Bugs is in direct line of descent from Hare, an animal that is the trickster in many cultures. Rabbits, after all, are ridiculously weak little fellows who survive by being constantly vigilant and smart. Also, their buck teeth, long ears, and powers of reproduction are sources of amusement. And to some Aboriginal peoples, few creatures were more vital as sources of food and clothing.

One of Bugs’s ancestors came from southern Africa, a Hare trickster who became known in America as Br’er Rabbit. In Joel Chandler Harris’s Uncle Remus stories, we read about an ongoing battle of wits between him and Br’er Fox, who set a tar doll in his path one day. As the figure seemed insolent, Br’er Rabbit butted it and became hopelessly stuck in the goo. “All right, you’ve got me,” said Br’er Rabbit, “and now you can chop off my head if you like but don’t, please don’t toss me in the briar patch!” With a mean grin Br’er Fox did just that—and in the thorny briars, of course, Br’er Rabbit was perfectly safe once more.

Bugs reminds us that tricksters are still very much with us. Cool and in command, always ready with a one-liner, he forever wins out, whether it means impersonating a sheep or plugging Elmer’s shotgun with his fingers.

Although Bugs retired from active cartoon-making in 1963, he appears in reruns every Saturday morning. The mythology of this buffoonish bunny is most reassuring, showing us how easy it is to outwit oppressors and bask in the sun, munching carrots.

Well, th-th-th-that’s all f-f-f-folks.

1. **Responding to the Essay**
   
   **a.** Do you agree with David Creighton that Bugs Bunny is a trickster? Explain your answer. What evidence does the author give to prove his point?

   **b.** What is the main idea or thesis of this essay? How does the author develop an essay that supports this thesis?

   **c.** Do you think this essay could change the way you look at Bugs Bunny cartoons?