

## **Not So Scary Bear**

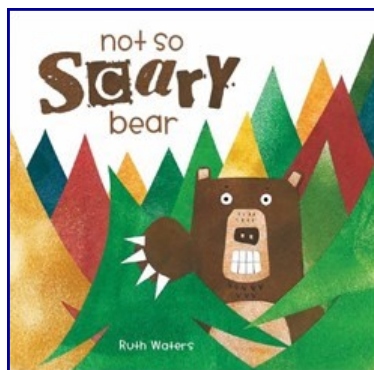
By Ruth Waters

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\$25.99

Every day Scary Bear roams the forest looking for animals to scare. Every night he roars so loudly even the leaves on the trees shake. But looks can be deceiving. What is Scary Bear's secret? *Not So Scary Bear* is a tale of deception, friendship, and of being yourself, scary or not.



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

### **Themes:**

- Conforming
- Perception
- Friendship

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### *Before reading:*

- Take a look at the cover and see if you can guess what this book may be about.
- Does the bear look scary?
- Why do you think the title is *Not so Scary Bear*?

#### *After reading:*

- Why do you think the bear had to hide his true nature?
- What do you think is the most important thing to Scary Bear?
- In what way does the story challenge the stereotype of bears?
- Why do you think the author made the main character a bear, and why has she chosen a mouse to be his friend?
- Scary Bear liked to knit and watch the stars, but he thought that this 'wasn't how a bear was supposed to behave'. What are some of the activities that you like to do?
- Have you ever felt like Scary Bear and tried to be someone that you are not? Explain.
- Discuss some reasons why people try to be different than who they really are?

### **Activities:**

- Ruth Waters has used collage to illustrate this book. Try using collage to build your own forest scene.
- Look at the titles of the books on Scary Bear's shelves. Can you come up with some other funny bear related book titles?
- What books do you think would be on the mouse's shelf?
- How would this story be different if it was told by the mouse?
- Can you make up your own story about the mouse, the fox or the owl?
- Scary Bear makes up his own disguise. Draw a picture of Scary Bear with your own version of a disguise.