



# The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Grownups

*Stan Berenstain , Jan Berenstain*

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Illus. in full color. Brother and Sister Bear's parents always seem to be nagging them about something, so the cubs decide to show how their parents annoy them by creating a play entitled "The Trouble with Grownups." Then Mama and Papa put on their own role-reversal skit, and everyone winds up learning something about themselves.

## The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Grownups Details

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### Shelli says

It was nice to see Mama Bear not be "the perfect mother" for once. Like all parents do from time to time, Papa and Mama both are being a bit short with their children... or cubs. Their frustration with the kids cause the cubs to become frustrated with the parents, the viscous cycle. Brother and Sister came up with idea to showcase their frustrations during the school talent show buy putting on a comedic true(ish) to life play called "The Trouble with Grownups." This book was a good reminder to stop for a moment and see the situation from the other persons perspective. Compromises and understandings will greatly increase.

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### Laura Carby says

This is a great book to read to students because sometimes they forget that you have to listen to adults. Sometimes children think that they can do whatever they please and that adults don't know anything. Little do they know, that many adults are filled with rich knowledge and it would be a good thing to listen to them!

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### Emily Garrison says

This book was published in 1992 by Random House Publishers and is a book in the First Time Books series. This story starts out by telling us that there is a storm brewing inside the Bear family house. This evening, Papa is upset because Brother has taken the sports section of his paper to read and Mama is annoyed with Sister because she's been on the phone an hour. More trouble arises at dinner when the cubs are counting peas and making volcanoes with their mashed potatoes. Both Mama and Papa are extremely short tempered and the cubs are getting the brunt of it. In the morning, more trouble arises because the cubs have forgotten to give Mama and Papa a note from school to tell them they'll be having a Parent's Night and they need to stay late at school tonight to prepare. The cubs talked on their way to school that their parents love them, but they are difficult to get along with. For the upcoming talent show, the cubs determine they'll put on a play called "The Trouble with Grownups". The cubs wrote their own play and memorized their parts, they even got Gran to help with the costumes. The play was a hit but it really made Mama and Papa realize how sometimes, they might talk to sternly with the cubs because it was those moments which showed up in the play, those moments that really stuck in the cubs memories. Mama and Papa told the cubs their play helped them realize what it was like to be a cub.

The next morning, Mama and Papa had a surprise for the cubs. They came to breakfast dressed as the cubs! That day, Mama and Papa made messes, played with their food, complained about meals, ran through the house, slammed doors.... The identity swap that had taken place the last two days was a success! Mama and Papa had a better idea of what it's like to be a cub and the cubs had a better idea of what it's like to be a grownup.

The life lesson from this story is that it's important to put yourself in others shoes so you can see what it's like from their point of view. Sometimes, grownups get grumpy and take it out on kids, and sometimes kids get grumpy and take it out on grownups. It's important to remember that consideration of others is a giant

step toward getting along.

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### **Ethan says**

Mama and Papa Bear are always mad at the cubs when they get into trouble. So they go to the night talent show at the cubs' school. At the talent show, the cubs put on a show called "The Trouble with Grownups." Papa Bear got grumpy at himself because he saw that he was always mad at the cubs. Mama Bear just cries and laughs when she saw the show. When the cubs wake up the next morning, there is a big surprise. They go into the kitchen and they see Mama and Papa dressed up as the cubs. They wanted to show the cubs what it's like being a grownup. Mama Bear who was dressed as Sister Bear said "I hope we're not having that ooey gooey oatmeal", and then Papa Bear said "ooey gooey oatmeal, ooey gooey oatmeal" and then they all went into the living room and it was a mess with things scattered on the ground. At the end, they all learned from each other.

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### **Rosa Cline says**

The meaning and lesson in this book is a good one but the story just didn't quite 'bring it home'. It drug out a little much and my granddaughter starting loosing interest. She very rarely ever looses interest in these books. Mama and Papa are always arguing or fussing and the cubs; and so the cubs decide to do a play and show the adults how it really feels to be around them, and then in turn the adults do the same for the kids. So they each can know what's been going on within their house.

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### **Sarah Winters says**

A little longer of a book but this book is something children can relate to. It is a little older of a book/series but I think the illustrations are classic and children would like them. Recommended for second to fourth graders.

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### **Latifah Williams says**

I think this book like many Berenstain Bears book would do a good job in teaching a lesson. The book is written from the perspective of Brother Bear and Sister Bear who feels that Papa Bear and Moma Bear are constantly nagging. I choose this book for my text set because of the message of respect for adults, no matter relation. As a literacy teacher, I will prompt a discussion on children taking care of their responsibilities. I believe students will be engaged in it because they all have responsibilities whether it is in the home or completing homework. The author does a good job in making the text relatable to lives of children and keeping the story unpredictable and humorous.

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### **Olivia Bailey says**

All students can relate to the problem that children have with parents. The book shows them a healthy way to

express how they feel about the parents nagging. They put on a play about it to show the parents how it feels. The students can come up with ways to express their feeling to their parents about what is bothering them. A way to do that could be writing a letter to the parents. Students could then practice how to write a letter.

In reverse, the little bears learn about how hard it is to be a grownup. I would come up with a game where the students must go through the day being grown up and doing certain things that grown ups do such as drive, pay bills, work, etc. The students could also write about their experience of being grown up for a day.

I would tie them together to show the students about different perspectives. Everyone sees things differently and we have to be mindful of others.

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## **Nicole says**

One of my favorites from when I was a kid. :)

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