For today’s episode, Buddy’s friend Corrie Donovan joins us as a guest! What is the name of her furry friend that she brought along? _________________________________

What do you think “Rabbit at Top Speed” means? Is the song going to be about rabbits running away? Or are the rabbits racing with each other? Or about something else? Write down what you think the song is about.

______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

ABOUT THE COMPOSER
Buddy tells us that the composer of this song, Leonard Bernstein, is one of his favorite American musicians and his personal hero. Bernstein was known to have many music jobs other than being a composer. Can you remember what they are?
1. _______________________________________________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________________________________________
4. _______________________________________________________________________________________
EPISODE 15: “RABBIT AT TOP SPEED”
BERNSTEIN “Rabbit at Top Speed”

Read more about Bernstein on the last page! What are three facts you find interesting about him?

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________

COOKING A RECIPE
After listening to the performance, it turns out that this song is not about a running rabbit. Instead, it’s about cooking a rabbit stew in a hurry for an unexpected guest!

Have you ever helped your parents with cooking? What did you make?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

As Buddy says, the words to the song are actually a French recipe! There are so many ingredients in the stew other than rabbit. Listen carefully and write down what they are.

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________
5. ____________________________
6. ____________________________
7. ____________________________
EPISODE 15: “RABBIT AT TOP SPEED”
BERNSTEIN “Rabbit at Top Speed”

Using the list you made on the previous page, find all ingredients of the rabbit stew in this word search.
(Hint: don’t forget about the main ingredient!)
Leonard Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1918. He began piano studies at the age of 10. He graduated from Harvard University, where he studied music. He then attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied piano, conducting, and composition. At the age of 24, he was appointed assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic. Although he was very young to be a conductor, his style and performances caught the attention of others in the classical music community. In 1958, he was named music director of the New York Philharmonic. For 11 years, he energized the Philharmonic and American classical music in a way no other conductor had before. He took advantage of TV, which was newly invented at the time, and presented classical music to a wider audience. He toured throughout the world, visiting 17 different countries. For both children and adults, he created shows which were both entertaining and educational. By the time he resigned from the Philharmonic, he had conducted 939 concerts with the orchestra!

In the early 1960s, he started a series of Saturday afternoon “Young People’s Concerts” on TV. In these concerts, he explained the story of the music, had members of the orchestra demonstrate their instruments, and introduced young people to classical music. He believed playing for young students was one of the most important things he could do in his career. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Bernstein concentrated on composing music. He composed classical, Broadway, and jazz music. He has been acknowledged as the first American composer to receive worldwide recognition and is best known for writing music to a Broadway musical, West Side Story.