

BEAR HAS A STORY TO TELL

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Ages: 2-6; Grades: PreK-1

Themes: Animals, Friendship, Seasons and Nature

Running Time: 9 minutes

NEW! COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5 Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

SUMMARY

Winter is coming and Bear is getting sleepy. But before he settles in for his long sleep, he wants to tell his friends a story. But Mouse is too busy gathering seeds, Duck is getting ready to fly south, Frog is looking for a warm place to sleep, and Mole has already drifted off. As the snowflakes begin to fall, Bear just can't stay awake any longer. When he awakes, several months later, he is finally able to gather his friends to hear his story, and with their help, this is just what he does.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will research how different animals get ready for winter and complete a shared writing piece.
- Students will discuss friendship.
- Students will use a graphic organizer to understand the structure of the story.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have students draw a winter scene that shows what different animals do during the winter. Give students the opportunity to present their drawings and explain what is happening. Highlight any drawings of hibernating animals. If none do, guide a discussion towards this idea.

Guiding questions:

- How do animals survive in the winter?
- Do you know what bears do in the winter?
- How does hibernation help bears?
- What other animals hibernate?

Wrap-up the discussion with a brief explanation of the movie, telling students that the movie that they are about to see is an imaginary story about a bear and other animals who are about to go into hibernation.

Discuss friendship with the students. Ask students if they have ever had a friend who has really helped and supported them in a tough time. Have students share their experiences with a partner. After sharing, have each partner share the story told to him/her by the other student. Tell students that they are going to see a movie about a group of friends that help each other in different ways

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Common Core Connection Activities:

Conduct research as a class on how different animals survive in the winter. Use nonfiction books, the internet, and multi-media to present the information. Provide students with graphic organizers on which to record one fact about each animal that you read about. Discuss ways that animals are similar and different in their preparations for winter. Culminate the research with a shared writing activity in which you work with students to synthesize their learning in a book, "Winter's Coming!" After you have written the text (in front of students, with their input), make a copy of the book for each child to illustrate and practice reading for fluency.

Explore the beginning and ending of the story with the students. Point out how the first and last line is the same. Ask them to share their ideas about why this is. Then, give students a graphic organizer in the shape of a circle, with the line from the text, "It was almost winter and Bear was getting sleepy," written at the top of the circle. Talk students through retelling the main events of the story, writing them along the shape of the circle. For younger children, or to scaffold for less proficient readers and writers, add pictures from the book along the inside of the circle to remind children of how the story went. Focus on the end of the story to discuss how the book comes full circle.

Guiding questions:

- What happened when Bear sat down to tell his story?
- How did his friends help him?
- What characters did Bear's friends suggest for the story? What setting?
- How were Bear's friends' suggestions connected to the story of the movie?
- What was Bear's story about?

Connect Bear's assistance to his friends to the idea of community service. Ask students to brainstorm ideas about how they could help younger students at school or others in their communities. Some ideas include: reading partnerships with Pre-K or Kindergarten classes, recess or lunch buddies with younger grades, reading to elderly members of the community, or organizing a food or clothing drive. After the class has chosen an idea, make a plan together to organize it, and give students as much responsibility as possible in its execution.

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