

How to Make Friends: A Bear's Guide

By Cat Rabbit

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Bear has lots of friends if you count her toys, but she's not sure how to make real friends. And she especially wants to be friends with Koala and Lamb. They both have fluffy ears and like green things. What's a timid bear to do? This is a story about making friends while keeping the qualities (and quirks!) that make you unique.



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

Themes:

- Friendship
- Individuality
- Inclusion/exclusion
- Loneliness
- Socialisation

Discussion Questions:

- What does Bear want? Why is it so important to her?
- What are some of the challenges that Bear goes through as she tries to earn Koala and Lamb's friendship?
- Why do Lamb and Koala finally give Bear their attention and friendship? What did Bear do differently in that moment?
- After the drawing party, Bear, Lamb and Koala find many more activities to do together like baking, playing with their toys, skipping and putting on plays. Discuss how these activities are a combination of everyone's interests.
- What role do Bear's three toy friends play in the book? (Hint: go back and read their words and reactions to parts of the story.)
- Lamb, Bear and Koala don't all enjoy the same things, so they only do some things together. Have you had any experiences of not liking similar things to some of your friends? How did that make you feel? How did it impact your friendship?
- How would you describe 'friendship'? What does this story teach us about friendship?
- How do you think Koala and Lamb felt when Bear was offering them cake and following them on their run? How did Bear hope they would feel? What advice would you give to Bear to help her in this situation?
- Bear has a sad moment when she worries that she won't be able to make any real-life friends. How does she move past this feeling? What does she discover is the most important thing about making friends?
- Even though Bear didn't like running and she scared the others with her fancy outfit, Lamb and Koala still came up to her in the park and asked to draw with her. Why do you think that is?
- At the end of the story, what happens to the cake? (Hint: check the back endpapers.)

Activities:

- Bear has three very special toy friends. Do you have a toy that's important to you? Draw a picture of it and list the kinds of activities you do together.
- If Bear came to you for advice about how to make friends, what would you tell her to do? Make a list or draw pictures of the things you might recommend.
- Plan an afternoon for Bear, Koala and Lamb and make a list or draw pictures of what they might do together. Make sure to include activities they'll all enjoy.
- Create a fourth friend for Bear, Koala and Lamb. Don't forget to give them a unique outfit and a list of special interests to share with their new friends.
- The author/illustrator crafted all of the animals in this story. Can you make a little friend out of felt and other found materials?