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Activity Guide

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Beady Bear

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ABOUT THE STORY

Although Beady Bear, a stuffed teddy bear, is happy with his owner Thayer, Beady decides to experience the life of a real bear after learning that bears live in caves, not houses. His experience proves to Beady that he is not, after all, a real bear, and that he needs Thayer as much as Thayer needs Beady.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

A native Californian who worked his way to New York as a musician, Don Freeman then pursued an art career that eventually led him to create many picture books for children. As prolific as he was popular, Mr. Freeman, who passed away in 1978, left a legacy of books that have delighted and continue to delight generations of new readers. Among his best-loved stories is *Corduroy*, another Live Oak Readalong.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the children to describe their favorite toys. Have them tell how they would feel if the toy they like best were missing. Then tell them that the story they will read is about a missing teddy bear that is a boy's favorite toy.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why did Beady go to live in the cave?"
- "What is the first thing Beady Bear thought he needed when he moved to the cave?" (*Time order*)
- "What is the third thing Beady Bear went to bring back to the cave?" (*Time order*)
- "What did Thayer bring Beady Bear?"
- "Why do you think Thayer and Beady Bear needed each other?" (Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

Point out to children that the author uses many contractions in the story. Write these contractions on the chalkboard. Then have children write two words that are combined in each contraction.

he'd	hasn't	it's	couldn't
there's	who's	I'm	didn't

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Alphabet Animals

Point out to children that the first letters in "Beady" and "Bear" are the same. Have them think of animals and adjectives that can describe the animals that begin with each letter of the alphabet, such as "Angry Alligator", "Curious Cat", and so on. Write their suggestions on the chalkboard.

Science: Real Bears

Beady Bear learns that real bears live in caves. Ask children to use reference books to find out more facts about real bears. Have each child write down three facts about bears that they can share with the class.

Social Studies: History of Teddy Bears

Children can use an encyclopedia or other reference book to find out about the history of teddy bears. Help them locate information on the origin of the name "teddy bear".

Language Arts: Thinking With Thayer Guessing Game

Point out to children that Thayer's name begins with the consonant blend *th*. Ask children these questions:

- Thayer is thinking of a word that means "not fat". What is it? (*thin*)
- Thayer is thinking of a word that rhymes with "brick". What is it? (*thick*)
- Thayer is thinking of something people use when sewing. What is it? (*thread*)
- Thayer is thinking of something people say when someone has done them a favor? What is it? (*Thank you*)

Children can continue the game with their own questions.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Teddy Bears

Using the keywords teddy bears, have children find pictures of teddy bears on the Internet. Each child can print out a picture of a bear they admire. Collect the pictures in a class teddy bear book.