

THE GREAT BEAR

Parent & Child Discussion Journey

Based on *The Great Bear* by Annie Booker

'A story about nature, choices, responsibility, hope and the world we share'.



Annie Booker's striking debut picture book plunges readers into the frozen waters of the Arctic where the Great Bear 'as old as the sea and just as wise', watches over every living thing. The quiet harmony is interrupted by the arrival of a boat, belching out black smoke, its red hull a visual trespass in the green waters. The story becomes a fable about man's greed and wanton destruction of the natural world.

Welcome, families!

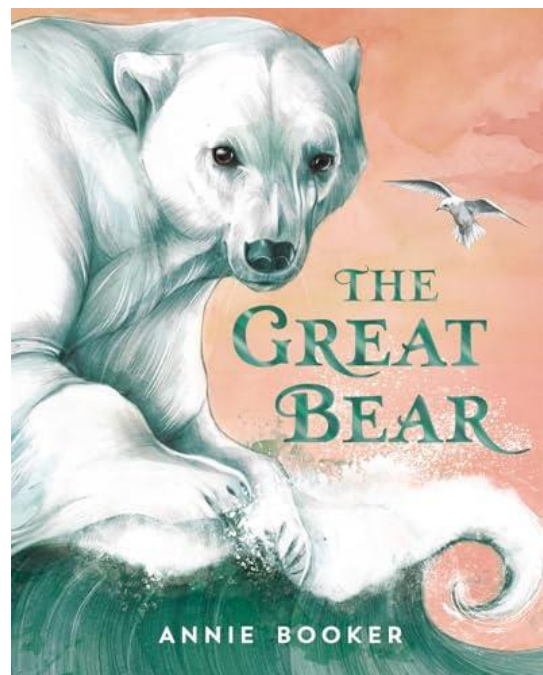
Over the next six weeks, we invite you and your child to explore *The Great Bear* together.

Each week has a different theme, a few gentle discussion prompts and a simple activity to enjoy together.

There are **no right or wrong answers**. The most important thing is to listen, wonder and enjoy talking together.

Our family reading journey

- ☐ Week 1 — **Meeting the Great Bear**
- ☐ Week 2 — **A World in Balance**
- ☐ Week 3 — **When Things Change**
- ☐ Week 4 — **Seeing Things Differently**
- ☐ Week 5 — **Putting Things Right**
- ☐ Week 6 — **Our Story From Here**



WEEK 1

Meeting the Great Bear 🐻❄️

This week's theme

Wonder • Character • First Impressions

Take some time to look closely at the Great Bear and the world around her.

Let's talk

- What did you think when you first saw the Great Bear?
- How would you describe her?
- What do you think makes her special?
- Why do you think the author chose a bear?
- Which picture do you like best? Why?
- What do you think the Great Bear might be thinking?

I wonder...

If you could ask the Great Bear one question, what would you ask?

Family activity 🍷 Draw your own Great Bear. Around your picture, write or draw things that describe her.

Our big question: What makes someone a good protector?

WEEK 2

A World in Balance 🌍

This week's theme

Nature • Connection • Belonging

The natural world is full of connections. Plants, animals, water, people and the land all depend on one another.

Let's talk

- What animals can you remember from the story?
- What does an animal need to live?
- What does the Great Bear protect?
- What does the word **"balance"** mean?
- What things in nature depend on each other?
- Do humans need nature?
- Does nature need humans?

Look closely 👁️

Go outside together for five quiet minutes. How many different things can you **see, hear, smell or feel**?

Family activity 🍷: Choose something you saw outside and draw it. Then ask: **"What might depend on this?"**

Our big question: What would happen if one small part of nature disappeared?

WEEK 3

When Things Change

This week's theme

Choices • Consequences • Responsibility

Sometimes a choice can affect much more than we expect.

Let's talk

- What changes in the story?
- How do you think the Great Bear feels?
- How do you think the other animals feel?
- Why do you think the human makes the choices they make?
- Can a small choice have a big effect?
- What could the human have done differently?

Think together : Think about something we do every day — such as travelling, shopping, eating or using electricity. Ask: “**What happens because we do this?**”

Family challenge : Choose **one small change** your family could make this week to be kinder to nature.

Our big question: How can our choices affect things we cannot see?

WEEK 4

Seeing Things Differently

This week's theme

Empathy • Perspective • Understanding

Sometimes it helps to imagine what the world looks like from someone else's point of view.

Let's talk

- How do you think the Great Bear sees humans?
- How might the human see the Great Bear?
- Do they understand each other?
- What might the Great Bear want humans to understand?
- How would the story change if another animal told it?
- How would the story be different from the human's point of view?

Let's imagine...

Choose one character and finish the sentence: “**If I were** _____, **I would feel...**”

Family activity : Choose one scene from the story and act it out from another character's point of view. Try being:  The Great Bear,  An animal in the Arctic
 The human,  The Earth

Our big question

Can seeing something from another person's point of view change how we feel?

WEEK 5

Putting Things Right 🌱

This week's theme

Responsibility • Change • Hope

Making a mistake doesn't always mean the story has to end there.

Sometimes we can learn, change our behaviour and try to make things better.

Let's talk

- What does the human learn?
- What does it mean to take responsibility?
- Is saying sorry enough?
- What could someone do after making a mistake?
- Have you ever made a mistake and tried to fix it?
- Can one person make a difference?
- What makes you feel hopeful?

Our Hope List ❤️: What could we do to help our planet?

Family activity: Choose **one** idea from your Hope List and try it together this week.

Our big question: What should we do when we realise something needs to change?

WEEK 6

Our Story From Here 🌍

This week's theme

Hope • Imagination • Our Future

We've reached the end of our six-week journey — but perhaps this is where our own story begins.

Let's talk

- What do you think the Great Bear would want the world to look like?
- What do you hope the world will be like when you are grown up?
- What would you like future generations to see?
- What is one thing you could do to help nature?
- What does your family already do to help?
- Why is it important to tell stories about nature?
- If you could add one final page to the book, what would happen?

Imagine the future ✨: In our family's perfect world...

Our Great Bear Promise 🐻❄️

Together, complete: **"We will help look after our world by..."** **Our family promise:** One thing we will remember from the book: One thing we will do next:

OUR GREAT BEAR JOURNEY

What did we discover?

Something we learned:

Something that surprised us:

Something we wondered about:

Something we want to protect:

Something we can do:

A final thought for families

The world can sometimes feel very big, and problems can feel very far away.

But change can begin with something small:

**a conversation,
a question,
a choice,
a kind action,
or simply noticing the world around us.**

Thank you for sharing these six weeks of reading, wondering and discovering together.

“What kind of world do we want to leave behind?”

