

***The Big Dreaming* by Michael Rosen**

Sensory Suggestions to accompany the audio book

Notes on using the props with the audiobook:

- For most of the sections we have one set of suggestions for a calm bedtime story and then some additional suggestions for a slightly livelier version using more props. The additional suggestions may be more suitable for sharing the story in a classroom. But feel free to just pick and mix to suit you and your child.
- Generally, it is best to choose just one of our prop suggestions from each section. Choose the one that you think your child will enjoy most. (Or feel free to include your own sensory ideas.)
- If you are sharing this story with a group of children in the classroom you may want to have multiple copies of the props and some other adults to help you.
- During the audio book there will be times when you are sharing props with your child and times when you are just listening to the story together.
- It is fine to just include one or two props, for example, a little bit of confetti at the beginning and at the end.

Section 1: *From...Big Bear looked up...to...I'll go and look for some dreams.*

Bedtime story suggestions

Use brown, red or yellow confetti for the leaves falling in autumn – let the confetti gently fall on your child. Alternatively cut little leaf shapes from tissue paper or experiment with other paper, for example, pages from an old magazine, and use this ‘confetti’ in the same way.

Additional classroom story suggestions

Try using an ice pack to represent the coming cold. If the child, you are sharing the story with can cope with strong smells you might want to try letting them sniff some pine oil for the smell of the forest.

Section 2: *From...Little Bear wandered...to....and on he walked. (Squirrel section)*

Bedtime story suggestions

Try using a handwarmer heat pack – these can be bought online or in outdoor shops. Tie it into a little drawstring bag and let your child feel the heat of the summer.

Real, fake or tissue paper flowers would also be good to use to represent summer. Or you could try using a scent or soap that has a summery smell (e.g. rose).

Additional classroom story suggestions

A lamb's wool duster can be good for representing the squirrel with her bushy tail. Or you could use a squirrel puppet if your learners would enjoy that.

Section 3: From *Little Bear wandered...to...and on he walked.* (Rabbit section)

Bedtime story suggestions

With your index finger 'draw' a long winding 'path' on your child's arm and/or back. This is the 'path all the way home'.

Additional classroom story suggestions

A large white pom-pom (for a hat) can be good for representing the rabbit with her little round tail. Or you could use a rabbit puppet.

Section 4: From *Little Bear wandered...to...and on he walked.* (Wolf section)

Bedtime story suggestions

Using a large scarf cover yourself and your child while you listen to the part of the story where everything goes dark. (A navy blue or black scarf is good for this – but any colour will do.) Pull the scarf away when the moon comes back. Most children prefer to be covered with something that is a little bit see-through.

Alternatively, you could cover a large circle of card with silver foil – hold this up in front of your child, pull it away and hide it behind your back and then make it re-appear when the moon comes back.

Additional classroom suggestions:

Use some fur-fabric mittens to represent the wolf. Let your learners all feel these. Or try a wolf puppet!

Section 5: From *As Little Bear turned...to...lost and scared.*

Bedtime story suggestions:

Use some white confetti for the snow and let this gently fall on your child as above. Or cut up some tiny pieces of white tissue paper to use.

Additional classroom suggestions:

Try blowing gently into a whistle to make wind noises for this section.

Section 6: From *But then he remembered....to...rushed towards it.*

Bedtime story suggestions:

Repeat each of the dream props you used before as Little Bear thinks about the dreams he has heard.

Section 7: From *You're back...to...all the way to spring.*

Bedtime story suggestions:

Tuck your child up in their favourite blanket to mimic the 'snuggling down' of the two bears.

Additional classroom story suggestions:

Use some wind chimes or something like make a dreamlike noise at the end. You could finish with some birdsong, using a bird whistle or sound effect.