

the BEAR and the MOON



WORDS BY Matthew Burgess

PICTURES BY Cátia Chien



Black Hills READS

BOOK STOP

Activities for 0-5+

About the author

Matthew Burgess is a poet, educator and author known for writing many children's books. He is an Associate Professor at Brooklyn College, and was a poet-in-residence in New York City public schools for many years. Currently, he fills the role as a senior editor of Teachers & Writers Magazine.

It is best to read together, often. Plan time to read this book to your children or class a few times. There is another book in this resource too if you'd like to add it to your weekly plan!

This audio from the author is recommended for caregivers or educators to listen to:

TeachingBooks Book Reading | The Bear and the Moon.



Before Reading

Talk with children about what a friend is. Ask them to describe what friends do together and what a friend might do. To share about opposites, talk about what is not friendly.

New Words:

snooze	curious
investigate	boulder
breeze	memory

Point out words with words with double consonants:

slipped	wobbled
furry	dipped
puddle	



While you Read

Read the first page, then ask children about what the bear sees. Tell them it is the perspective, or way of seeing. Allow children time to lie down and look up. Ask them to imagine the trees above them too.

Ask children what colors does bear see on page 3? Provide red and silver if they don't recall. Have them show you a round shape with their hands.

Gross motor activity during reading:

If you have time, invite children to interact during reading. They can dance and wobble, balance, walk, curl into a ball and roll.

Ask them to describe and show you what the words “drifted” and “floating” might look like too using their head and/or arms. Ask them to show what “squishable” and “huggable” looks like.

Rhyme Time during reading:

Children can touch their nose every time they hear a rhyme. Demonstrate throughout the book to help them.

Activities for after reading.

Recall: Ask children what they notice about the bear's interactions with the balloon. What do they do together? How do we know the bear is friends with the balloon?

When the balloon pops, what can we tell about how the bear feels? How does his face look and what does he think or try to do to fix it?

Ask children what they remember about the colors in the book after the balloon broke? Help them to notice that in the story it was nearing night time, but the bear's mood was also sad and dark.

Ask children about when the full moon rose and how they think the bear was feeling.

Have children describe a memory from their own life, taking turns.



Connect the text to life with this cute **video** of a real black bear cub playing with a red balloon.

Dates that coordinate:

July 30th *International Day of Friendship*

Activity 1

Balloon Painting

18 months + This is a fun activity for all ages.

Materials:

- drop cloth or newspapers to cover the tables
- variety of paint colors (acrylic or finger paint)
- balloons
- paper plates, one for each color of paint
- aprons
- large paper, 1 per child



Instructions:

- 1 Ahead of time, lay out newspapers or roll out a drop cloth onto the table or the floor.
- 2 Blow up balloons slightly so they are still easy for small hands to hold.
- 3 Pour paint onto the plates, one color per plate. For larger groups, prepare several plates per table.
- 4 Help children into their aprons.
- 5 Each child gets a paper. For younger children, write their names on the back ahead of time. Older children can write their names themselves.
- 6 Demonstrate: hold a balloon, dip it into the paint and then make a mark on the clean paper to 'paint' with a balloon.
- 7 Let children explore painting with balloons, using as many colors as they like

Activity 2

Friend Drawing & Writing

Ages 4+

Instructions:

Give children time to draw a picture of a friend and write about the drawing they made of their friend. Children can write words or a sentence.

Links!
Document

Activity 3

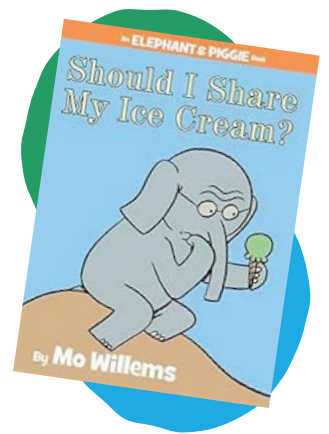
Friendship Ice Cream

Connect with another text to make friendship ice cream.

Instructions:

When teaching children about literacy it is good to connect to real life and other texts. You can read this book too! It is also about friendship and sharing: *Should I Share My Ice Cream?* By Mo Willems. Make friendship ice cream found on the Mama Smiles blog.

Links!
Blog



Materials:

- balloon
- 4 bottle caps for wheels
- 1 straw
- hot glue gun
- toilet paper tube
- electrical tape
- 2 skewers
- scissors



Links!
Video*

**Video may vary slightly from the version in this activity*

Activity 4

STEM Balloon Powered Car

Physics for kids! Make a balloon-powered car.

Ages 4+

Note: you can adjust this for younger children by doing some assembly ahead of time for them.

Instructions:

1

Cut the skewers slightly wider than the toilet paper roll and punch 2 sets of holes through the toilet paper tube. These will be for the wheels of the car.

2

Adults can hot glue the bottle tops to the ends of the skewers like the picture.



3

Secure the straw to the base of the toilet paper tube with electrical tape lengthwise. Attach the balloon to the straw with electrical tape at the back of the car.

4

To inflate the balloon, blow air through the straw, then pinch the straw to keep the air inside.

5

Place the car on a flat surface, release the straw and watch the car zoom forward powered by the escaping air from the balloon.

Activity 5

Circle of Friends Art

Ages 2-4+

Instructions:

- 1 Pour a small amount of finger paint onto each plate. With help, children can, one at a time, gently dip their hand in the paint of their choice.
- 2 Alternatively, demonstrate how to use a brush to paint their hands.
- 3 Next, children press their hand onto the circle to create a circle of connected hands. It is ok if they overlap. Help children wash up right away after or go to another piece of paper to continue finger painting.
- 4 To extend the activity: practice writing, after the paint dries, children can take turns to print their names inside their handprint with a marker.

Materials:

- aprons
- a variety of finger paints
- large paint brushes, one for each color of paint
- poster board or large paper, draw a circle in the middle with pencil
- markers





About Black Hills Reads

Black Hills Reads is United Way of the Black Hills early education initiative, which helps ensure children are proficient readers by the end of third grade. Black Hills Reads promotes early learning and literacy opportunities for early learners under nine and their families throughout the Black Hills.

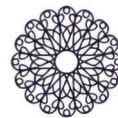


<https://unitedwayblackhills.org/black-hills-reads/>

Thank You!

"It is with gratitude that we are able to work with other outstanding resources already available and I am truly happy to share those in this set of activities with you."

-Cary A. Thrall



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