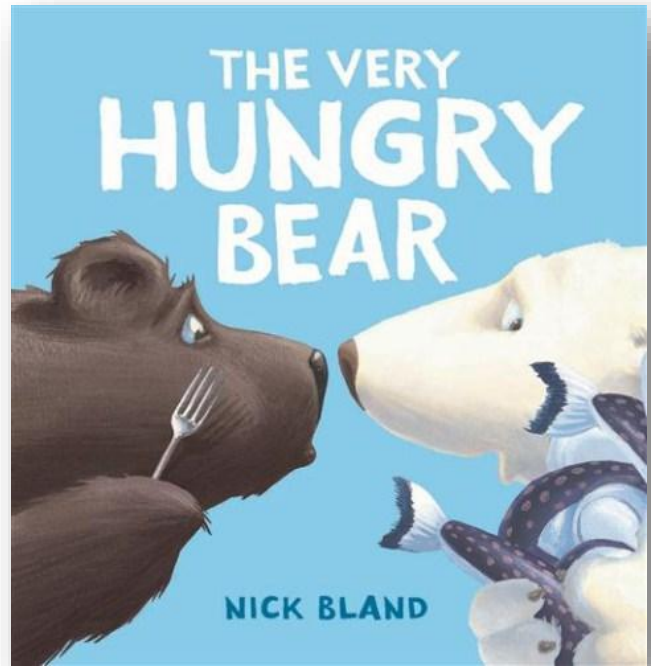


# The Very Hungry Bear

Author/Illustrator  
Nick Bland



Bear has been very cranky, very itchy, and how he's back, and he's very hungry! Trying to catch a fish for dinner, Bear instead meets a very friendly polar bear, a long way from home. When the polar bear suggests a trade — his pile of fish in exchange for a new home — Bear can't resist. The two bears go on a quest through the forest to find the polar bear a new place to live — with hilarious results.

Young readers will simply love Bland's vibrant illustrations and the melodic rhyme of the story, while developing an appreciation for sharing, helping others, and the perils of global warming for animals like the polar bear.

## TEACHER NOTES

- What differences can students find between the polar bear and Bear? What similarities can they find? What other types of bears can students think of? How are they similar/different to the polar bear and Bear? Do they eat the same or different foods? Do they look the same or different?

- Where do the animals live in the forest? Ask students to draw Mole's home, Bear's home, Croc's home, and the polar bear's new home. How is each home perfect for each animal? Students can then draw their own ideal home. How is it perfect for them?
- As a class, discuss sharing and helping. The polar bear trades his fish with Bear. Bear gives a fish to each animal that helps him and the polar bear. Why does he do this? Why does Bear leave the polar bear a gift in his new home? What does this mean for Bear? Ask students what they have traded or would trade to help a friend.
- The polar bear is very far from home. Where do polar bears live normally? What clues are given in the story about the polar bear's habitat?
- Why is the polar bear's iceberg shrinking? Re-read the book and note how the polar bear's iceberg changes in each picture. Discuss global warming as a class. Why is it happening? What effect is it having on the polar bear's natural habitat?
- Investigate some other animals that are endangered by global warming. What can be done to help them?

**NICK BLAND** was born in Victoria in 1973 and lived on a farm until he was five. He spent his early days climbing haystacks and sneaking into his father's painting studio. When Nick's family moved to the bush he found a whole new world to draw and explore. He wanted to be a cartoonist or a storyteller. After he finished school, he moved to the city and eventually got a job in a bookshop. The picture books in the shop inspired him and he realised he 'wanted all my words and all my pictures out of my head and onto the shelf.'

Now Nick lives in Darwin. He had a job as a four-wheel drive tour guide in Kakadu National Park while he worked on his first book, *A Monster Wrote Me a Letter*. This book was a Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Book. He has also illustrated Colin Buchanan's *Aussie Jingle Bells* and Trudie Trewin's *I've Lost My Kisses* and in 2008 published his book *When Henry Caught Imaginitis*. Several overseas publishers have picked up his books. Now he works full time as a writer and illustrator, working on the weekends as a guardian for aboriginal boys from around Northern Australia who board in Darwin.