



LITTLE BEAR

BY ELSE HOLMELUND MINARIK
PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

ABOUT THE BOOK

Meet Little Bear, a friend to millions of children. And meet Mother Bear, who is there whenever Little Bear needs her. This classic from Else Holmelund Minarik and Maurice Sendak was written in 1957 and remains as beloved today as it was then.

STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- **WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR?** In “Little Bear’s Wish” Little Bear tells his mother a series of wishes and after each one she says, “You can’t have that wish, my Little Bear.” Finally, he requests to hear a story—a wish his mother grants. Ask the children why they think Mother agrees to honor this wish. What type of story does Little Bear ask for? What purpose does the story serve within the context of the book?
- **LITTLE BEAR, BIG DREAMS:** Little Bear has a big imagination, traveling to the moon and meeting mermaids. Discuss imagination with the children. Why is imagination so important? What makes it fun to pretend you are someone else or to discover new places?
- **CALL IT WHAT IT IS:** Why do you think Else Holmelund Minarik didn’t give names to the animals in the Little Bear stories, instead calling them Little Bear, Hen, Owl, etc.? Would you have named them? Why or why not?
- **BIRTHDAY TREATS:** Little Bear makes Birthday Soup to serve his friends when he’s afraid his mother has forgotten to bake him a cake. What types of food do the children like to have on their birthdays? Do their families celebrate milestones with special meals?

