keep the action tight and the plot convincing. I would venture to say that there are few books out there more difficult to write than early chapter books with lots of pictures that are less than 100 pages and still wholly original. Finally, illustrator Alan Daniel gives us some great pictures in this book. I was more than a little pleased to find that he's gone on to illustrate the "Cat Pack" books by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Couldn't have happened to a better guy. Kids who are beginning to get comfortable with chapter books but who haven't completely put down their "Captain

Underpants" novels will find much to enjoy in this book. Animal lovers and fans of the supernatural alike will appreciate what the Howes were able to accomplish here. A great book and a wonderfully remembered one as well.

The first time I was introduced to this book was as a child in elementary school. My teacher read us a little bit of this book everyday right before lunch. I got my own copy a couple years later and have reread it a couple time every year - quite a few times as I'm now 26! I love the opening page where Harold is sitting in front of the nice, warm radiator. It always made me feel like curling up under a blanket in the middle of winter with this book. My favorite character is Chester (the cat) because he's so zany. He provides non-stop entertainment in his quest to get rid of the vampire bunny. To this day, I still laugh when I get to the part where he has to pound a stake into the vampire's heart! I would recommend this book to kids of all ages (even the over 20 group)!

I read the book Bunnacula. It's about a dog named Harold and a cat named Chester. And of course a rabbit named Bunnacula. (not your ordinary cuddly rabbit.) It all started when Harold and Chester's owners came home from a Dracula movie. And the owners didn't come home by themselves. They came with a box with a rabbit in it. They put the rabbit in a cage. They had some trouble naming the rabbit. But they finally found the name of Bunnacula. Probably because of the fact that they found Bunnacula at a Dracula movie. And they sure picked the right name for him. Chester began to notice that the black spot on Bunnacula looked like a cape. Chester stayed awake to see what Bunnacula did at night. (I would of thought a rabbit would sleep at night.) Chester noticed that the sly rabbit wasn't in his cage. He heard a noise in the kitchen. The door of the kitchen opened. And guess who was hopping happily out of the kitchen. (That was a sentence from the book.) The next morning all of the vegetables were white. On the third time Bunnacula went out for his midnight snack Chester was prepared. He was trying to starve Bunnacula. Harold yelled at Chester. Bunnacula looked sick. A few days later Harold took Bunnacula out of his cage and lead him to the kitchen. I can't tell the ending because this is an online review. I recommend this book if you like bunny vampires.

I first read this book in fifth grade, and since that time (some twenty years) I have been persuading every person I know to read it. This is the book that first convinced me that HOW a book is written can be just as much fun as the story itself. Bizarre plot notwithstanding, this little book is brilliantly written and laugh-out-loud funny. It is one of two books that inspired me to become an author, and I absolutely treasure it. A must-read for kids of all ages!

Dear Readers, The title of the book is "Bunnicula," and the authors' names are Deborah and James Howe. It is about a cat named Chester, a bunny named Bunnicula, and a dog named Harold. Harold is the narrator. Chester thinks Bunnicula is a bunny vampire, but Harold disagrees. My favorite part of the story was when Chester dressed up as Bunnicula. Chester dressed up as Bunnicula to try to convince the rest of the family that Bunnicula was the cause of the strange things that had been happening around the house. My favorite character was Bunnicula because he was funny, mysterious, and interesting. It was a unique book. It did not remind me of any other book. Bunnicula is a good book for kids who like adventure. It was a light read for me, but I still enjoyed it. It has nine chapters. Quinlan (Age 9)

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