

USBORNE FIRST READING



How Bear Lost his Tail



Retold by Lucy Bowman
Illustrated by Ciaran Duffy



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Reading consultant: Alison Kelly
University of Roehampton



Once upon a time, Bear
had a long, thick tail.

2

The other animals
loved his tail.

3

Bear didn't like it at all.



He tripped over it
when he was walking.

It tickled his nose
when he tried to sleep.



Little animals would
even ride on it.







He crept over to
a fisherman

and took a
few fish.



Fox carried the fish to
an ice hole in the lake.

12



Bear smelled them.
He came closer.

13



"Those fish look delicious," said Bear.

14



"I can show you how to catch them," said Fox.

15



“Put your tail in the hole,” Fox told Bear.

16

“The fish will bite it and you can pull them out.”

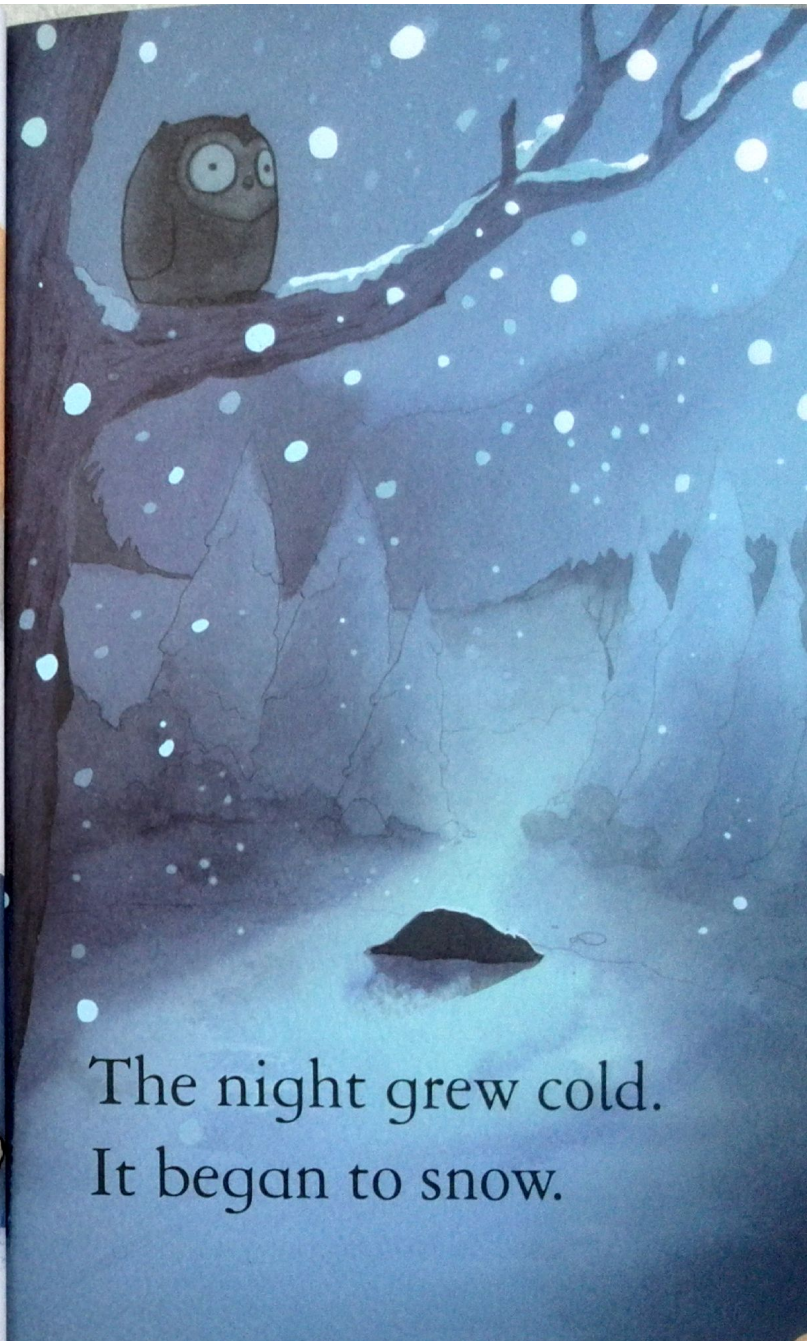


It may take some time.

Bear waited and waited.



Day became night.

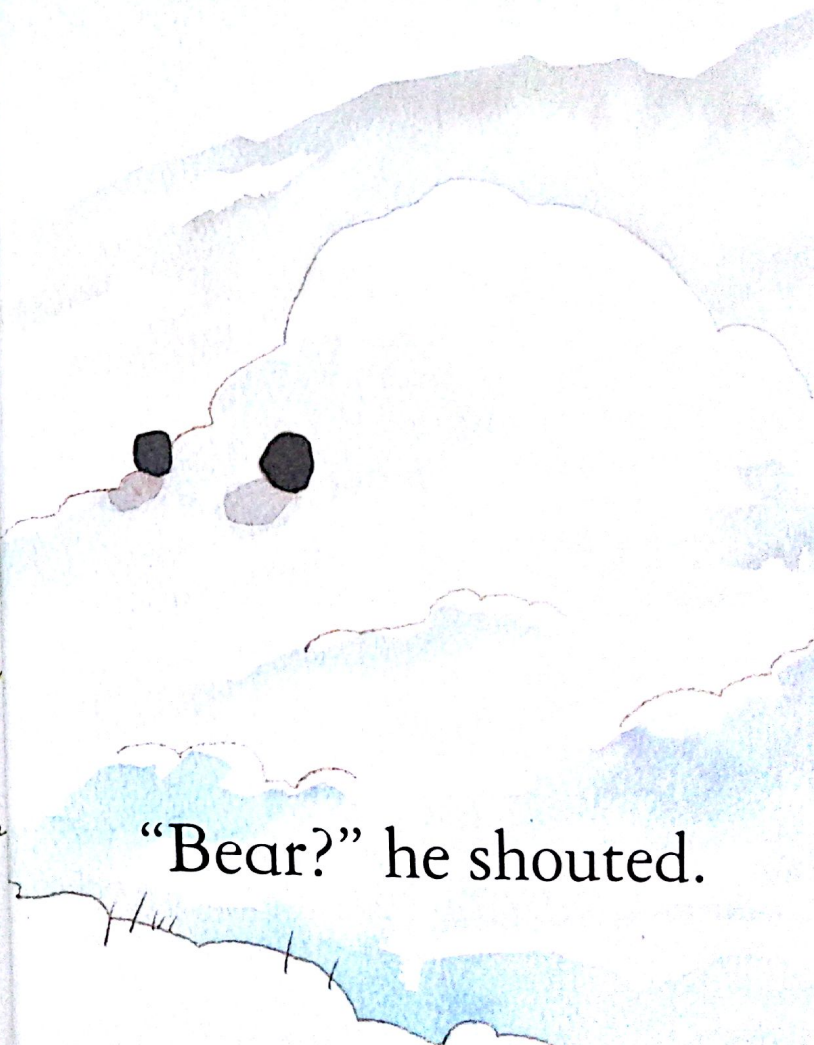


The night grew cold.
It began to snow.

The next day, Fox
came back. Was
Bear still there?

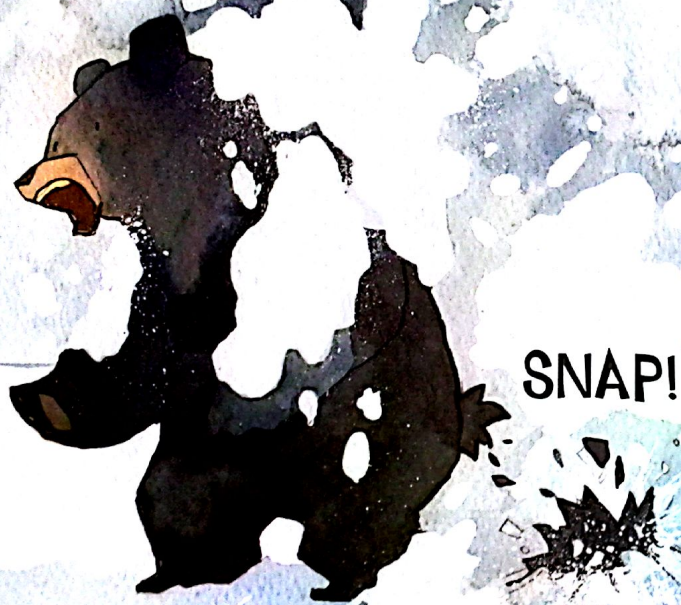


Fox could only see a
huge heap of snow.



“Bear?” he shouted.

Bear jumped up. But
his tail had frozen in
the lake...



SNAP!

It broke off.

22



"I'm so sorry!" Fox
cried. "I didn't know
that would happen."

23

Bear looked at his new short tail, and smiled.



Bear padded away –
and he didn't trip once.

PUZZLES

Puzzle 1

Choose the best speech bubble for each picture.

A



My tail tickles my nose.

My tail tickles my toes.

B



I like cheese!

I like fish!

Puzzle 2

Find these things in the picture:

bag

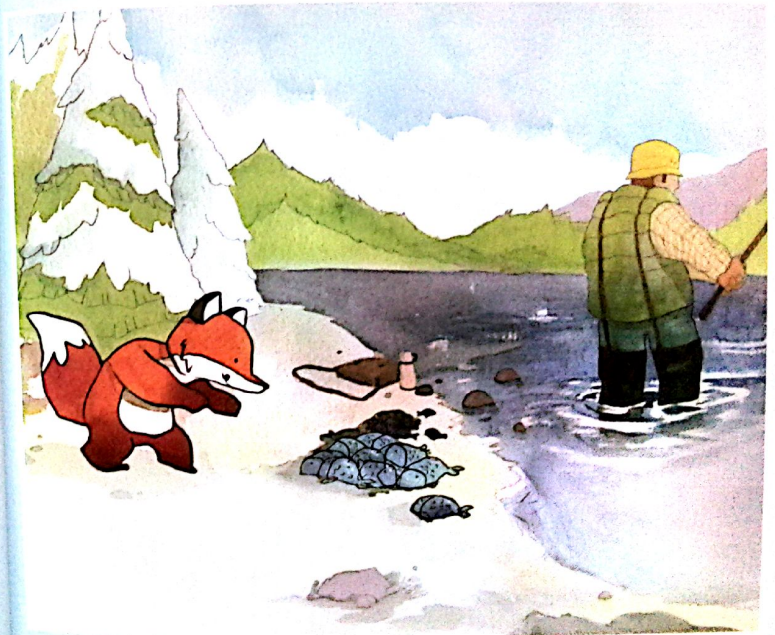
hat

fish

lake

Fox

man



Puzzle 3

Can you spot the differences between these two pictures?

There are six to find.



28



29



Answers to puzzles

Puzzle 1

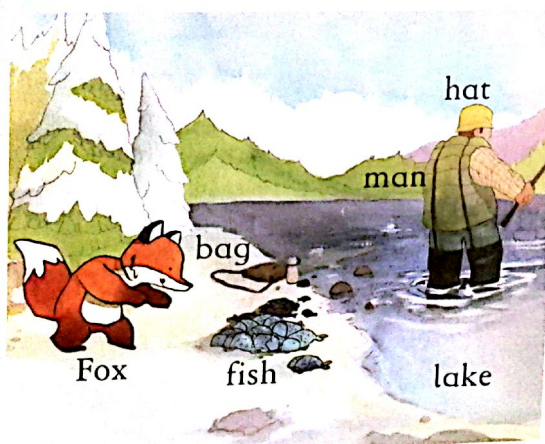


My tail tickles my nose.



I like fish!

Puzzle 2



Puzzle 3





About the story

How Bear Lost his Tail is based on a Native American folk legend. It has been passed down through the ages by people telling the story to their children.

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USBORNE FIRST READING: LEVEL TWO



How Bear Lost his Tail

All the animals in the forest admire Bear's tail, but Bear thinks it's a nuisance... This lively retelling of a Native American folk tale has easy-to-read text and fun puzzles to try after the story.



How Bear Lost his Tail is in the **Usborne First Reading** series, written especially for children who are learning to read, and developed in consultation with Alison Kelly, Principal Lecturer in Education and reading specialist at the University of Roehampton. With delightful illustrations, these books combine great stories with simple text to excite and inspire any beginner reader.

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