

# *Big Black Bear*

By Wong Herbert Yee

*A black bear with no manners comes to visit a little girl at home and makes a terrible mess, but another visitor helps him see the error of his ways.*



## **First Reading**

Before you read this story, **set the stage** for enjoying the book with an introduction. Here are some ideas or you could make up your own.

“Look at the cover of this book. Can you tell me what color the bear is? What does the bear have in his paws? Yes, a pie, a whole pie! Does he look like he’s going to share it? What are those black marks on the floor? What do you think the little girl is doing? Whose house do you think this is: the bear’s or the little girl’s? Well, let’s find out and read this book called *Big Black Bear*.”



## Read It Again (and Again) and Start a Conversation

“Why is Black Bear sticking his nose in the air? What do you think he smells?”

What smells could be coming from the Brown Brick House on Sycamore Street?

How does a bear ‘shuffle along?’ Can you show me with your arms while you are sitting down? If he smells something good to eat, do you think he would shuffle fast or slow? Can you show me again with your arms?

What kind of voice does Big Black Bear use when he says that he is tired and hungry? Can you make a ‘whining’ voice and say ‘I’m tired and hungry?’

Why do you think the little girl lets the Big Black Bear in?

When the Big Black Bear first comes into the house, what does the little girl tell him to do? What does the bear say as he comes in?

Yes, he says, ‘I’m a **BIG BLACK BEAR**—I don’t have to do that!’

Why do we wipe our feet when we come into our house?

What part of Big Black Bear gets caught in the jelly bean jar? His paw? His tail? His ear? His snout? Snout is a new word for us. What is a snout?

After eating the homemade bread, the fresh-baked pie and scattering jellybeans all over the place, the Big Black Bear says that he is **STILL** hungry! What is he going to eat next?

How would you feel if a Big Black Bear had you in a corner? What would you do?

When the other black bear comes in, where does Little Black Bear hide?

Who do you think this other black bear might be?

What are two things that you think Little Black Bear learned about manners? What can a person say to someone in order to apologize?

Does the little girl want to see the Little Black Bear ever again?

Do you think she might invite him to her house again?”



## Play With Language

### Game: Word Rhyming

Learning the different sounds that make up our language is an important skill for children. One way to do this is to say words that rhyme. In this game you produce a word from the book *Big Black Bear* and prompt your child to give you a rhyming word. Here are a few examples of pairs of rhyming words from the *Big Black Bear* that you can use to begin: bear (air); wood (good); mat (that); sneeze (please).

Note: Do not expect children to play this game as an adult would. If your child makes up a nonsense word, accept it, praise it and add the rhyming word that was in the book, as well. You and your child may want to add as many rhyming words to the selected words from the book as you can think of in a given amount of time, for instance in 30 seconds or in one minute. If your child picks a word that is close to rhyming, praise him for this selection, because one of the purposes of this game is to demonstrate that almost any word can be rhymed.

### Rhymes

#### *Manners*

I have to learn to be polite,  
Because I'm growing every day.  
I'm not a baby anymore,  
So there's special things I must say.  
I have to say "Please" when I want something,  
'Cause that's the polite thing to do.  
And when I get the thing I want,  
I have to say "Thank You!"

#### *Please and Thank You*

Some special words we need to know  
And use them every day.  
We must say, "Please and Thank You,"  
at school, at home, at play.

*Both From Finger Frolics by Liz Cromwell*



## Other Activities To Do Together

Have a tea party for two or more children, or for your child's stuffed animals. Practice using polite words and manners as you plan and set up the tea party.

Make arrangements to visit a friend or have a play date. Before the visit talk about good manners that are expected of a guest in someone else's home.

Make-believe or pretend an imaginary visit to your child's home by an animal other than a bear, perhaps a visit from a quiet mouse.

Buy some jelly beans and sort them by color. Play a game of sharing by counting out, "one jelly bean for you, one jelly bean for me; two jelly beans for you, two jelly beans for me." Continue as far as your child can count or as far as you want your child to practice counting. Then eat the jelly beans!

Cuddle up in a big soft chair and share a story book with your child.

Visit a local zoo and observe how bears and other wild animals behave.

## More Books About Manners

*The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners* by Stan and Jan Berenstain

*Clifford's Manners* by Norman Bridwell

*If I Were A Lion* by Sarah Weeks

*Manners* by Aiki

*Mr. Bear to the Rescue* by Debi Gliori

*Please Say Please! Penguin's Guide to Manners* by Margery Cuyler

*What Do You Say, Dear?* by Sesyle Joslin

