Objective: In this lesson you will learn how to determine the author’s message by looking at what the characters say and do.

Steps:
1. Keep a list of what the characters say or do in the story.
2. Ask yourself, “What is the author trying to tell me.”
3. Complete: I think the author’s message is ________________ because in the story...

Pages 3 & 5:
1. Keep a list of what the characters say or do in the story
   (Box the text that shows you what the characters says or do)

   “Now my dears,” said Old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, “you may go into the field or down the lane, but don’t go into Mr. McGregor’s garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor.” But Peter who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor’s garden, and squeezed under the gate!

   I notice that Mrs. Rabbit is saying to Peter not to go into Mr. McGregor’s garden. Then, in the next paragraph, Peter ran straight away to McGregor’s garden, and squeezed under the gate.

2. Ask yourself, “What is the author trying to tell me.”
   (Jot down your list in the space below)
Pages 6-9:

1. Keep a list of what the characters say or do in the story
   *(Box the text that shows you what the characters says or do)*

   First he ate some lettuces and some French beans; and then he ate some radishes; And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.

   But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

   Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran right after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, “Stop thief!”

2. Ask yourself, “What is the author trying to tell me.”
   *(Jot down your list in the space below)*

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Pages 9-10:

1. Keep a list of what the characters say or do in the story
   *(Box the text that shows you what the characters says or do)*

   Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate. He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.

   After losing them he ran on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass button, quite new.”
2. Ask yourself, “What is the author trying to tell me.”
   (Jot down your list in the space below)

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Pages 18 & 20-21:
1. Keep a list of what the characters say or do in the story
   (Box the text that shows you what the characters says or do)

   Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was safe at last in the wood outside the garden.

   I am sorry to say that Peter was not very well during the evening. His mother put him to bed, and made some camomile tea; she gave a dose of it to Peter! “One table-spoonful to be taken at bed-time.”

   But Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail had bread and milk and blackberries for supper.”

2. Ask yourself, “What is the author trying to tell me.”
   (Jot down your list in the space below)

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3. Complete: I think the author’s message is ________________________ because in the story...
(Jot down your thoughts in the space below)

I think the author’s message is ________________________________________________

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because in the story __________________________________________________________

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