

Is Bear Here?

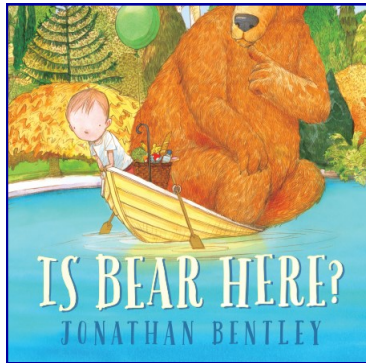
By Jonathan Bentley

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\$24.99

When you search long and hard for a beloved bear, you may be surprised by what turns up. A follow-up to the best-selling 2016 title *Where is Bear?*



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

Themes:

- Dramatic irony
- Seeing and not-seeing
- Bears
- Apparent and actual
- Seek and find

Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Jonathan Bentley has written this story using very few words, all of them uttered (or thought) by the little boy. Although the sentences are brief, they manage to convey a range of feelings. What feelings can you identify in the story?
- As a class, discuss circumstances when you might feel each of the above emotions.
- Choose a spread from *Is Bear Here?* and describe what you believe the picture is telling us about:
 - ◇ what the little boy wants;
 - ◇ what the little boy thinks he knows; and
 - ◇ what the reader knows that the boy does not know.
- What do you know about 'bears'?
- In *Is Bear Here?* the readers are taken on a hide-and-seek adventure through a market, a museum and a park, as the boy retraces his steps to look for his bear. All the while, Theodore looms large in the background. Can you find where Theodore is hiding in every scene? (Hint: he often appears more than once!)
- When drawing people's faces, Jonathan uses very few pencil marks; even so, he manages to convey a broad range of feelings. Drawing only a stick-figure and face, how would you convey the following emotions: anger, frustration, hunger, joy and enthusiasm?
- Following on from the above activity, act out those emotions in mime.
- The story centres on a boy searching for a beloved toy bear. What's your favourite toy?
- Explain to your class why it's your favourite.
- Have you ever lost or misplaced it? If so, how did you feel?
- Why do you think we become attached to certain things?
- Draw your own picture of the boy searching for his bear, being sure to include the 'big bear'!