

# The Tale of **Squirrel Nutkin**



by Beatrix Potter

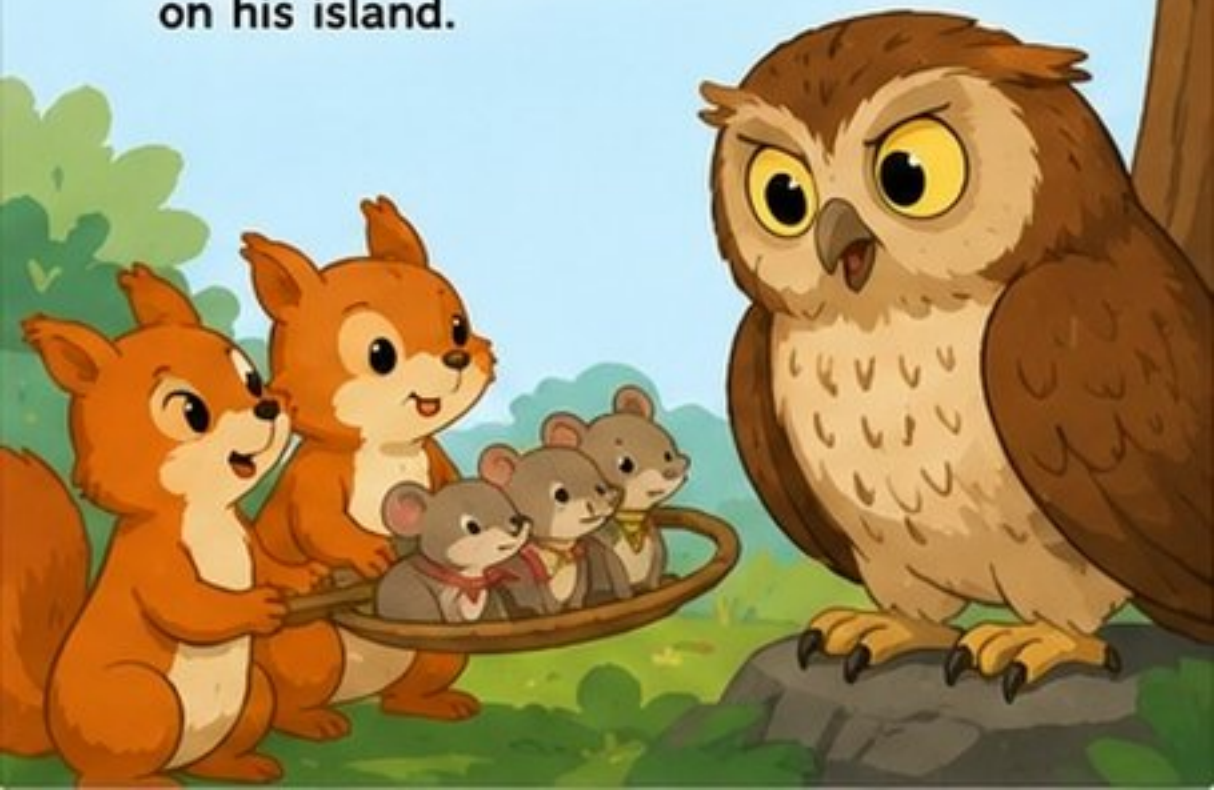
Squirrel Nutkin lived with his mamma and three little sisters in a tree by the lake.



One day Nutkin and his family sailed across the lake in a little boat to Owl Island.



They gave Old Brown Owl  
three field mice as a gift and  
asked if they might gather nuts  
on his island.



Old Brown Owl accepted their gift and kindly allowed them to gather nuts.



Everyone worked hard collecting nuts—except Nutkin. He said he had other, more important things to do!



Nutkin danced and told Old Brown riddles. He thought it was very funny to see the owl look puzzled!



Day after day they came back with another gift. But each time, Nutkin teased Old Brown more and more.

Day One



Day Two



Day Three



At last, Old Brown Owl warned Nutkin, "Stop your teasing, or you will be sorry!"



But Nutkin would not listen.  
He teased the owl once more.  
Suddenly—whoosh!—Old Brown  
caught him in his strong claws!



Nutkin wriggled and kicked and got away. But he left most of his beautiful tail in the owl's claws!



Nutkin went home very quiet that day. He had learned that being polite and kind is always the best way.



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