

There's No Such Thing

By Heidi McKinnon

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Bear can't sleep. Did you hear that? Did you feel that? What was it? It wasn't a hungry giant or a blood-sucking spider or a fire-breathing dragon because there is NO SUCH THING... Is there?



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Reassurance
- Dealing with fears

Discussion Questions & Activities:

Before opening There's No Such Thing look at the title and cover design and ask questions such as:

- What sort of animal is the larger character? What do you think the smaller character might be?
- Look at the face of the larger character and see if you can guess how he is feeling?
- Is the smaller character feeling that way, too? What things on his face tell you this?
- Do you think this story will be told in the daytime or night? What things on the cover give you a clue?

After Reading:

- Why do you think Bear gets so scared by everything outside his tent?
- What does he imagine every time he hears or feels something?
- Is Ted as scared as Bear?
- What does Ted say to calm Bear every time he becomes scared?
- Bear wasn't right to be scared about monsters, but he was right. Can you explain?
- Ask students if they have ever heard the saying, 'A picture is worth a thousand words' and discuss what the saying means. Turn to the page where Bear finally closes his eyes and is thinking of nice things. Look closely at the nice things he is thinking of and make a list of as many as you can. After compiling the list can you guess what Bear cares about more than anything else?
- Explain to students that sometimes the way a word is presented on a page tells us more than the word itself. Turn to the page where the word Screeep! appears and encourage students to (a) describe the differences between this and the words on the opposite page and (b) how the way it looks changes the sound of the word when it is read out loud. Now turn to the page where Bear screamed 'SOMETHING TOUCHED MY FOOT!' and describe how the way the look of the word/sound 'GAAAAAAA!!' tells us a lot about how Bear said it.
- Ask students if they found the ending of the book funny and why? Talk about what they thought might happen at the end of the story as it was being read to them and how the real ending differed from what they expected. Why is it funnier that Ted makes the final discovery when Bear is asleep? Can students name any other books, movies or TV shows where there was a surprise twist at the end?