



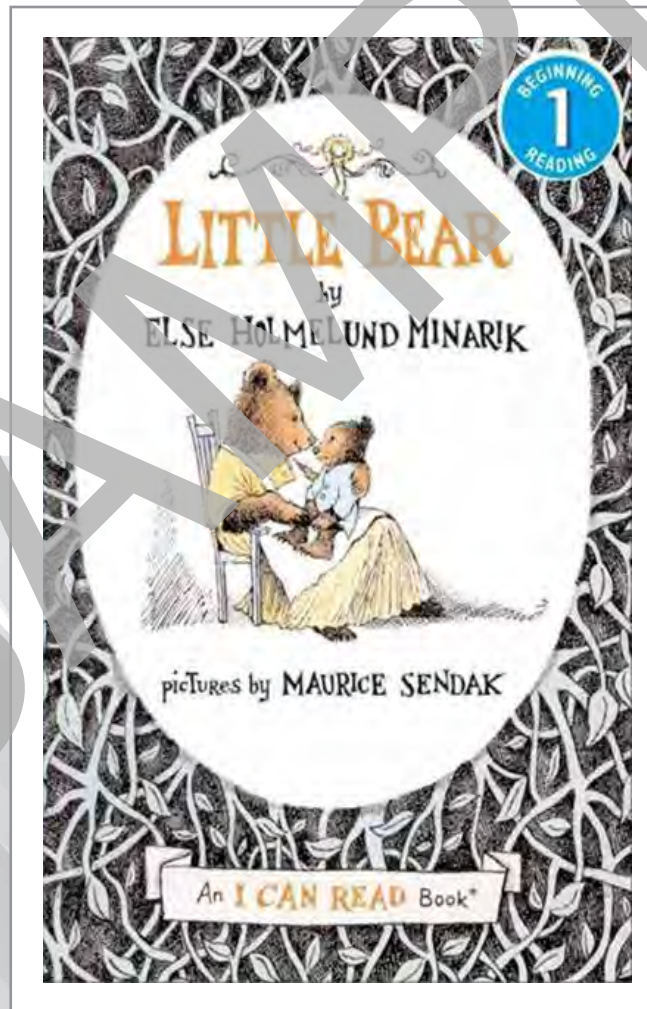
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES K-3

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Little Bear

Else Holmelund Minarik



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Little Bear

Else Holmelund Minarik

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Summary

Little Bear tells of Little Bear's adventures and his relationship with Mother Bear. Each chapter tells a new story about Little Bear, from being cold in the snow and celebrating his birthday to going to the moon and making wishes.

About the Author

Else Holmelund Minarik was born on September 13, 1920. She moved from Denmark to America with her parents at age four and eventually grew to love the English language. Minarik's first husband, Walter Minarik, died in 1963, leaving her with her only daughter, Brooke. In 1970, she married Homer Bigart. *Little Bear*, published by Harper and Row in 1957, is the first of the "I Can Read" series. Other books by Else Holmelund Minarik include *No Fighting, No Biting* (1958); *Father Bear Comes Home* (1959); *Little Bear's Friend* (1960); *Little Bear's Visit* (1961); *The Little Giant Girl and the Elf Boy* (1963); and *A Kiss for Little Bear* (1968).

About the Illustrator

Maurice Sendak was born in 1928 in Brooklyn, New York. At age 19, he published his first (co-authored) book, *Atomics for the Millions*. In 1951, he illustrated *The Wonderful Farm* and one year later illustrated *A Hole is to Dig* by Ruth Krauss. *Where the Wild Things Are*, both authored and illustrated by Sendak, won the Caldecott Medal in 1964 and remains one of Sendak's most famous works. Besides writing and illustrating, Maurice Sendak has also designed costumes and sets for *Where the Wild Things Are* opera, Mozart's *Magic Flute*, and Hoffman's *Nutcracker and the Mouse King*. He has received, among other awards, the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for Illustration (1970), the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award from the ALA (1983), and a National Medal of Arts (1996).

Bulletin Board Activities

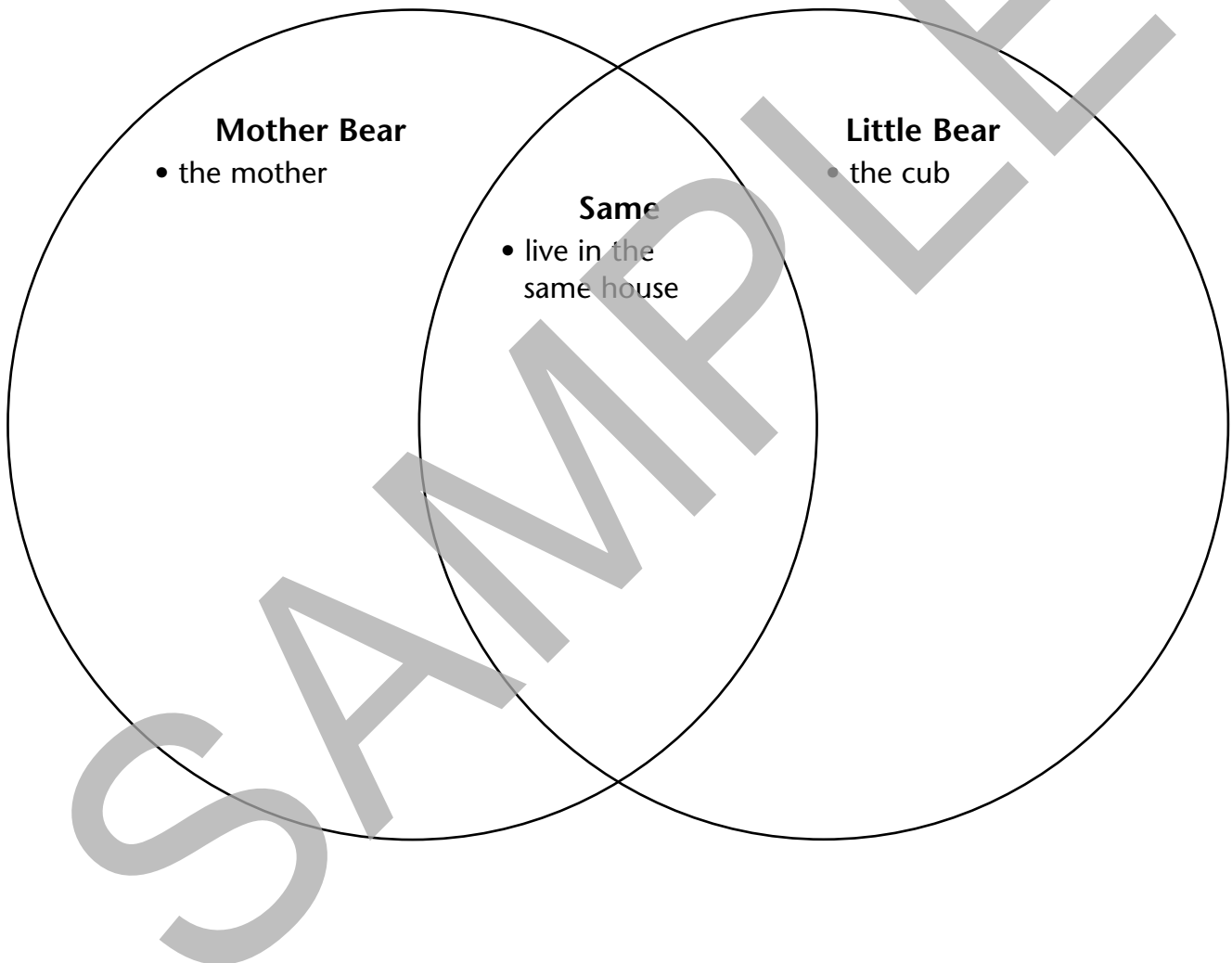
1. Write the following facts on butcher paper or poster board for the bulletin board. Have prizes for students who correctly answer the challenge questions.

BEAR FACTS

- Bears are mammals.
- They are hairy all over. Their hair is called fur.

Venn Diagram

Directions: As you read the story, write down the things that are the same about Little Bear and Mother Bear in the space labeled "Same." Write the things that are different about Little Bear and Mother Bear in their own spaces.



What Will Little Bear Wear? pp. 11-21

Vocabulary

snow (11)

cold (11)

wear (11)

hurray (13)

head (13)

coat (15)

fur (19)

Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the blank spaces using the words above. You will use each word one time.

1. Little Bear is wearing a _____ made of _____ the entire time he plays outside.
2. Sometimes, there is white _____ outside when it is _____.
3. I like to _____ a hat on my _____ when it is raining outside.
4. My mom said, " _____!" when I got a star on my paper.

Discussion Questions

1. Read page 11 and look at the picture. What season do you think it is? Why? (*winter; it is snowing*)
2. What three things does Mother Bear make for Little Bear to put on? (*hat, coat, and snow pants*)
3. What is Mother Bear doing before she makes Little Bear's coat? (*sweeping*)
4. What is Mother Bear doing before she makes Little Bear's snow pants? (*making a skirt*)
5. Why doesn't Mother Bear make Little Bear a fur coat? (*Bears have fur on them already. She doesn't need to make him a fur coat because he already has one on underneath his snow clothes.*)
6. What clothes do you wear in the winter to stay warm? (*Answers will vary.*)
7. Do you think Little Bear will ever wear the clothes Mother Bear made for him again? Why or why not? (*Answer will vary.*)

Supplementary Activities

1. Art/Weaving: Mother Bear sews clothes for Little Bear. Have students weave paper together to make a design or pattern. Fold a piece of construction paper in half. Cut slits in the paper from the crease toward the edges, but do not completely separate the paper, stopping before you get to the edge. Unfold the paper. Give each student

her or his own slitted piece of construction paper. Using many different colors of construction paper, cut strips about one inch wide that span the width of the slitted paper. Pass out the strips of paper for students to weave in and out of the slits on the paper. Encourage students to use creative colors and design patterns pleasing to the eye.

2. How-to: Have students write down the steps for making a snowman. They should make sure that the directions are in order and easy to understand. If they prefer, the students can draw pictures to accompany their directions, but they cannot use pictures only.

Birthday Soup, pp. 22-35

Vocabulary

birthday (22)	friends (23)	carrots (23)	potatoes (23)
peas (23)	tomatoes (23)	smells (25)	wait (25)
black (26)	yet (32)	beautiful (34)	surprise (34)

Vocabulary Activity

Sort the words above. Put each word in one of the following categories: Soup Ingredients, Celebration Words, Senses, Colors, and Time Words. Some categories will have one word in them. Others will have many words.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is Little Bear worried? (*He thinks his mother forgot his birthday and wants to have food for his friends if they come over.*)
2. What does Little Bear make? What ingredients does he use? (*Birthday Soup; carrots, potatoes, peas, and tomatoes*)
3. Who is the first guest to arrive? What does this friend bring for Little Bear? (*Hen; honey*)
4. Who is the second guest to arrive? What does this friend bring? (*Duck; flowers*)
5. Which guest arrives last? What is this friend's gift? (*Cat; an apple*)
6. Who surprises Little Bear? How? (*Mother Bear; She shows up with a birthday cake.*)
7. How old do you think Little Bear is? Why do you think that? (*Answers will vary. Clue: There are six candles on the birthday cake.*)

Paper Bears

Directions: Color the pictures. Then cut them out. Don't cut off the tabs!

