

A Teddy Bear Mystery

COMPASS CREEK READER GUIDE | Step Into the Classic

Begin with **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**, then invite children to step into the story through a surprising classroom mystery.

Gather Your Supplies

Teddy bears (plus extras to borrow); bulletin board paper for three pretend beds; three plastic play bowls; three classroom chairs in different sizes; a small tuft of doll hair; tape; and a handwritten note.

1. Read and Set the Scene

Read the traditional story together. Invite children to bring a teddy bear from home, with extra bears available so everyone can join. Turn the classroom into the bears' cottage: make three paper beds, set out the bowls, and arrange the chairs.

2. Take the Bears for a Walk

Take your teddy bears on a supervised walk through nearby woods, or enjoy a pretend woodland walk around the school. While you are away, another adult secretly rumples the paper beds, overturns the empty bowls, and safely rearranges the chairs. Tape a small tuft of doll hair beside a note: "**Goldilocks was here!**"

3. Discover the Mystery

When the children return, let them discover what has changed. Give them time to notice, wonder, and search for clues. Keep the rearranged furniture stable and walking paths clear.

Notice, Wonder, and Talk

- What do you notice?
- What is different from when we left?
- What clues connect our classroom mystery to the story?
- How might the bears feel?
- What could Goldilocks do to make things right?

Keep the Story Alive

Let the mystery continue through drawing, storytelling, and dramatic play. Children can draw the clues they discover and help put the bears' cottage back in order.