

Teaching Notes: PLEASE HANDLE WITH CARE

Written by Coral Vass
Illustrated by Tull Suwannakit
Published by New Frontier Publishing



SYNOPSIS

Bear is having a bad day. Nothing is going right, and he wishes he was somewhere else ... a long way from home. What will it take for Bear to feel better?

An uplifting tale about a bear discovering what truly matters at the end of the day.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Coral Vass is an award-winning Australian children's author. With a background in media, Coral has always delighted in telling stories and has been writing books for more than ten years. Her titles include the bestselling *Goodnight Possum* and the 2019 CBCA Book of the Year Eve Pownall winner, *Sorry Day* (illustrated by Dub Leffler). She loves visiting schools, often running writing workshops and inspiring young people with a love for literature. Coral is an ambassador for Reading Out of Poverty and is passionate about giving all children an equal opportunity to read.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tull Suwannakit is an Australian book illustrator and author for children with a background in animation and fine art. After receiving a BA degree from The Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, USA, he began his artistic career as a set designer and character sculptor for animation studios in New York City. He then migrated to Australia, where he got a distinction on the Master of Fine Art program at The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

His books have been published in Australia, the US, the UK and Thailand, as well as being translated into numerous languages throughout the world. Working predominantly with watercolour, graphite and coloured pencils, Tull's books have been featured in The Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Mornings Radio, Play School on ABC4Kids and the New York Times. His clients include Scholastic Press, Ford Street Publishing, Walker Books, Candlewick Press and New Frontier Publishing.

When Tull is not writing and illustrating his books, he runs art classes and workshops for children and adults at his art school in Melbourne.



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EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Please Handle with Care is a heart-warming story about an adorable bear who is having a tough time and, at the end of the day, just needs love and care. This book celebrates emotions and empathy, and helps children understand how to reset after a bad day. This is a great teaching resource for parents and teachers, with resilience, self-empowerment and growth mindset being key themes.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce *Please Handle with Care* to the children and ask them what they think the book might be about.
2. Discuss the sentence: 'It was one of those days when nothing went right.' Ask the children for their own examples.
3. Ask the children what they do when they feel upset? Do they go to their room? Do they know how to make themselves feel better?
4. The bear in the story wishes he was far from home ... in Antarctica. Have the children ever wished they were somewhere else? Where? What would happen in this imaginary place?
5. What happens when Bear climbs inside a box?
6. What's on the list that Bear writes? What is he trying to say?
7. What happens at the end of the story? Do Bear's feeling change? How?
8. Can you think of another title for the story?
9. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?



WORDSEARCH

Find all the words in the *Please Handle with Care* wordsearch below.



PLEASE HANDLE WITH CARE

A W C U P T E N A T
L N D G H K H B O H
H I T O S S E I A O
O O S A I A E S D M
A T O T R O U B L E
F E S P E C I A L M
E V X C H N T D T O
G O A N C Z N I N O
B L S E C A R E C R
P I O L H C O Q L A



ANTARCTICA
BEAR
BOX
CARE
CHERISH

HANDLE
HIDE
HOME
LISTEN
LOVE

PLACE
ROOM
SPECIAL
TROUBLE



FUN
ACTIVITY!

WORDSEARCH SOLUTION

PLEASE HANDLE WITH CARE

A W C U P T E N A T
L N D G H K H B O H
H I T O S S E I A O
O O S A I A E S D M
A T O T R O U B L E
F E S P E C I A L M
E V X C H N T D T O
G O A N C Z N I N O
B L S E C A R E C R
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POSTCARD ACTIVITY

Pretend you are Bear. Send a postcard to your family from Antarctica. What will you tell them about? Cut out the two templates and glue them back to back. Remember to ask an adult to help you.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a scene from Antarctica.

← Draw your image here

A rectangular template for a postcard. On the right side, there is a small square box labeled "Postcard" for a stamp. Below this, there are four horizontal lines for writing an address. A vertical line on the left side indicates where to fold the postcard.

← Stick your stamp here

← Write the address of the person you are sending the postcard to.



**FUN
ACTIVITY!**

DRAWING ACTIVITY

The bear in the story dreams of having an adventure in Antarctica.
Where would you like to have an adventure? The rainforest? The desert?
The Moon? Or a made-up place?



A large, empty rectangular box intended for the student to draw their own adventure scene.



MEMORY GAME

How well do you remember what happened in the story? Below are six pictures from the story but they are jumbled up. Carefully cut them out (ask an adult to help you!) and arrange them in the correct order. Try to retell the story in your own words. Maybe you can tell it to your favourite bedtime cuddly toy!

