

The Bear In Our Backyard

By Emma Middleton & Illustrated by Briony Stewart

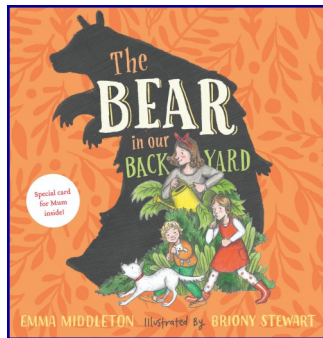
Publisher: Affirm Press

ISBN 9781925584806 SCIS: 1859570

\$24.99

Does she sleep? Shall we peak? Is it really a Bear? Shall we sneak outside and see if Bear is really there? Tom and Tilly search for the bear who lives in their backyard. Will she come out and play?

A rare tribute to the small and magical moments that mums create every day. Perfect for families expecting a new baby bear.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Playfulness
- Growing families
- Imagination
- Outside play
- Family connections
- Kindness and consideration

Discussion Questions:

- After reading the book, discuss as a class if the book has lived up to expectations. Draw your own version of the cover and write your own blurb, now that you have read the book.
- In this book, we meet a family made up of Mum, Tom, Tilly and dog Bess. Who makes up your family? Draw a picture of your family members – and don't forget any pets!
- Why would you compare a mum with a bear? What things do they have in common? Do you think this is a nice comparison, or a mean one? What animals would you compare your family members to? Why? Draw a picture of your family as animals.
- Flick back through the book. What hints are there that Mum is the bear?
- Can you find all the hidden bears in the illustrations? Why do you think they are there?
- Look at the rhyming text, and discuss how the rhyme works in this format. Can you pick out which words rhyme? Write your own rhyme about a family member, and draw some pictures to go with it.
- Why is it a surprise at the end that Mum is having a baby? Go back through the illustrations and look closer at the clever ways the illustrator has hidden Mum's tummy. Why? What else might be hidden in the story?
- Tom and Tilly know their mum will have plenty of love and hugs to share, even with a new baby. What other concerns might you have about welcoming a new baby into the family? Has anyone in the class been in this situation? How did it make you feel? Write a list of things someone would need to know about the arrival of a new baby sibling.
- Tom and Tilly are very good at using their imaginations. Do you have any games you play that use your imagination? Act these out to the class, and explain why you think they are so much fun.
- Draw a picture of your backyard, or favourite outdoor space. What do you like about it?
- What special things do you like to do with your family?
- When are times that you need to be quiet, and why? Throw an imaginary tea party with your classmates and share your tips and tricks on how to be quiet.