

Lone Bear

Grades: K-3

Lone Bear loved his forest. In his mind, it was his food, his fish, his river, his den. He didn't want to share with anyone. Over time, he had chased all the animals away and scared the birds from their nests. They were not good enough to be his friends. Even though he was happy not sharing, he did wish there was someone to play with that would not bother him when he wanted to be alone.

One day he found a very old woodcutter's ax with the blade still sharp, glimmering in the sun. This ax gave him a great idea; he would carve an imaginary friend from the trunk of a very tall tree.

He wanted a perfect friend who was pleasing to the eye and he would imagine him to be smart, clever, and kind. He sang a song and carved all through the day and night. He was disappointed to see his first effort so ugly. The face and hands looked old and gnarley. He carved again and sang, but this time the tree statue looked mangled and twisted with a snarling face. He sang and carved one last time but the final friend looked sad, depressed, and lonely – no fun at all. This would not do. He growled in frustration. He tossed the ax into the woods and returned to his den where he fell fast asleep. But (*something*) happened in the forest that night. (*Children fill in an action.*)

The bear awoke to a long low growl he heard coming from somewhere deep in the dark clump of trees. He rushed from the cave, claws ready to fight the intruder and protect his territory. He froze as he found himself peering deep into the downcast eyes of a sad giant bear holding the woodcutter's ax gently in his hands. This strange intruder looked exactly like the lonely bear who had been his statue only hours before

Suddenly the sad bear did (*something*) to show he wanted to be friends. (*Children fill in an action.*) The bear felt his heart almost explode with joy. He had a real true friend at last. But even in the forest, magic only happens at night, and as the sun peeked through the leaves of the trees, the tall sad bear turned back into a wooden tree statue. The bear howled at the sun in anguish, then sat upon the ground and sang to the friend he would never know.

As he sang, the words curled around the heart of the old carved tree statue. As the bear finished his song and rose to lumber away, he felt the warm presence of another bear behind him. He turned in amazement to find a forever friend come to life to stay. The two friends lived for the rest of their lives in the woods, sharing fish, the river, and even the den. Many animals returned to the forest and birds sang from nests above in celebration of friendship.

Special thanks to Darci Scafidi who helped develop this story based on "The Old Statue Maker" story.

INTEGRATION

Social/Emotional Learning
- Friendship

CONCEPTS/SKILLS

TEACHER'S NOTES

Narrate the story while the students act it out.

This is a partner story that has students planning and practicing together. Also, you might want to teach playing animal characters upright before or with this story.



Supplemental Teaching Strategies, Hints, Tips

The following pages are resources designed to help

Available to members

