

THE THREE SNOW BEARS

K-3

Written and Illustrated by Jan Brett

Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons

Story Summary

The Goldilocks story takes a fine twist when an endearing snow bear family and a curious Inuit girl meet in this picturesque land where the Inuit and the animals share an amazing Arctic landscape. When Aloo-ki loses her sled dogs her search for them leads her to an Igloo. She can't resist peeking inside, and then she can't resist the smell of something delicious! While Aloo-ki is making herself at home, Papa, Mama and Baby Bear are out walking, waiting for their breakfast to cool off, and you can probably guess who they find when they return! The beautiful illustrations, on the pages and in the borders, give the reader a dramatic feel for Inuit designs and for the Arctic landscape. The borders are filled with illustrations of Arctic animals, while the centers of the pages tell the story.

Objectives

1. To develop the ability to compare and contrast two stories.
2. To develop an appreciation for the Arctic lifestyle.
3. To enhance understanding of the Inuit people and the challenges they face.
4. To develop written language skills.

Before viewing the video

Before showing this video, read the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* to the class. Tell them that they are about to see a story that has many similarities to the Goldilocks story. As we watch the video we will think about the things that are different and the things that are the same. Jan Brett, the author, tells us that the little girl in the story, Aloo-Ki, is an Inuit who lives in the Arctic area of the world. Use a map to show the children where the Arctic area is. If possible, have information available

about the Inuit people and the different areas they inhabit. Tell the children to pay careful attention to Jan Brett's illustrations. Ask them to try to identify all of the animals seen in the borders. Tell them that they will learn a great deal about life in the Arctic by looking at the illustrations.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Why is Aloo-ki so upset when she sees her huskies on an ice floe?
2. Why do you think Aloo-ki has a team of huskies?
3. What kind of a house do the three snow bears have?
4. What happened when Aloo-ki sampled the soup from the three bowls?
5. What happened when Aloo-ki tried all of the boots?
6. When Aloo-ki needed her nap, how did she decide where to sleep?
7. How was Aloo-ki's dog team returned to her?
8. When the bear family returned home, how did they realize that someone else was there?
9. What was Aloo-ki's surprise when she ran out of the bears' house?
10. Why did Aloo-ki give the bears such a happy thank-you wave?

Activities

1. Compare and contrast *The Three Snow Bears* with the traditional *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* story. Have the class develop and contribute to a chart that discusses the basics of each.
2. Develop written language skills as the children compose a story "If I lived in the Arctic." Have them incorporate points related to climate, housing and clothing differences.
3. Have the children look at the Inuit designs on the clothing worn by the animals and by Aloo-ki. Have them draw some articles of clothing with their own designs that they feel would blend in with Jan Brett's drawings.
4. If information about the Inuit people is available, discuss the difficulties faced by living in such a climate. Compare and contrast a day in the life of an Inuit with a day in their lives.