

The Bears on Hemlock Mountain

by Alice Dalgliesh

(Reading level: Ages 8-9)

Read Chapters 1-5

Things to talk about:

Where did Jonathan live?

How old is Jonathan?

How did Jonathan's mother practice hospitality?

Why did Jonathan's mother sometime wish her company was not quite so hungry?

Who was Jonathan's favorite uncle?

What does "Young Uncle James had eyes that saw and ears that heard" mean?

Why isn't Jonathan's mother worried about his running into a bear on Hemlock Mountain?

What did Jonathan take with him?

Why is Jonathan worried when he notices that the snow is melting?

Continue learning with these books

Suggested Reading:

Scary Creatures Bears by Dr. Gerald Lee and Mark Bergin

Bears by Helen Gilks

More things to talk about:

Are bears mammals?

What do bears eat?

What do bears do in the winter?

Why are polar bears white?

Tickle the funny bone time:

What color socks do bears wear?

They don't wear socks, they have bear feet!

What's black and white, black and white, and black and white?

A panda bear rolling down a hill!

What is black and white and red all over?

A panda bear with a sunburn!

What do you call bears with no ears?

B!

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

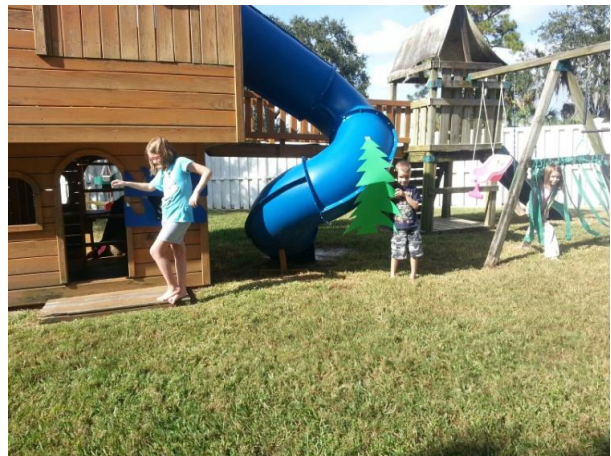
A gummy bear

Get up and move!

Go on a Bear Hunt

There are different versions of this beloved song. Search for *Going on a Bear Hunt Lyrics* and add your own motions or search on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) for videos.

To make it more fun, before acting out you can set up visuals down the hallway or outside along the house. For examples, you will need strips of green paper for tall grass, a poster board tree, and strips of blue papers for waves, etc. according to the lyrics you choose. End up with a “cave” made from chairs with a blanket thrown over it. Place a stuffed bear at the back of the cave.



As things quiet down continuing reading *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*

Read Chapters 6-10

Things to talk about:

Why did Jonathan forget about the big iron pot?

What did Jonathan do when he heard noises in the woods?

Do you think Jonathan was safe under the iron pot?

Who came to help Jonathan?

How did Jonathan know there were bears on Hemlock Mountain?
What did Jonathan learn about how to do chores?
Why did Jonathan's father say something told him they would have bear steaks for supper?
How did the birds, squirrels, and rabbits help Jonathan?

Bible verse suggestion: Have children write the verse on a coloring page or decorate the page with their own bear.

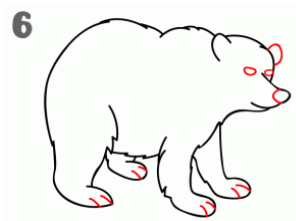
Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

[Search for Bear Coloring Pages](#)



[Search for How to draw a bear](#)



Continue learning as you enjoy a "bear" snack:

Bear Track Cookies

Make your favorite chocolate cookies and decorate with peanut halves and white chocolate cooking wafers



While cookies bake read books about bears.

Suggested Reading:

The Bear in the Book by Kate Banks

Bear by John Schoenherr

Old Bear by Kevin Henkes

Grizzly Bear Family by Audrey Fraggalosch

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

Optional Activities as time permits:

Help the children act out Jonathan's story. Use a cardboard box as the big iron pot. You can act out all the adult parts.

Practice hospitality. Invite guests over. Let the children make and decorate sugar cookies like those made by Jonathan's mother to serve.

Study about animal tracks. Cut out different animal track shapes and place them around the yard. See how many animals your child can identify.