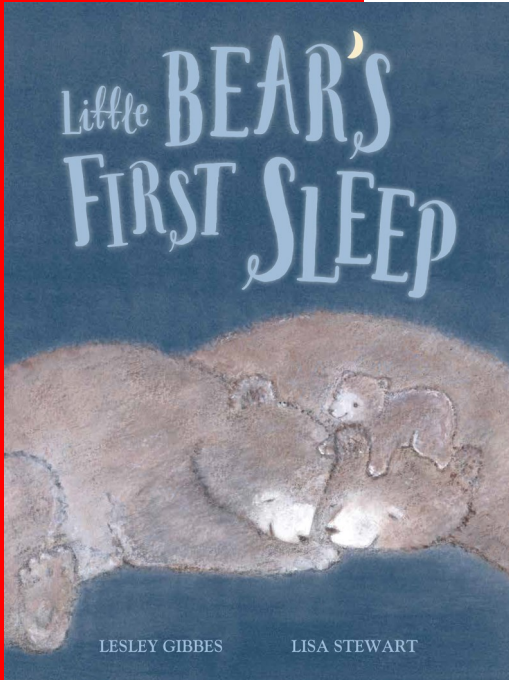


LITTLE BEAR'S FIRST SLEEP

LESLEY GIBBES | LISA STEWART (Illustrator)



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It was time for Little Bear's first winter sleep.

'All bears sleep through winter,' said Little Bear's Mother.

'And we won't wake until spring,' said Little Bear's Father. 'It's a big, big sleep.'

Little Bear is in the cave with his mother and father, who have settled down for their big winter sleep. But Little Bear has a problem — he can't get to sleep! He snuggles and sings and softly strokes his ear. Will Little Bear learn how to get to sleep before springtime?

About the author: Lesley Gibbes was born raised on Sydney's Northern Beaches. She taught in the NSW Public School system for 16 years and was kept busy writing plays and skits for school performances as well as creating story through dance choreography. Her first book, **Scary Night** (2014), was published through Working Title Press.

About the illustrator: Lisa Stewart is a professional violinist based on Sydney's Northern Beaches. She has spent a great deal of time in Japan, and the influence of Japanese art can be seen in her illustrations. She was shortlisted for the Crichton Award in 2010 for her first picture book, **Can I Cuddle the Moon?**

Study notes written by
Radhiah Chowdhury



SCHOLASTIC

STUDY NOTES

- In small groups, research more about bears. Where in the world do they live? Mark out bear habitats on a world map. How many different types of bear are there? What kinds of things do they like to eat? How do they behave?
- Little Bear's big sleep is called *hibernation*. What is hibernation? Why do animals hibernate? What other types of animals hibernate?
- What can you tell about Little Bear's home from the illustrations? Look particularly at the first and last spreads of the book. What sort of landscape has Lisa Stewart illustrated? Where might you find this sort of landscape?
- Using what you have learned in the previous activity, and in your research into different species of bears, what kind of bear do you think Little Bear and his family are? Explain your answer.
- Look at the illustration on p 6 of the book. There are two sets of footprints here — one belonging to Little Bear, and the other belonging to one of his parents. Can you tell which set belongs to which bear? How?
- How can you tell which pages of the story take place inside the cave and which pages are outside? Organise the class into pairs. Ask one member of each pair to draw themselves standing



outside, the other member to draw themselves standing inside. How can they use reference points such as the setting (eg the inside of a room) and the lighting (ie dark or light) in the drawing to show where they are?

- Little Bear has to be brave and learn how to put himself to sleep. Have you ever struggled to go to sleep? Why do you think it can be so hard to fall asleep? What kinds of things do you try to help you fall asleep?
- Look at the way 'tossed', 'turned' and 'wriggled' are written on p 8. Why are these words written in this way? How does the way they are written enhance the way you read the words?
- Little Bear eventually gets to sleep by snuggling in with his parents. Do you like to snuggle? How does snuggling make you feel? Why might snuggling help you get to sleep?
- On pp 20-21, the spring sunlight enters the cave where Little Bear and his family are sleeping. How does the illustration show the sun coming into the cave, even if we can't yet see the sun?
- Compare the landscapes on pp 4-5 and pp 22-23. How are they different? As a class, talk about the seasons. What are the different seasons? What happens during these seasons? How are they different around the world (eg some places stay warm all year round). How do the illustrations on these two spreads show you how the winter season has passed into spring? How does the colour palette used in the book warm up as the final pages turn to spring?