

STUDENT SUGGESTION KEY

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Character List

Rabbit - a logical caring friend of bear

Mouse - a 4 year old tiny mouse who cares about his friends and likes to collect twigs

Crow - calm and cool under pressure and loves to fly

Hummingbird - sweet and loves the color green, soft spoken and shy

Mole - small blind who worries about his friends

Gopher - Young and brave and loves exploring

Badger - old wise and happy friend of Bear - characteristics of a leader but doesn't talk much

Bear - friendly and is easy startled and likes to snuggle - doesn't like being alone

Owl - elderly chap who enjoys doing crossword puzzle and drinks earl gray tea - advisor to Bear

The Bear Feels Scared

(1st Tableaux) - Setting: outside in a forest and the morning sun is shining bright on a beautiful old tree

Scene 1:

Narrator: *(a beautiful old tree in the middle of the forest talks directly to the audience)*

Welcome to the strawberry vale where all the forest creatures come to find yummy berries, warm fish and relax under my shade. Get closer and listen to a tale of how friends come together to help each other in moments of need. It all started when our

friend Bear woke up after a long nap and decided to lumber out of his cave and follow a crooked trail in the DEEEEP wood....

Scene 2:

2nd Tableaux: Transition to the bear waking up from the cave

(Bear wakes up and exits his cave. We hear the sound of his stomach grumbling)

***SOUND EFFECT**

Bear: *(bear sniffs ground)* I sure am hungry. Oh! Here are some juicy strawberries. Let me see how many I can fit in my mouth!

(Bear looks for the strawberries and only finds one.)

Bear: That's a bummer where are all the strawberries?

Narrator: Up to this moment, the bear would find strawberries every day but today was different. There were no strawberries to be found anywhere. It made the bear think of an idea.

Bear: I always get strawberries here...Maybe today I should try a new spot! *(actor freezes)*

Scene 3:

Transition to *SHADOW PUPPET SCENE* -

Narrator: The bear starts to walk away from the strawberry vale to try a new spot. After a moment, gray clouds crowd the sky with a distant rumbling, but the bear is just too hungry to care and keeps going! He walks further and further away until all of a sudden, the light from the morning sun vanishes and the bear finds himself in the middle of a terrible storm.(clouds, thunder and lightning effects) He shakes and he shivers as the storm starts to howl. Bear says...

Bear: *(actor unfreezes and exits as they say)* "What is that? Are there spooks on the prowl? *(Bear looks around but doesn't see anyone and shrugs. He starts to walk one way and doesn't remember where he is and he turns around again and shakes his head)* Poor me! I thought I had more time. Now it's dark and scary, and I'm all alone! I need to get home as fast as I can! *(runs off frightened)*

(scene shifts to the animal friends in frozen tableaux)

Scene 4:

Setting: inside a warm homey cave with a cozy fire with tea kettle, cookies, handkerchief and string. A group of animal friends gather to stay safe during the storm.

Rabbit: A storm!? Shouldn't Bear be home?

Badger: Just as I foresaw! I'll start the fire.

Mouse: But where *is* Bear? Weren't you watching him, Mole?

Mole: Wasn't he sleeping? I can't see, remember?! Crow was watching him!

Mouse: He should have been back by now, he left a long time ago!

Crow: Hey! He's a big guy, he'll be fine! I was getting ingredients for the cookies, *Gopher* was watching him!

Gopher: Hey, don't drag me into this crow (Gopher sticks his tongue out at crow)

Hummingbird: I would be scared if I was by myself in this storm. I wonder if Bear is scared too?

OWL: Yes, Bear is a tender soul, he's probably frightened. We need to find him.

Crow: Tch- He'll be fine, y'all! You panic too much.

Badger: Hush, Crow, I know you're excited for the cookies but you know him just as well as I do! We must all go search.

Gopher: But how do we find him?!?

Crow: Caw! Caw! I'm good at finding things. Bear should be easy to spot.

Badger: Owl, Crow and Hummingbird can fly up high and search for Bear while the rest of us stay below.

Owl: Hoot! Hoot! Sure thing. I can use my night vision to look for him.

Hummingbird: I can use my wings to hover like a helicopter to look through the trees!

Crow: I can fly really close to the trees and fly from branch to branch to keep track of where we are going. Caw! Caw!

Badger: Great ideas. What about the rest of us?

Rabbit, Mouse, and Mole: We can help! Point us in different directions.

(They start to exit in all different direction)

Badger: Woah! Woah! Woah! You guys should stick together so you don't get lost. Here's this rope to tie yourselves together so you don't get split up. *(Badger hands Rabbit, Mouse, and Mole a small rope)*

Rabbit, Mouse, and Mole: *(Disappointed Sigh) Oh, Okay.... (Rabbit, Mouse and Mole grab the rope and tie themselves together. It takes a moment for them to figure out how to walk together)*

Gopher: Let's go find bear!

Badger: First, let me light this lamp so we can see through the dark night and stick together. Let's go!

(They all exit together to search for Bear.)

SCENE 5

Narrator: With a flounce and a flutter, they set off together. They trudge down the trail through the wild, wet weather. They cry out...

All: "Ho, Bear, are you there? Are you there?"

Narrator: All of a sudden, Bear hears a noise like a voice in the forest and he feels big fears.

Bear: Is that Mole calling out? Is that rabbit's voice? Or am I only hearing the wind?

(Bear looks around frantically before curling into a ball, frightened)

Narrator: Bird, Owl and Crow all squawk from the sky.

Hummingbird, Owl and Crow: *(Excited Gasp)* It is Bear! He is there!

(All the animals sign a big sigh and *run up to the bear excitedly*)

Narrator: The animals rushed up to Bear who was huddled under a tree only 10 feet from his lair. They give him bear hugs to calm his bear fears.

Rabbit: Oh there you are! We were all so worried!

Bear: Thank Goodness you found me! I was so scared!!

Mouse: We're all back together!

Mole: We'll make sure you never get lost again.

ALL: We love you bear!

Narrator: Later, in the night, all clustered in a heap, the bear spins stories (passing the cookies around). Cuddled up tight, they snore through the night. And the bear feels safe.

(The animals fall asleep and we hear the soft snores of all the animals.)