



Bear Has a Story to Tell

by Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead

As you look at Practickle's past reading selections, it is obvious that we love the friendly stories of Philip Stead and the warm illustrations of his wife, Erin. Others do as well. Bear has a Story to Tell won the Kirkus Review's Best Children's Book of 2012. In this beautiful storybook, Mr. Stead uses his characters to model the meanings of loyal friendship, loving generosity, and caring patience. As you read the story, the reading guide directs you toward discussing Bear's personality traits that make him such a good friend. It's obvious that Mr. Stead feels that providing good role models who illustrate the meaning of friendship is important for young children.

Bear Has a Story to Tell is a good book to read at the end of October. You will see from the illustrations that the setting is fall. This leads to discussions about the informational part of the book. How do animals prepare for winter? Each animal has a unique way to spend the cold months ahead.

The Reading Comprehension Best Practice that matches this lovely story is to **Have a Purpose for Reading**. Formulate questions before the Second Reading. Then, your child's brain will listen for information from the text to answer the questions. The first question that occurred to my granddaughter and me was, "What is the story Bear wants to tell?"

Additional questions you formulate might lead you to discuss characters who remind you of real people or other fictional characters. What does it mean to be a friend? How are Bear and you alike? Does Bear remind you of anyone? Does Duck or any other character remind you of anyone? Forming questions before reading and then answering the questions through direct details from the text or by forming inferences improves comprehension of the text at a higher thinking level than just recall.