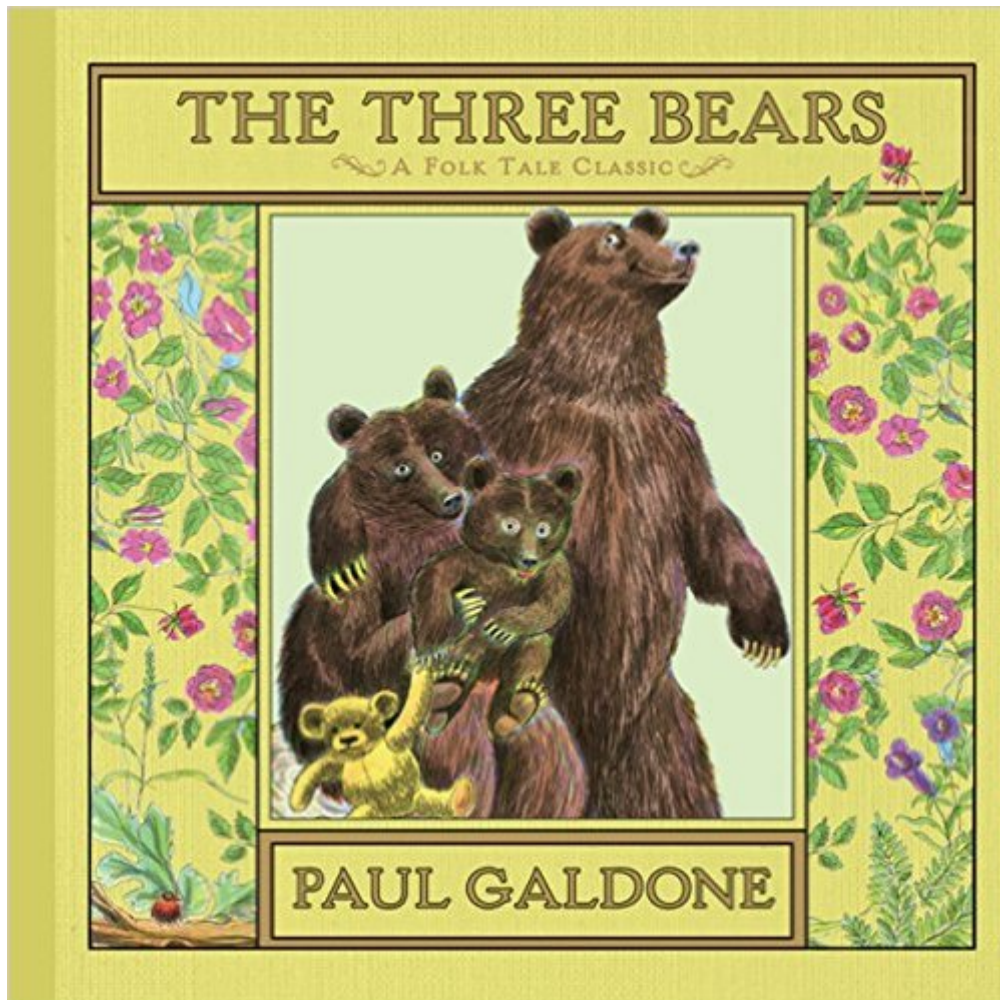


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# The Three Bears (Folk Tale Classics)



## Synopsis

This familiar nursery tale features a warmly appealing bear family and a naughty, gap-toothed Goldilocks.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 490 (What's this?)

Series: Folk Tale Classics

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 21, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547370199

ISBN-13: 978-0547370194

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #253,353 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #145 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Size & Shape](#) #669 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bears](#) #1907 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I find Paul Galdone's illustrations a bit garish but my son clearly prefers this style over more subtle ones - like Margot Zemach or Jan Brett. I had to really look for a traditional version with the emphasis on the extremes, too hot, too cold, just right - so many modern versions drop this original prose. This had exactly what I was looking for.

This is both a thoughtfully written and illustrated version of The 3 Bears suitable for children as young as age 2. We have read several renditions and I highly recommend this one because: 1. The illustrations actually match the story. Many versions talk about the big, medium, and little bowls, chairs, & beds, but never show them side by side. This clearly shows the differences in size. There are also pictures to accompany all of the key points in the book, while most versions do not depict essential parts of the story. 2. The text is engaging, but simple enough for younger children. The font size even changes to match the bears' size (ie, when talking about the wee little bear, the text is a

smaller size). Some people have complained about the "PC" nature of this story. Honestly we have read it countless times, and the thought that Galdone had intentionally referred to the bears as the wee little bear, the middle-sized bear, and the great big bear rather than the baby bear, mama bear, and papa bear all in an effort to undermine the traditional family unit never crossed my mind. Galdone was born in Hungary in 1907, wrote and/or illustrated over 300 books, and published this book at age 65. The idea that he was using his pulpit as a children's author to make a political statement seems far-fetched and bizarre.

This book passed the toughest test our household has to offer---my two sons asked for it to be read several times in one day. The pictures are vivid and clear and the story is told without fancy added details---just the facts of the fairy tale! I must admit I didn't find it that overly gripping, but I think that's because this isn't the most fascinating of fairy tales---but something about it appeals to kids---the bears? The 3 sizes of everything? Who knows? Whatever it is, it's a hit with my boys!

So far this version of the three bears has had the best reception among 2 and 3 year olds who I've read it to (as an early intervention speech therapist, I meet a lot of 2 year olds). I do sometimes change the bears to "papa bear," "mama bear" and "baby bear," not because I think the way it's written is overly PC (that did not even occur to me!!) but mainly because some of the youngsters I meet aren't yet able to understand "middle-sized." And, while I like to introduce new vocabulary, these kiddos are still working on getting a solid understanding of big and little so I opt to save "middle-sized" for later. I like the fact that Goldilocks is rather naughty looking. I feel that whatever version I read as a kid made Goldilocks seem nice but at the same time, how nice is someone who invades someone else's house, eats their food and breaks furniture? Back then I didn't know whether I should feel sorry for her or not. (For a sympathetic heroine, please see the book *Goldie and the Three Bears*). The way the book shows the sizes of the bears and objects in relation to one another is great. Kids really enjoy it if you can dig up appropriate toys / objects to fit the story & act it out, but sometimes it can be hard to find everything (3 different sized bears, chairs, toy beds, etc).

This book is one of my daughter's favorites. It has lively illustrations, and the language is simple enough for smaller children. We're getting quite a bit of mileage out of it at our home. But I would point out that the author chose not to include the traditional family titles (Papa, Mama and Baby bear). I strongly doubt this was simply an oversight; it seems instead to be based on the author's feminist viewpoints. A big huge deal? Probably not. But important enough so that this "mama bear"

chose to re-write the story using the traditional idea of a family of bears, rather than some vaguely defined grouping. I would suggest that readers either pick another version or do the same thing.

I like nicely illustrated bear books, so was anxious to get a copy of this one based on its nicely detailed cover. It's a fairly straightforward retelling of the tale of the porridge, chairs, and beds. I did not even notice the lack of "Papa" and "Mama" language until someone else pointed it out, probably because I've heard the tale told as "Papa" and "Mama" interchangeably with "Big bear" and "Middle-sized bear" my whole life. In any event it's pretty clear from the illustrations that this is a bear family and the two bigger bears look after the little one - make of that what you will. The illustrations have enough detail to make them interesting to look at, although I was hoping for a little more especially in the backgrounds. I enjoyed that the small bear plays with a teddy (how appropriate). Goldilocks looks very traditional with hair ribbon, gold locks and a fancy dress. It's interesting how the bears, who are benign-looking through most of the book, take on a scary and angry appearance when they find their house has been intruded upon, so it's quite easy to see why Goldilocks is scared.

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