



Bears: Fiction and Nonfiction

OBJECTIVE: Read to compare the bears from a fairy tale with bears from real life.

STANDARDS: Science: Characteristics of organisms; organisms and environments; Language Arts: Fiction and nonfiction

“A boy bear is called a he-bear. A girl bear is called a she-bear.”

BEFORE READING

Pre-Teach Concepts

Read “Goldilocks and the Three Bears.”

Ask children if they’ve heard the story of “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” and invite them to share what they know about it. Then read the story aloud. (You can read the version on the right.) Conclude by telling children that the story of the three bears is **fiction**, or made-up. Stories that are **nonfiction** tell about real life.

DURING READING

Get Information From Pictures

Use the illustrations and photos to compare fiction and nonfiction.

Before reading the text on pages 2-3 of the mini book, have children look carefully at the pictures. Ask, “Which picture shows fiction?” (*the one on page 2*) “How do you know?” (*It’s drawn like a cartoon; the bears are acting like people.*) Then ask, “Which picture shows nonfiction?” (*the one on page 3*) “How do you know?” (*It’s a photograph taken in nature; the bears are doing what real bears do.*)

AFTER READING

Apply/Extend

Help children use what they’ve learned to tell fiction from nonfiction.

Write the following made-up book titles on the board: *Barry Bear Takes a Bubble Bath*; *How a Bear Cub Grows*; *Polar Bears of the Arctic*; *Mr. Bear’s Birthday Wish*; and *100 Facts About Grizzly Bears*. Read each title aloud and ask: “Would a book with this title probably be fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?” Encourage children to explain their reasoning. If you have time, invite children to sort fiction and nonfiction books from your classroom library.

READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

- Goldilocks saw an empty house in the woods and went inside. She saw three bowls of porridge. One was too hot; one was too cold; but the third was just right, so she ate it up!
- Then she saw three chairs. One was too high; one was too wide; the third was just right, but she broke it! She decided to go upstairs. She saw three beds in the bedroom. One was too hard; one was too soft; but the third was just right, so she fell fast asleep.
- Papa, Mama, and Baby Bear came home. “Someone’s been eating my porridge!” they said. “And mine’s all gone!” added Baby Bear. “Someone’s been sitting in my chair!” they said. “And mine’s broken!” added Baby Bear. “Someone’s been sleeping in my bed!” they said. “And she’s still there!” added Baby Bear. Goldilocks woke up, saw the three bears, and ran out of the house. And she never went back!

More Bear-y Special Stories

- Winnie-the-Pooh, Paddington, and Corduroy are three famous make-believe bears. There are also the Berenstain Bears, Little Bear, Yogi Bear, and Fozzie Bear. Which is your *bear-y* favorite?

More Bear Nonfiction

- There are eight kinds of bear in the world. Among them are black bears, brown bears, polar bears, and giant pandas. Grizzly bears are a kind of brown bear.
- Baby bears are called **cubs**.
- Brown and black bears **hibernate**, or sleep all winter, on a nest of twigs and leaves. They wake up once in a while to eat.
- A male, or boy, bear is called a **he-bear**. A female, or girl, bear is called a **she-bear**.