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# Activity Guide

800-788-1121

## Ant Plays Bear

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### ABOUT THE STORY

Anthony-or Ant, as he is known, causes a lot of trouble for his big brother. First, Ant wants his brother to pretend to be a bear, but the game scares him. Then, Ant plays at being a dog, annoying and embarrassing his brother. At night, Ant is frightened by a noise that turns out to be nothing but a tree branch, tapping. At last, though, Ant and his brother find that despite their differences, they have something very special in common.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Betsy Byars is the author of more than fifty books for young readers, including *My Brother Ant*, another Live Oak Readalong. Ms. Byars lives with her husband in South Carolina, where the bottom floor of their house is like an airplane hangar. This enables them to drive their plane out and take off, almost from their front yard.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Marc Simont has illustrated many popular books, among them *The Philharmonic Gets Dressed* and the *Nate the Great* series. He grew up in Paris and Barcelona, studied art in Paris and New York, and has created murals for a number of buildings, including the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if any of them have younger brothers or sisters. Invite them to share stories that illustrate both how difficult and how rewarding it can be to be an older sibling. Then tell the children that this book is about two brothers and their relationship.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “How do you play Bear?”
- “What does the brother’s friend want to do with Ant?”
- “What is tapping at the window?”
- “What does Ant want to be when he grows up?”
- “Why doesn’t the brother have fun playing with his friend?”  
(Make inferences)
- “Why is Ant so excited when he hears what his brother wants to be?”  
(Draw conclusions)

### Vocabulary

Write these verbs on the chalkboard. Have children combine them to make compound words. Then they can write a sentence using each compound word.

some	bell
basket	man
fire	more
any	ball
door	one

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### Language Arts: I want to Be...

Ant wants to be a man when he grows up. Ask the children what job or career they might want when they grow up, after becoming a man or a woman. Encourage children to write a paragraph explaining what they want to be and telling why they have chosen that career.

#### Math: Graphing Careers

When the children have decided on their future careers, help them create a chalkboard bar graph. Across the bottom, write the various career choices. Up the left-hand side, write numbers. Indicate how many children have chosen each career, and see which career has been chosen by the greatest number of children.

#### Science: Animal Traits

Ant’s brother exhibits two bear traits: living in a cave, and growling. Children can play an animal traits guessing game with a partner. Have children choose an animal and write four facts about it without identifying the animal directly. Children can exchange facts with their partners and try to guess each other’s animal.

#### Drama: Act It Out

Invite children to work in pairs or groups of three to act out one of the episodes in the book. Children can rehearse their episode, and when they are ready, they can perform it for the rest of the group. If you have a video camera, you can tape the performances for later viewing.

### 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.

#### Bear Facts

Children can hear a real bear growl and find three facts about bears at this site: <http://www.nature-net.com/bears/cubden.html>.

Children can write to author Betsy Byars by visiting her website at: <http://www.betsybyars.com>.