



Bears Don't Wear Shoes Teaching Notes



Bears Don't Wear Shoes

Written and Illustrated by Sharon Davey • Published by New Frontier Publishing

Synopsis

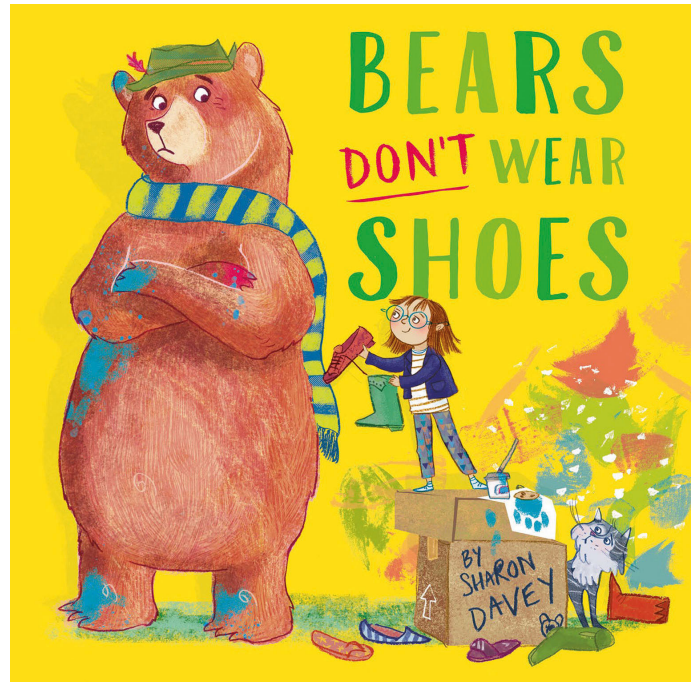
Suzy's family has moved house and everyone is just TOO BUSY to play with her. Eager for someone to play with, Suzy puts up a 'Friend Wanted' advert. When Bear shows up he seems perfect for the job . . . Until he refuses to wear shoes. Can Suzy and Bear still be best friends if Suzy loves shoes but Bear ABSOLUTELY won't wear them?

About the Author/Illustrator

Sharon Davey is a children's illustrator and author who has a past in Theatre Design. Born to a strong northern family, she was indoors a lot as a kid, due to the inclement weather and risk of rosy cheeks. She spent all family occasions under the table drawing characters and tying people's shoelaces together. It was 1990 when her rise to stardom finally arrived and she smoked her competition at the holiday camp's 'colouring in' contest. "I will draw for a living!" she proclaimed on the winner's podium, as she held her certificate. Since then she has been working hard to fulfill that promise to her 9 year old self. With a brief departure into set and costume design for theatre, lasting 15 years, she has always drawn, created and illustrated. If Sharon is not at her desk working, you can find her drinking tea and baking cakes.

Educational Applicability

Bears Don't Wear Shoes is an adorable, funny story about an unusual friendship. The book teaches children to understand and appreciate each other's differences and that best friends don't always need to like the same things. The story also features an inventive, proactive little girl and a surprisingly accomodating bear. At least until it comes to shoes!



Discussion Topics and Activities

Discussion Topics

1. Show the children the front cover of the book and ask them if they can read the title. What do they think the story is about?
2. Have you ever moved house like Suzy? Where did you live first and where did you move to? How did you feel when you moved?
3. Suzy is very proactive when it comes to solving her problems. She wanted someone to play with so she advertises for a friend. Have you ever had a problem that you wanted to solve? What did you do to solve it?
4. Suzy wants a friend who likes some of the same things that she does, like biscuits, colouring in and dressing up. What three things do you like doing, that you think would be fun to do with a friend?
5. Do you think that you have to like all the same things as someone to be friends with them? Do you and your friends always like the same things?
6. Do you like dressing up? What would you dress up as?
7. Why do you think Suzy gave Bear the job in the end? What do you think was more important, being friends with Bear, or the shoes?

Activities

Activity 1 Make Your Own Advert

What kind of animal would you like for a best friend? What characteristics should they have? Make your own 'Friend Wanted' advert in the space below.

Activity 2 Bear Puppet

Make a Bear puppet and take him for a walk.

Activity 3 Word Search

Can you find all 5 hidden words?

Activity 4 Designing Shoes

Design a pair of shoes for Bear or for your best friend. Or both, if you're feeling extra creative!

Activity 5 Memory Game

How well do you remember what happened in *Bears Don't Wear Shoes*? Play the Memory Game to find out!

Activity 6 Adjectives: Bear or Suzy?

Which adjectives are describing Bear and which are describing Suzy?

Make Your Own Advert

When Suzy wanted someone to play with, she put up an advert and she met Bear. Why not create your own advert in the space below. Think about three things that you would want your new friend to like.

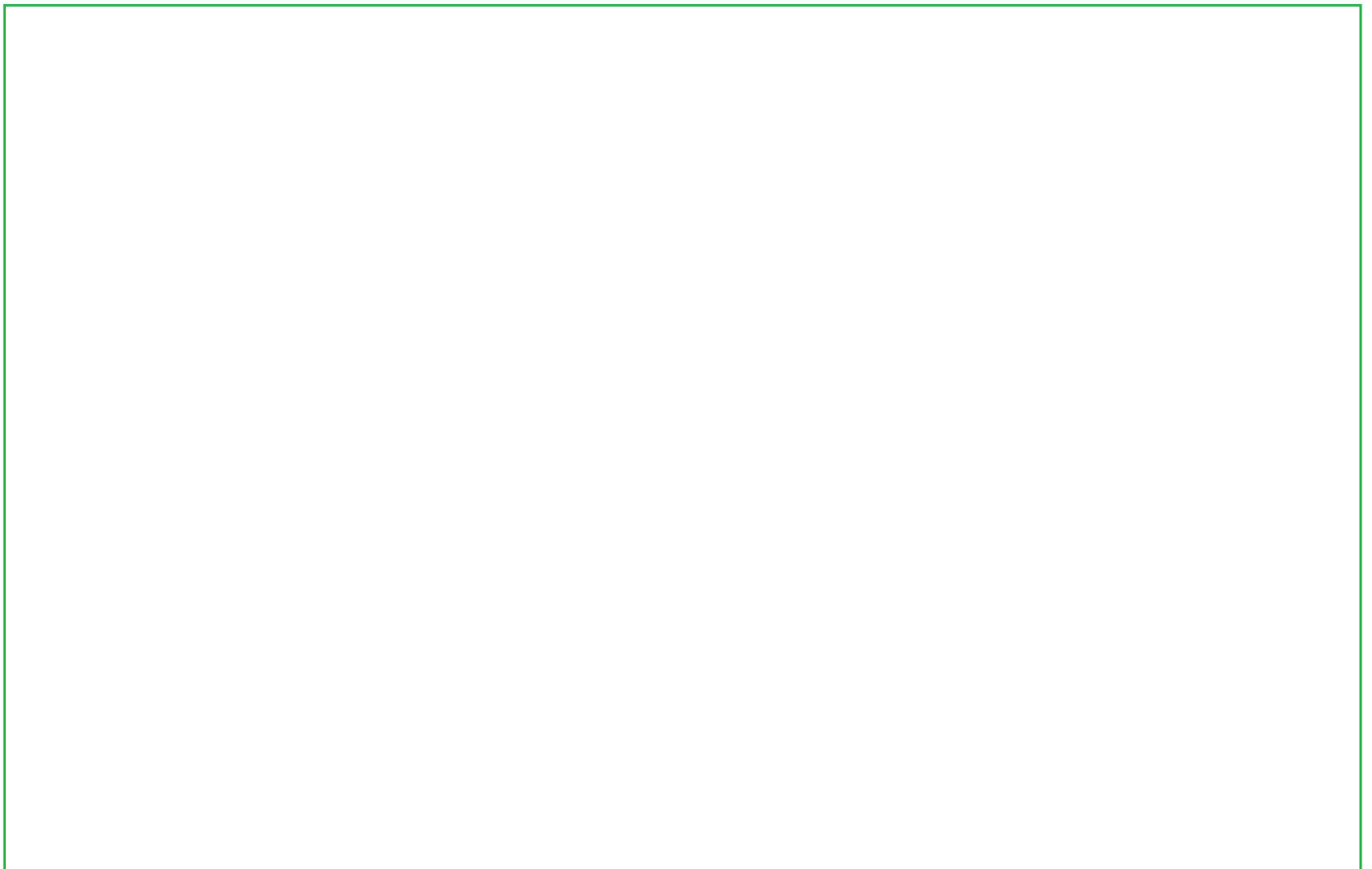


Friend Wanted

Likes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which animal would you most like as a friend? Draw a picture of you and your animal friend in the space below.



Make a Bear Puppet



Take Bear for a walk

1. Colour in Bear (any colour you want!)
2. With the help of a adult cut out Bear (including the two circles).
3. Put your fingers through the holes to make the bear's legs.
4. Where will your bear go today?
Will he meet a new friend?

Word Search

Can you find all 5 words hidden in the puzzle?

Find these words:

- Bear
- Suzy
- Friend
- Paint
- Shoes

S	V	W	R	N	F	T
S	H	O	E	S	Y	N
N	E	O	I	K	Z	I
B	E	A	R	F	U	A
I	N	S	Z	S	S	P
N	O	L	A	E	X	Y
F	R	I	E	N	D	J



Designing Shoes

Choose one of the shoe designing activities below. Or if you're feeling creative, you can print this page twice and do both.

1. We've established that bears most certainly DO NOT wear shoes. But maybe Bear just hasn't found the right type of shoe? Using the outline below, can you design a pair of shoes that Bear would like to wear?

2. Design a pair of shoes for your best friend. Think about the things that they like and how best to incorporate that into a shoe design.



Memory Game

How well do you remember what happened in the story? Below are six pictures from the story but they are jumbled up. Carefully cut them out (ask an adult to help you!) and arrange them in the correct order. Try to retell the story in your own words.

She waited, all day, for a friend.



'And next time, I'll wear the shoes.'



No-one came.

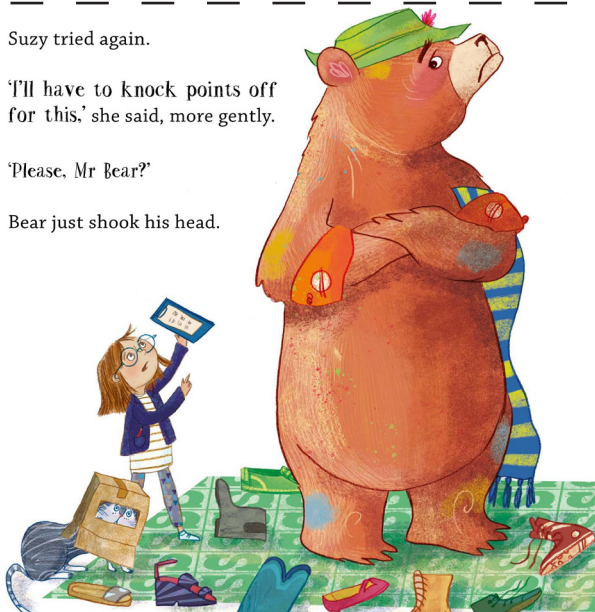
Suzy had made her first friend in a new place . . .

Suzy tried again.

'I'll have to knock points off for this,' she said, more gently.

'Please, Mr Bear?'

Bear just shook his head.



'What about a biscuit? Just one?' begged Suzy.



'Ask your grandma!' said Mum.



Bear was really happy in Grandma's bra and her woolly scarf, and Suzy's floaties.

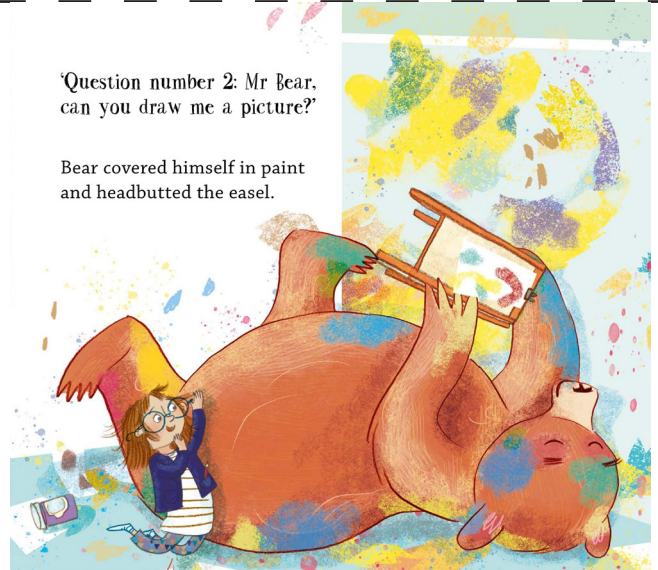
Bear was very good at dressing up . . .



until Suzy handed him a pair of shoes.

'Question number 2: Mr Bear, can you draw me a picture?'

Bear covered himself in paint and headbutted the easel.



Adjectives: Bear or Suzy?

An adjective is a word that describes a noun (the name of a thing or place). For example, take this sentence: The book was exciting. 'Book' is the noun and the word that describes it 'exciting', is the adjective.

Below is a list of 12 adjectives. Can you decide whether they are describing Suzy or Bear? Sort them into the correct column. Some of the words apply to both Suzy and Bear, these words would go into the middle column.

Adjectives

brown small creative hungry
furry big feisty happy messy
silly brave funny curious

Suzy	Both	Bear