

Little Bear's Vision Quest



Reader's Theatre

List of Characters:

- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2
- Narrator 3
- Doe
- Little Bear
- Wolf
- Swallows
- Raccoon
- Grandfather Bear
- Owl
- Whale

Little Bear's Vision Quest: **A Reader's Theatre**

NARRATOR 1: (Introduction)

Long ago when the world was new, animal people lived in villages by the sea. The largest and wealthiest of these villages belonged to the Bear Clan. The Bear people were the most powerful ruler sin the whole forest. Little Bear belonged to this clan, but Little Bear had very selfish ways. He put on airs and imagined himself to be better than his animal people brothers and sisters.

NARRATOR 2: One day, Little Bear was walking in the meadow and he met a doe.

DOE: Brother Bear, Brother Bear, can't find me!

LITTLE BEAR: Spindly legs, spindly legs, nothing but a spindly leg! I'm much too wonderful to play with you, can't you see?

NARRATOR 3: Sister Deer started to cry and walked sadly toward the forest. Little Bear was feeling very smug with himself and he went sauntering down to the forest to look for Wolf. Wolf playfully leaped out from behind a bush.

WOLF: Brother Bear, Brother Bear, can't catch me!

LITTLE BEAR: Bears don't play with dogs!
Whimper and whine! Whimper and shine! I'm much too beautiful to play with you, can't you see?

NARRATOR 1: Wolf, who had been feeling very good inside and playful, now felt a tight knot in the pit of his stomach.

Later that afternoon, Little Bear was tromping through the meadow smashing everything in his path. He spotted the Swallows and Brother Raccoon and pretended to ignore them.

SWALLOWS & RACCOON: (together)

Brother Bear, come and sing a melody!

LITTLE BEAR: Bears don't sing with animal people who look like masked robbers and Itty Bitty Swallows. Itty Bitty, Itty Bitty! Nothing but Itty Bitty, Teeny Tiny Swallows! I'm much too powerful to play with you, can't you see?

NARRATOR 2: Little Bear turned around and walked away, not seeing how his unkind words made the Swallows and Raccoon hang their heads. He walked through the forest for awhile. Suddenly he noticed the quiet. Little Bear had no one left to play with. He started to feel sorry for himself. Little Bear wandered down to the beach and met Grandfather Bear.

GRANDFATHER BEAR: Why are you so sad, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: I'm all alone, can't you see?

GRANDFATHER BEAR: Where are all you friends, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: (mumbling) I don't know, Grandfather, and I don't care! They are all dumb anyway!

GRANDFATHER BEAR: Why are they all dumb, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Because they don't want to play with me.

GRANDFATHER BEAR: Why don't they want to play with you, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Because they are all jealous of me, Grandfather.

GRANDFATHER BEAR: So you are saying it is your friends' fault and not yours?

LITTLE BEAR: Yes, yes. That's right, Grandfather.

GRANDFATHER BEAR: Are you sure, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: (whining) Yes, don't you believe me?

GRANDFATHER BEAR: (angry) Not only do you treat your friends badly, you lie to your Grandfather! Raven told me of your rudeness and how you hurt the others by calling them names. You bring shame to our house, Little Bear! You must learn how to act properly and respect others. You are banished to the island, Little Bear.

LITTLE BEAR: (whining) But why, Grandfather?

NARRATOR 3: But he knew why. At last he asked....

LITTLE BEAR: For how long, Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER BEAR: Search in your heart for the answer, Little Bear. Here is what you must remember to do. Go down to the ocean each morning and dip a cedar bough in the ocean. Brush the cedar bough over your body. This will help you scrub away your bad deeds and thoughts. While you are in the forest, Little Bear, wait, listen and look.

LITTLE BEAR: What shall I wait for, Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER BEAR: When your heart and mind are pure, a helping Power Spirit will come to you. Tomorrow, Sister Whale will take you to the island training ground.

LITTLE BEAR: (muttering) Dumb old whale.

GRANDFATHER BEAR: What was that, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: (mumbling) Nothing, Grandfather.

NARRATOR 1: The next morning, Whale took Little Bear to the island in a canoe. Little Bear was angry and felt that he had been treated unfairly. Whale left and Little Bear was alone on the island.

LITTLE BEAR: Grandfather is mad at me just because the others can't take a joke. They make such a big deal out of being called a few names. What a bunch of babies! Well, who needs them anyway? They'll all see! I'll just sit here and wait. They'll come for me. I'm much too important to leave here alone, they'll come!

NARRATOR 2: Little Bear heard a noise.

LITTLE BEAR: (in a quivering voice) Wolf, is that you, Wolf?

OWL: No, Little Bear, it's me, Owl.

LITTLE BEAR: (sadly) Oh, hello, Owl.

OWL: Why are you so sad, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Grandfather sent me to this island.

OWL: Why did he do that, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Because the other animals are jealous of me and won't play with me, and it's just not fair! I was only joking and called them a few little names and they got all upset. Then that old busybody Raven told Grandfather.

OWL: Do the others call you names, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Of course not! I'm their friend.

OWL: How would you feel if they called you names?

LITTLE BEAR: I wouldn't care!

OWL: If you wouldn't care, why are you so sad, Little Bear?

NARRATOR 3: Owl left and Little Bear was all alone again. (pause)

After Little Bear had spent three long months on the island, Sister Whale arrived and called to Little Bear.

WHALE: Are you ready to go back, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Yes, I am ready.

WHALE: How do you know you are ready, Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Because I am lonely, and I want someone to play with!

WHALE: No, Little Bear, you are not ready yet!

LITTLE BEAR: No, wait, Sister Whale, I'll change, I'll change!

WHALE: (calling back to Little Bear)
Remember the words of your Grandfather, Little Bear. Look inside yourself.

LITTLE BEAR: You're no sister of mine, Whale, if you won't do what I want!

WHALE: (swimming away)
Search in your heart, Little Bear, search in your heart.

LITTLE BEAR: (grumbling) Dumb old whale.
How will I survive the winter?
I don't need them. I don't need anybody.

NARRATOR 1: The days were growing shorter, and the winds were much sharper. Little Bear missed his loving Grandfather and decided to listen to the words of Grandfather. Each morning, Little Bear went down to the ocean and dipped the cedar bough in the frigid waters. He brushed himself all over with the cedar bough. The daily ritual and the rhythm of meeting with the ocean helped Little Bear reflect on who he was, and who he would like to be. After several weeks, he was stronger inside and experienced a sense of peace like never before.

NARRATOR 2: As Little Bear continued to go to the ocean each morning, he remembered the lessons his mother had taught him. Little Bear recalled how she showed him to look for the fattest grubs under stumps. His mouth watered as he recollected reaching high up into a tree and pulling out pieces of honeycomb, and licking the delicious honey. He had begun to practice what his mother had taught him.

NARRATOR 3: By the time the first flakes of snow started to fall, Little Bear was fattened up enough to survive the winter. He looked for a den and went into a light sleep. While he was drifting off, he again heard Grandfather's words to listen, wait and look. Little Bear had survived his training and had become self-sufficient. He had learned patience and how to wait.

NARRATOR 1: Little Bear could hear the waves crashing, and the wind moving the trees. The sound and rhythm reminded him of the deer hooves and rattles that were used in the winter ceremonies when someone received a name.

NARRATOR 2: As Little Bear went into a deeper sleep, he saw a magnificent bear that was covered in First Nations Ovoids and U-shaped designs. Little Bear had never seen such a beautiful animal person before. What Little Bear was actually seeing was his own reflection in a huge water drop falling from the icicles hanging from the cave opening.

NARRATOR 3: Listening to, and thinking about Grandfather's words had helped Little Bear become self-reliant and a good person inside. He had washed away the badness, and opened his heart and mind to a helping spirit. The beauty and power of his culture was reflected in his coat. Now his spirit had become dignified and strong, instead of being mean and small.

NARRATOR 2: In the spring, Sister Whale returned and called:

WHALE: Are you ready to go back Little Bear?

LITTLE BEAR: Yes, Friend Whale, I am ready to go back.

WHALE: How do you know you are ready to go back?

LITTLE BEAR: I realize now that I was unkind and cruel to my friends. If I am to have friends, I must treat them as I would like to be treated – with love, kindness and respect.

WHALE: Yes, Little Bear, you are ready to go back.

NARRATOR 1: Whale towed Little Bear triumphantly back to shore. Little Bear's Grandfather, his family, and all his friends were waiting. They all greeted him happily, singing a welcoming song for his return. Little Bear started to cry. His friends were concerned, and asked him why he was crying.

LITTLE BEAR: I have treated you so badly, and yet you honour me upon my return.

ALL THE ANIMALS: True friendship means forgiveness.

LITTLE BEAR: Grandfather, may I return to the village?

GRANDFATHER: You were never gone, Little Bear. You were always in my heart. You have searched inside yourself, Little Bear, and found the true path to friendship, harmony and peace.

ALL THE ANIMALS TOGETHER: Welcome home, Little Bear, Welcome home!

THE END