

In the northwest of England there is a national park called the Lake District. It is one of the most beautiful places in the whole country. There are lakes, mountains and lots of sheep. It does not feel like the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are no shopping malls, and many of the roads are very narrow. Every year many thousands of tourists visit the region. They go hiking, go cycling or just take it easy and enjoy the views.

It is thanks to one special woman that we can still enjoy the Lake District's beauty today. Her name was Beatrix Potter. She was born in London in 1866. At the age of sixteen she visited the Lake District on holiday, and fell in love with it. It was a love affair that lasted all her life.

Beatrix became a successful author and illustrator. Her books became bestsellers. In 1902 her first book was published. It was about a rabbit called Peter, who ignored his mother's advice. Peter went into Mr. McGregor's garden and nearly got killed. Later Beatrix wrote more than 20 other books, and with the money she earned from these, she became a rich woman. She bought more than 4,000 acres of land in the Lake District, and she gave it all to the National Trust in 1943 when she died. The only thing she asked was that the landscape should be maintained as it was. What a generous and remarkable woman she was!