

The Three Bears ... Sort Of

Author: Yvonne Morrison

Illustrator: Donovan Bixley

Synopsis

In *The Three Bears ... Sort Of*, a cheeky child questions every aspect of the traditional story of *The Three Bears*. Mummy Bear, Daddy Bear and Baby bear go out for a walk, leaving their freshly-made porridge at home to cool. Meanwhile, Goldilocks enters the bears' cottage and makes herself right at home ... until the bears get back. But the child listening to the story needs to know more: Don't bears prefer salmon to porridge? Why are they living in a cottage anyway? And how come they can talk? The narrator grows exasperated at having to come up with responses to the child's many clever interjections, but somehow manages to finish the story!

Text Type

The Three Bears ... Sort Of is a humorous illustrated twist on the traditional Three Bears story. The book is a conversation between the person trying to tell the traditional story and the person listening. The listener interrupts with lots of questions about the story, pointing out details that don't seem to make any logical sense. Though it seems like the listener doesn't like the story, when the narrator is finally finished ... the listener asks for another one!

The Three Bears ... Sort Of is cleverly illustrated in rich colour by the Donovan Bixley, adding interest and humour to the story. An example of this is how the Three Bears begin the story wearing lots of clothes, but as the story goes on and the 'facts' are challenged, the illustrator has chosen to draw them looking more natural.

Sharing the Story

The Three Bears ... Sort Of can be read aloud by the teacher or read individually by students. The book could even be read by two people, one reading the narrator's text and the other reading the listener's.

Introducing the Story

Have students study the cover of the book and read the blurb.

- Do you know the classic story of *The Three Bears*? How does the story go?
- Which character from the classic story is missing from the cover?
- Why do you think this version of the story might be different?
- What do the illustrations suggest about the setting of the story?

- Who might be telling the story, and who might be listening? How can you tell?

Comprehension and Discussion

- Do you like having stories read to you? Who reads you stories?
- Where do polar bears live? Why aren't the three bears polar bears?
- What type of bears are the three bears?
- Why is Daddy Bear in the story a *special* daddy bear?
- What do bears usually eat?
- How did Mummy Bear pick up the pot of oats? Why?
- Why would the bowls of porridge cool down at different rates?
- How heavy is an average baby bear? How heavy is Goldilocks?
- What is Goldilocks doing in the picture before she goes to bed?
- What's wrong with Baby Bear's bed?
- How do you think the bears felt when they arrived home to find someone had been in their house?
- Do the three bears speak English? What do they say instead?
- How did Daddy Bear know someone had been sitting in his chair?
- What happened to Baby Bear's chair?
- What do the bears do when they find Goldilocks? What does Goldilocks do?

Activities

- **Writing** – Write a letter to the author telling her why you like her story.
- **Poster** – Design a poster advertising *The Three Bears ... Sort Of*, telling people why they should read it.
- **Character** – Imagine that you are Goldilocks. Write about your experience at the bears' house and then present it to the class in role.
- **Plot** – Choose 5 important events that occur in the story and draw a storyboard depicting them. Under each illustration write a brief summary about what is happening.
- **Static Image** – Design an alternative cover for *The Three Bears ... Sort Of*. The front cover needs the book's title, and the name of the author and illustrator. Include an exciting illustration about the book. Write the name of the book along the spine. The back cover needs a summary of the story to encourage the reader.

- **Research** – Research the traditional story of *The Three Bears*. When was it first written? Who wrote it, and where were they from? Is the original story the same or different to this version, and in what ways?