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It's Thanksgiving time for the Berenstain Bears, but danger lurks. The legendary monster of all monsters, Bigpaw, is coming to Bear Country! Full color.

## **The Berenstain Bears' Thanksgiving Details**

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## From Reader Review The Berenstain Bears' Thanksgiving for online ebook

### Madison says

I picked up the book trying to find a good Thanksgiving book for my kids. While the rhyming was pretty good the storyline was not what I expected. It started with an old superstition that told of a monster named BigPaw who would come down and destroy the town when people stopped being nice to strangers and sharing.

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### Nancy says

I read this book from my Kindle Fire. The story was a little small for my vision, but I got through it. Papa Bear is again the one, who thinks he knows it all. The Mama Bear and Papa Bear and Brother Bear and Sister Bear hear the story of Big Paw, and how he will come and eat all of your food, if you don't share. Brother and Sister bear go out picking mixed nuts off of one tree, because they are Papa Bear's favorite. Big Paw comes by and saves them when they fall, and they learn that he is really nice and friendly. Papa Bear gets the whole town worked up, and they go out to destroy Big Paw. Little Brother and Little sister defend Big Paw, as he once again saves their lives.

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### Keli Wright says

needed to be more about the holiday ..the title was misleading!

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### Luna says

loved it

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### Miri says

It's thanksgiving time and while mama is reading the honey comb she sees a huge paw print, a sign of the legend of Bigpaw, a giant who is supposed to come and destroy bear country if the bears become too greedy and ignore the needy. When the town gathers to destroy Bigpaw, it's up to brother and sister bear to show them that he isn't evil at all.

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### Alice says

First of all Berenstain Bears are always excellent. This book was a little long but it was still great!!! The gentle BigPaw, and the Thanksgiving Lore was an interesting twist. I liked the rhyming and the story was

great! Another great one!!

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## Cindy says

Copyright 1997, this is a Scholastic book. Preschool through elementary age. Told in rhyme.

Mama bear has a bad premonition that the huge monster - Bigpaw is coming. A horrible rampaging monster according to Papa bear, Big paw is actually misunderstood. Of course Papa bear is always right & he organizes a mob to run up the mountain to take care of the Bigpaw problem. Brother & Sister bear prove that Bigpaw is an ok guy & he gets invited to Thanksgiving dinner.

My kids enjoyed this story & it was a favorite at Thanksgiving.

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## Andrea says

I liked this animation the best out of all of their books that I've read. It isn't the usual sketchy, drawing-looking kind of art. It seems the story might have benefited from not rhyming.

It was a neat custom to read the honeycomb like a tea leaf or something, and it had its own little song to go with it and everything. But so out of character for the mom to do that. I'm surprised the authors had her do something like that, because it's nothing like her. She's always so sensible and proper.

"Honeycomb dribble, honeycomb drip, what lies ahead? A handsome stranger? Money? A trip? Grizzly growl, grizzly grum, warn us of any danger to come!"

It was cute how she put flower on the honey that dripped from the comb, blew and all of the flour went onto Papa's face. Her face was just as white though because of what the image showed. A huge paw print, that of a giant bear.

It was kind of a strange tale that when the bears of Bear Country got too greedy and fat and didn't share their bounty, the monster of monsters would come and gobble up Bear Country county by county. It was such a change of positions to have Papa Bear mocking her and saying it's nonsense, because that's always her role to bring sense into a situation. But, of course, Mama Bear is always right. It gets so old.

The page where Papa Bear is with the cubs telling them to forget about it, because he knows best about holidays was so cute! He likes all of the holidays, and it shows four little scenes of his head, with snowflakes for eyes for winter, flowers for spring, suns for summer and leaves for fall. Such a cute idea. He lists what he does for all of the holidays. On Arbor Day he talks to the trees, and there's a picture of him with a caption that says "Hello, tree!"

It was kind of amusing when it lists the legend again, saying when bears are insufficiently kind to the needy, and had a couple walking by a bear with a hat out for money and ignoring him, and giving them no more than a tail and a wing, and having two shabbily dressed bears licking their lips as someone only throws them one leg and one wing, and says "then Bigpaw would come AND DO THIS THING!" And he's tearing through the town eating houses.

Some of the rhyming could have been better. "...dripping with butter. So yummiily yummy! So utterly utter!"

It has no meaning.

The lesson came to be clear that Papa Bear only likes Thanksgiving for the food, and his favorite is mixed nuts, so the cubs go out to pick his favorite treat. While there the forest starts shaking and they fall out of the tree, only to be caught by Bigpaw. It was nice that they caught him.

The picture of him holding them in his paw, him just looking down at them, and them peering up at him was cute. And I really liked the line that said the normally talkative cubs were stuck dumb.

“For you see, the cubs had been caught in mid-air in the dumpster-sized paw of a monster-sized bear. It was Bigpaw, of course. The monster HAD come. Talk about scared! The normally talkative cubs were struck dumb.

Suffice it to say, something surprising happened that day. With a bit of a smile and nary a sound, he gently placed them down on the ground.

What a shock! What a surprise! For despite his manner and imposing size, Bigpaw was nice, gentle, and shy—a friendly, helpful sort of guy.”

The cubs immediately recognize that the legend is wrong and they need to go back and share the truth.

And so cute that when they ran off he was left holding their little bucket of nuts between two fingers, called out “Little cubs! Little cubs! You forgot your mixed nuts!”

The cubs tell their parents about Bigpaw but Papa doesn't hear the nice part. Mama is determined to welcome the stranger whether he's nice or not. Papa sends for the Bear National Guard, and it was a nice touch that they had the poster “Bear Country wants you!” like the Uncle Sam posters of old.

The author stressed their mistakes, by saying that they were giving in to their fears, putting the cart of fear before the horse of understanding, that they weren't bears of their own, they were a dangerous mob and had an arsenal of weapons and deadly intent. Arsenal and intent are too big to use in here, so smaller synonyms would have been nice. He went on to use teetered, defiant and defense which were also too big.

The mob goes up the hill, because they're heard Bigpaw roar—he was really yawning—but they thought he was going to attack them. Bigpaw senses trouble and gets a pile of boulders to push down on them. Right in the nick of time Sister yells to stop, and he protects them from the rock pile that's about to fall down. Bigpaw was cute holding Sister and Brother on each arm.

They have him over for Thanksgiving dinner. I don't know how he fit into their house! They should have eaten outside. Bigpaw gave him the bucket of nuts the cubs left behind and it was a good holiday for all.

I enjoyed this read and the lessons it taught about not jumping to conclusions and treating everyone right, especially those that are misunderstood. It shows you can be wrong about someone and that rumors can be false. Treating people right is the moral of the story, and that is always a nice lesson for kids to learn. I wish there had been more with them all together at the end. It always feels so unfinished and incomplete. There could have been a lot more. I definitely wanted more conversations, like for Papa at least to thank him for the nuts or something, or for them to talk about the past and their mistakes, like for Papa to apologize for the mob and tell Bigpaw something about him being a good bear. I want to know their friendship continues past Thanksgiving.

## Dolly says

While the intent of this book was good, I wasn't impressed with it overall. It preached the values of kindness, thankfulness, the dangers of mob violence and group think, and for not hating those you don't know. But it was awfully long and contrived and just didn't really fit together well. Our girls pretty much lost interest about half way through the book.

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## Heather says

This writing is so surprising after the last book I read by them, Berenstain Bears and the Prize Pumpkin. 'They're reading the harvest honeycomb.' That made it sound like a newspaper. I'm guessing it's actually a recipe, because they're making something.

Then in a weird turn, it turns out to be some kind of spell. 'What lies ahead? A handsome stranger? Money? A trip?' Why would a married woman saying a spell about a handsome stranger?

'both had turned white. Pa from the flour, Mama from fright.' She wouldn't get *that* white from fear; she looks like Pa does and he's the one that had flour on his face. Why would she be that scared, just because of a little accident?

This is so weird. The flour and honey make a sign in the pan, of a giant's footprint. What kind of warning would that even mean? &how in the world does flour and honey make a sign anyway? It's not like it's a witches brew.

'Good grief and alas' doesn't make sense. It would sound better if Bigpaw ate the people that were selfish, not 'gobble up Bear Country county and county.'

This took a totally different turn than what I thought. When I saw this on goodreads, and saw the big bear, I seem to remember him being a family member, and was simply coming to visit. Imagine my surprise when he's no family member, but is instead a monster in a legend!

It's odd how they said Bigpaw was bigger than 'Paul Bunyan's horse' because they don't put human's names in here, they usually change it to fit the word bear, like Bear Bunyan. So it was weird to read that.

This could have been worded better. I didn't like the ditto part. 'With shoulders like boulders, ditto his knees, with paws big as dumpsters and arms thick as trees.' He can't have paws bigger than dumpsters!! Unless you mean trashcans, and even that's big.

I liked the part where Papa Bear said he liked all seasons, whether winter, spring, summer or fall and each one had something over his eyes to represent the season, like snowflakes, flowers, the sun, and leaves.

I like this line: 'And your Pa has perfect holiday habits. On Easter, I always make way for rabbits.'

It's odd how he said he's perfect on holidays, and goes to mention springtime, which isn't a holiday, Earth Day, Arbor Day, which most wouldn't consider holidays.

Some rhymes aren't as good: 'Then Bigpaw would come AND DO HIS THING.'

And 'So yummiily yummy! So utterly utter!'

This was funny: 'So as you can see in Papa Bear's case, all Thanksgiving meant was feeding his face.' And this: 'And I almost forgot, no ifs, ands, or buts, my favorite treat...' 'We know, Papa, MIXED NUTS!'

This was funny: 'The monster HAD come. Talk about scared! The normally talkative cubs were struck dumb.'

Omg his hair! It looks like he has bangs!

This is sweet! 'Suffice it to say, something surprising happened that day. With a bit of a smile, and nary a sound, he gently placed them down on the ground.'

'For despite his manner and imposing size, Bigpaw was nice, gentle, and shy--a friendly, helpful sort of a guy.'

'Though he was powerful, fearsome, and tall, the monster called Bigpaw was no monster at all.'

That's sweet how he called after them that they forgot their mixed nuts!

Haha! 'Pa didn't hear the positive part. All he heard was "Bigpaw." The name struck terror in Papa Bear's

heart.'

Omg he called the Bear National Guard! That sign Bear Country Wants You! How funny!

I really like the rhyming on these pages. It's gotten better as the book goes along.

'Alas, Mama's protest

Fell on deaf ears,

The bears of Bear Country

Gave in to their fears.'

'Mama's advice

Notwithstanding,

They put the cart of fear

Before the horse

Of understanding.'

-Good line! Mama Bear's face is funny, standing there with her arms crossed, while the town is ready to go hunt Bigpaw.

'To arms! There's no time to fuss.

We've got to get him

Before he gets us.'

Haha!

I love these rhymes!: 'They were no longer bears with minds of their own.'

'The bears had become a dangerous mob.'

Where did they get swords at?

'Now Bigpaw was certainly no mental wizard.

But he was getting a feeling

Down deep in his gizzard

That trouble was coming.'

That's so sweet how the rocks were about to fall, and 'there came through the din

A cub's high-pitched yell. "Wait!" It was Sister.'

- 'Brother and Sister,

Small and defiant,

Had positioned themselves

In defense of the giant.'

'Bigpaw's our friend.

He's very nice.

He saved us once.

Now he's rescued us twice.'

Papa Bear said they'd learned to share with their neighbors, but I thought he should have said something about not believing some legends, and judging people, and how he was wrong about his assumption of Bigpaw.

It ended the way we all knew it would, Bigpaw came over for thanksgiving.

Once I think on it, the book really didn't feel thanksgiving-ish at all. The dinner was on the last page, and then it just suddenly ended. I wish more time had been spent on the actual dinner, and I wish the book had felt more like Thanksgiving.

However, I liked the story and the rhymes more as the book went along, and I liked the funny parts in here. It

was a cute story.

I wish there was a picture of the authors! They don't on goodreads either. I was sad to read that Stan died in 2005.

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### **Skylar Burris says**

Since my daughter keeps track of time in terms of holidays, we have now moved on to the Thanksgiving-themed books. Thanksgiving is the last of the holidays to maintain some slight barrier against the encroachment of commercialization, but that doesn't mean there can't be a Bernstein Thanksgiving Legend! So here is a long, rhymed story about a giant bear that awakens when people are greedy and don't share...or not...because, contrary to legend, he's really a nice sort of fellow...because, after all, people should share and welcome strangers even IF there is no threat of punishment by hellfire and brimstone or, in this case, by giant pillaging bears. A decent message, all in all, and not horribly written, but not wonderfully rhythmic either.

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### **Penny says**

While the rhythm is a bit off, my kids still liked this story. I think the success is all in the telling and how you read it. On my first attempt at a read through it was dry because I was just reading it. I invested myself in a theatrical telling to read it to the kids and that made all the difference. I encourage any parent reading this to your children to pay attention to rhythm, but read it with real flair. The story will come to life if you go big and over the top with it.

The book's story reminds me of a lot of other stories I've read. It all starts with a little fortune telling trick. It foretold that something terribly bad was coming, Bigpaw! Bigpaw comes to town and isn't what anyone expects, but no one can see that because they're too worked up about how they're going to deal with this monster that will terrorize them all. (Somewhere in here I kept seeing flashes of mirror and that song, "Kill the Beast" all Disney style here).

The moral of the story is to be kind to strangers. In their fear of Bigpaw, they almost brought upon them the very monster they feared, which was nothing more than a monster of their own making. It's a good thing the Berenstain cubs were around to save the day!

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### **Melki says**

I'm not sure how I missed reading this one to my youngest when he was just a tot, but it's okay - I forced him to put down his controller while I read it to him today. We both enjoyed this tale of the Bears' holiday, and their unexpected guest - the dreaded Bigpaw. (And you thought having your relatives over was bad!) A splendid repast is shared happily, and there are no arguments about sports teams or politics. In other words . . . a total fantasy.

Recommended for moms, dads, and even nineteen-year-olds who would rather be fighting knights and zombies.

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