

Tell Me the Day Backwards

Albert Lamb , David McPhail (Illustrator)

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In this delightful bedtime story, a young bear tells his mama all about his exciting day — in reverse — inspiring little listeners to do the same.

Just before going to bed, Timmy Bear and his mama play a game they call Tell Me the Day Backwards. Timmy tries to remember everything that happened to him that day in reverse, from watching the sunset on the hill to the picnic supper before that, from being chased by bees to finding honey in an old tree stump, all the way back to waking up that morning from his winter-long hibernation. Albert Lamb and David McPhail spin a charming bedtime story sure to have parents and children sharing their own day — backwards — with each other.

Tell Me the Day Backwards Details


Date : Published March 22nd 2011 by Candlewick Press


ISBN : 9780763650551

Author : Albert Lamb , David McPhail (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Family

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From Reader Review Tell Me the Day Backwards for online ebook

Melissa says

It might be fun for an older crowd to read Goldilocks, then read this book, and then tell the kids they need to help you tell Goldilocks backwards. You could have flannel pieces as prompts... Or you could read this with The End by LaRochelle.

Candice says

A sweet bedtime story with lovely, softly colored illustrations. I remember when Ellen was little, we would read bedtime stories and then talk about her day, although we never did it backwards. This might inspire a tradition in some families. Timmy Bear is getting ready for bed and he tells his mother, "Let's play Tell Me the Day Backwards." His mother encourages him to start, and he begins by telling of brushing his teeth in the stream. Then Mama Bear responds, "That was after we watched the sunset from the top of the hill." And so it goes. One memory leads to another and we can see it has been a day full of love and learning for Timmy Bear. A super book to read at bedtime.

Corinne Creighton says

This book has an overall cute story line. It starts off with a mama bear putting her little bear to bed. The little bear wants to play the game of "tell me the day backwards." So it starts off with the bear telling his mom how he brushed his teeth before bed. Then the mom says before he did that they watched the sunset from the top of a hill. They continue naming all the events that they did that day, and ended with the very beginning event that their day started with. The first event that started their day was waking up from hibernation. So, it lets kids get to know what hibernation is and why bears do that.

This book definitely wasn't the best children's book I read. The story line was cute and it did give kids a little insight on what hibernation is. However, there wasn't a deeper message within the story or any life lessons. It was just a fun and short tale. The illustrations on the pages were very pleasing to look at. The pictures showed exactly what the text was saying so kids will have an easy time knowing what is going on. There was a lot of pictures with backgrounds of nature and they looked like they were painted with watercolor. The bear also looked very innocent and cute, which made the book very enjoyable. Overall, the illustrations in the book were fantastic however the story line was mediocre.

Tasha says

Timmy Bear and Mama play a game before he goes to sleep. They tell each other their day backwards. The story they tell one another is filled with special moments together like watching the sunset and having a picnic. Then there are moments of fear, and told backwards they make it even more of an event. The story builds nicely as readers discover exactly what led to Timmy Bear jumping from a high rock into the river. The story ends as it began, with Timmy Bear in bed and Mama at his side, creating a beautiful circle of a story.

Lamb's writing here has such a gentle feel, it is perfect for a bedtime story. The adventure portion in the middle keeps this from being too soft and gentle, adding a great story arc to the book that is sure to have young readers listening intently. The exchanges between Mama and Timmy in the book have a touch of humor and a great deal of love.

McPhail's art captures the story with his usual style. His illustrations are soft watercolors that work for both the active portions of the book and the slower parts. He manages to capture so much emotion, action and movement in only a few lines. The illustrations are simple and lovely.

This book belongs in every library and will make a wonderful gift book for toddlers who just may have similar adventures in a given day. After reading the book it is impossible not to want to tell your day backwards, so if sharing with a group, you may have to have an activity of writing or drawing their day backwards. Appropriate for ages 2-4.

Pam says

The bear and his mother play their backward game. They start at the end of the day and tell the events backward. Bear had quite the adventure in the deep part of the river and was saved by his papa. Use to teach about process; if/then; reverse thinking.

Jo Oehrlein says

A bedtime story about a Mama Bear putting the Baby Bear to bed and them reviewing the day, backwards.

A little longer than some traditional picture book bedtime stories like Goodnight, Moon. Still, not too long to be a good bedtime story for a little one.

Carrie says

This is a sweet book for parents and children to create their own game and bedtime ritual, or for students (or offspring) to reflect on how their day went. You can also get them to guess what happens on the next page, to discuss cause and effect. But it was a heartfelt book about a quality day with one's family, too.

Sarah says

Lovely story about bears recalling their day in reverse chronological order. Sweet story which my four-year-old loved. It inspired us to recall our day in the same way. Illustrations are also very nice.

Luisa Knight says

This is a sweet little tale told most cleverly!

Ages: 2 - 7

#bedtime

Sonja H says

a fun book where momma bear and baby bear tell remember the day backward- with a surprise that they were hibernating before

John Yelverton says

It is a cute little children's book about a baby bear who asks to have his day recapped, but in reverse order of the events that happened.

Lola Volkova says

I like the idea of telling the bed story by the little ones. They can be great story tellers instead of the traditional quiet listeners.

Danette says

5/10/17 Read with Naomi & Julia.

Karen says

I thought my 2yo would like this because every night his father asks, "What'd you do today?" But just something about it can't hold his attention. Maybe next year.

Rosemary says

Different, quite charming, interesting ending.
