



Classroom Activities for The Bear Went Over the Mountain by Iza Trapani

Make a Book

For each student, fold two pieces of paper in half and staple the folded edge to create a book with four pages. Have students write *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* on the cover. Opening the book and starting with the left (inside cover), write the words *See, Hear, Smell, Touch, Taste, Sleep* on the top of each successive page. Have students write what the bear experiences on each page and draw pictures to describe each scene. For younger students make a class book on a tagboard and sequence with the class. Have students illustrate what you wrote. This also applies to most of the activities below.

Have students come up with a new adventure for the bear. What if Bear doesn't get to his den? Or Bear is sleeping in his den. Tell what might happen next!

Have students write a descriptive paragraph about a trip they took, recounting things they saw, smelled, heard, touched and tasted.

Report a Story

Have students tell Bear's story from the perspective of a news reporter, reporting on where he traveled, what he saw, heard, smelled, touched and tasted and how he finally arrived safely back to his den. The story should be exciting. Using notes, have students retell their stories to the class as a TV broadcaster would.

Send A Postcard

On a 4X6 index card for each student, measure 3.5 inches off the 6 and draw a vertical line to separate an area for the address. Leave the other side blank. Pass them out to the class and have them write and address it as a postcard from Bear to the student. They can draw a colorful picture on the other side.

<p>Dear Student,</p> <p>I am having fun. I saw a dragonfly, a bluebird, rabbits and ducklings, but then a big mama duck chased me up a tree! I wonder what else I will see.</p> <p>Love, Bear</p>	<div data-bbox="917 1591 1036 1675" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 73px; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>Student's name and address</p>
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Look at the Words

On a tagboard, write down a verse or more from *The Bear Went Over the Mountain*. Read aloud with class and discuss the rhyming words. Highlight each set. Point out that the rhyming words are not always next to each other.

Highlight nouns, verbs and adjectives in different colors. Have students use them in sentences.

Beyond Bears

Choose a sea creature and have students adapt the bear verse to something like this:

*The dolphin swam through the ocean,
The dolphin swam through the ocean,
The dolphin swam through the ocean
To see what he could see.*

The rest can be written in prose. Have students list what a sea creature might see, hear, smell, touch and taste as it travels across the ocean.

The same can be done with other biomes:

*The camel walked through the desert
The parrot flew through the rainforest...*

Discuss the other animals in the book: bluebird, rabbits, ducklings, mama duck, woodchuck, snake, skunk, frog, minnow, porcupine. Compare and contrast two of them, at a time, and have students write reports about their differences and similarities.

Use the bear and other animals in the book for patterns (what comes next?) and simple addition and subtraction. How many more ducklings than bluebirds did Bear see?

The Seasons

Talk about the seasons. What kinds of things can we see, hear, smell, touch and taste in the different seasons? Have students write descriptive paragraphs about their favorite seasons.

Write to me!

I would love to receive a letter from your class and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You can write to me at my e-mail: iza@izatrapani.com or if you'd prefer to send to my home address, write me an e-mail and I will give it to you. You can also find me here:

www.izatrapani.com Facebook: Iza Trapani author illustrator <http://izatrapani.com/blog> twitter:@Iza Trapani

Thank you for using my book(s) in your classroom! Warm wishes, Iza

This list of activities was created by my dear friend and great teacher, Anne Minnervini.