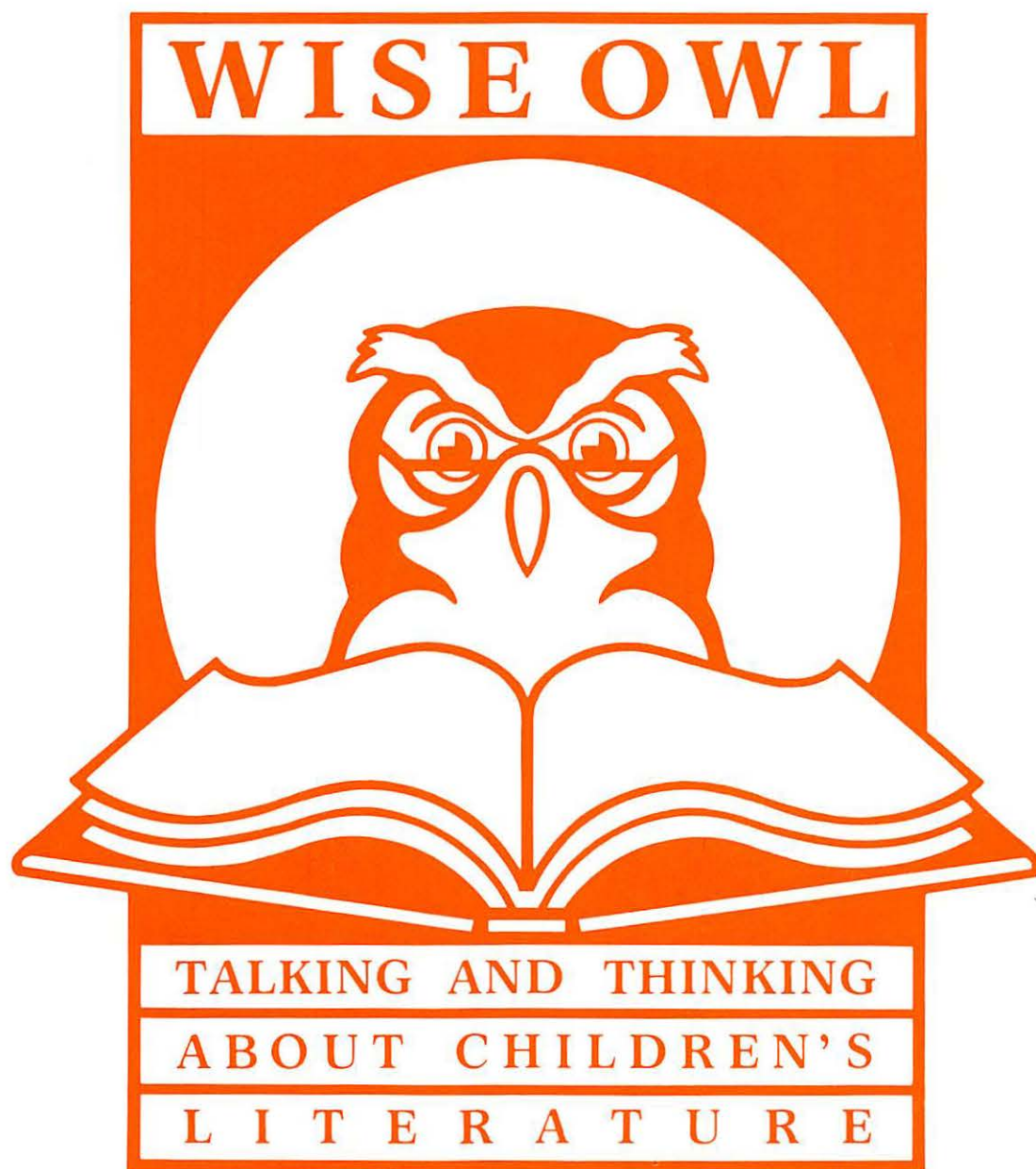


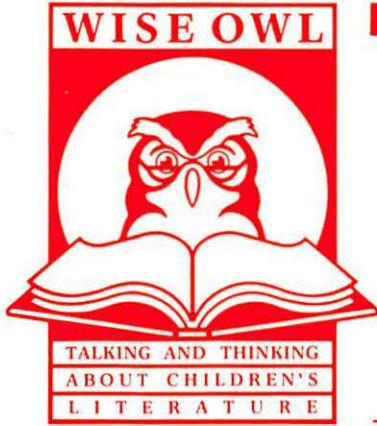
THE BEAR THAT WASN'T

by Frank Tashlin



Contents:

- Teachers Guide
- 10 Question Cards
- Guidelines for Discussion



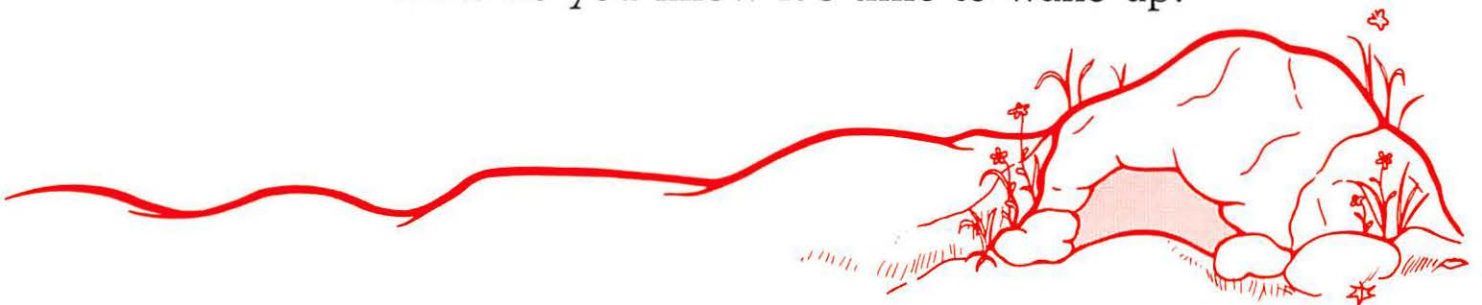
The Bear That Wasn't

Wise Owl Questions

1. The Bear gazed up into the sky and saw the geese flying south and the yellow and brown leaves falling from the trees. He knew that when this happened it would soon be winter and snow would cover the forest.

He knew that it was time to go into a cave and hibernate.

- A. How does the Bear know this? Did someone tell the Bear that winter was the time to hibernate?
- B. Are there any things that you know, that you've always known, like what things are good to eat, without someone having to tell you? What things?
- C. Are there some things that all people everywhere know without having to be told? What kinds of things?
- D. When spring came, the Bear woke up.
Do you ever wake up, just like that, at special times? What times?
How do you know it's time to wake up?





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Wise Owl Questions

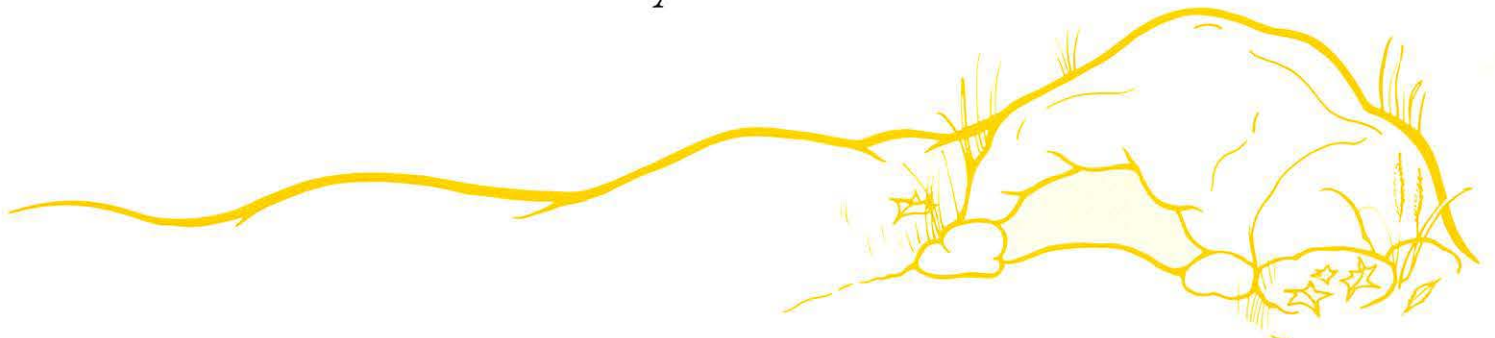
2. When the Bear woke up and walked up the stairs into the factory, he didn't know where he was. He thought he might still be dreaming.

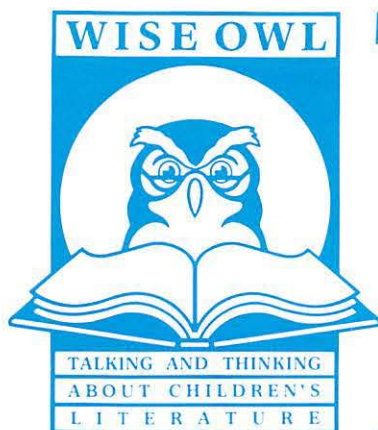
- A. Are you ever not sure if you're dreaming or not? When?
- B. Have you ever known, in a dream, that you are dreaming? Is this possible?
- C. Sometimes we call people "dreamy" or "dreamers."

Why do we say things like this?

Can you feel like you're dreaming, even if you really know you're awake? What does it feel like?

- D. What would you think if you woke up one morning and found yourself in the middle of a forest in springtime?
Would you wonder if you were dreaming?
What would you do to make sure?





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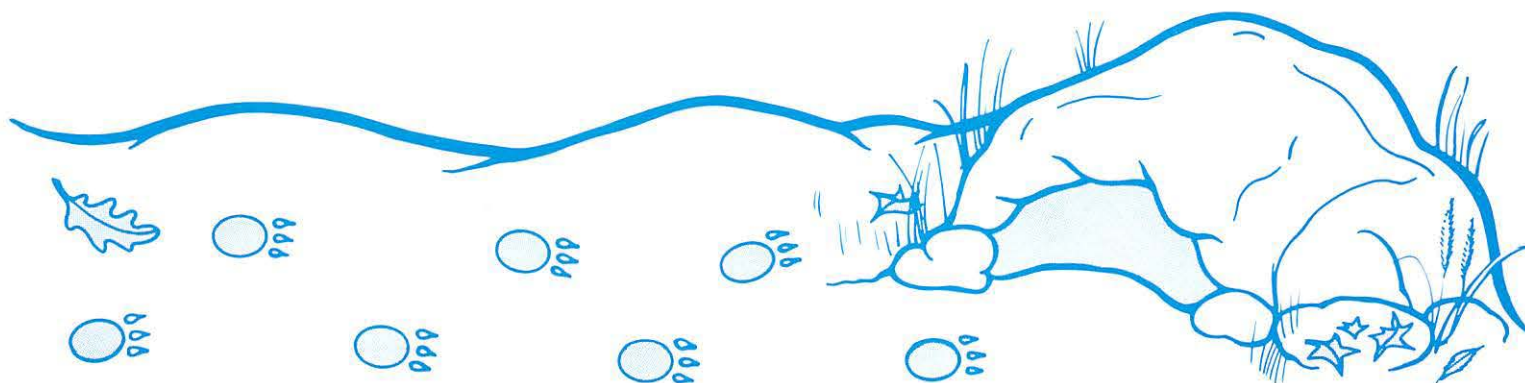
3. The Bear pinched himself to see if he was dreaming.

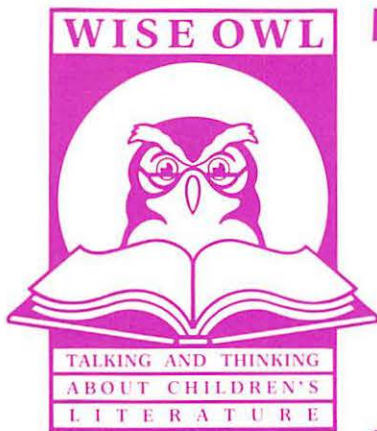


- A. Is pinching yourself a good way to tell if you're dreaming?
- B. If you pinched yourself, could you be dreaming that you pinched yourself?
- C. Could you be dreaming that today you woke up, got dressed, and went to school?
- D. Could you be dreaming RIGHT NOW?
How can you tell?
Give your best reasons for knowing that you're not dreaming.
- E. Suppose, as an experiment, you want to convince someone that this discussion we're having right now is really a dream.



What would you say or do?



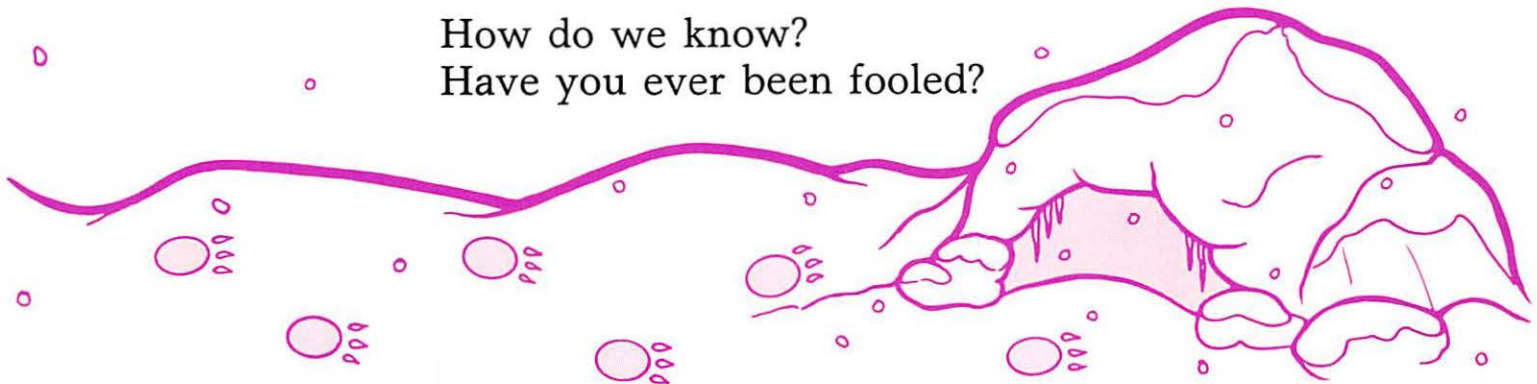


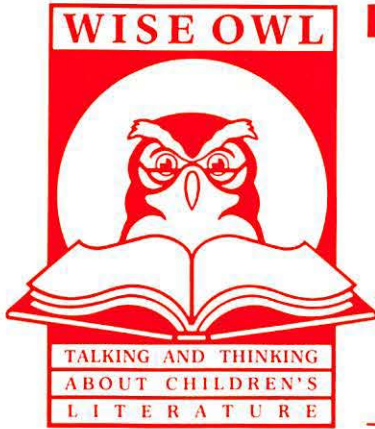
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Wise Owl Questions

4. When the foreman found the Bear, he thought he was a factory worker, and told him to get back to work. The Bear *looked* like a bear, but the foreman thought he was in a sort of costume — that he was a silly man who needed a shave and wore a fur coat.
- A. Did the foreman want to believe that the Bear was a bear? Why or why not?
- B. Is there anything you wouldn't want to believe if it happened to you? What?
- C. Sometimes when something happens that's never happened before, like a bear walking into a factory, it's hard to believe it's true. Can you think of anything that's never happened before, that you would find hard to believe if it happened now? What?
- D. Sometimes, like on Halloween, we see people dressed up in costumes, but we know that they're not really witches or goblins.

How do we know?
Have you ever been fooled?

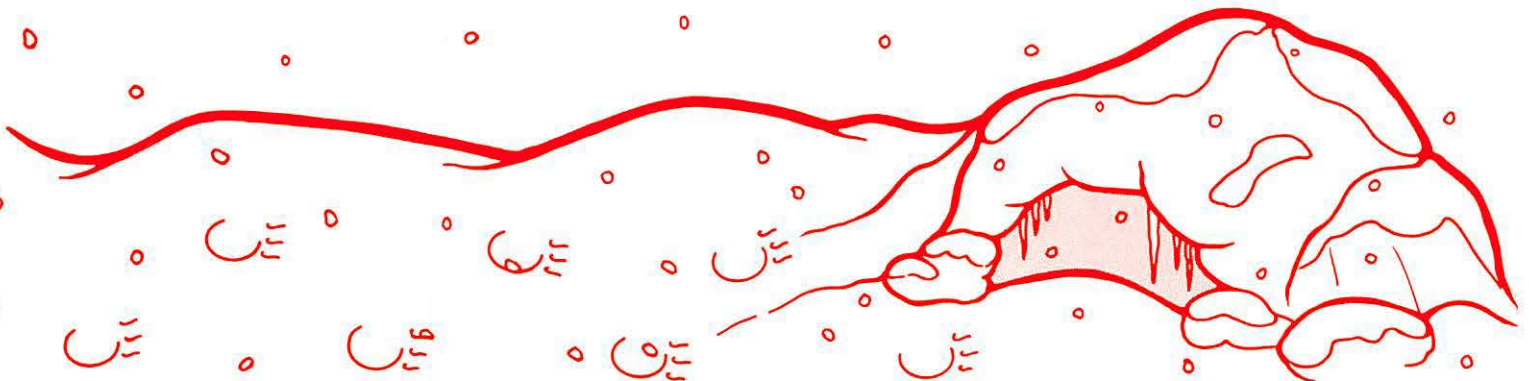


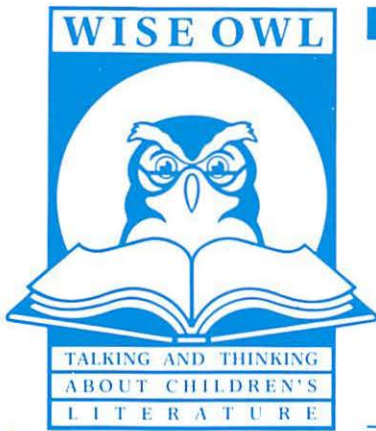


The Bear That Wasn't

Wise Owl Questions

5. The bears in the zoo don't believe that the Bear is a bear. They think that if he was really a bear he would be in a cage as they are. The bears at the circus don't believe the Bear is a bear either. They think that if he was a bear he would be performing in the circus.
- A. Do people ever think about other people the way the bears in the zoo and the circus think about the bear from the forest? Give an example.
- B. Sometimes we meet people from other countries who have customs and habits different from ours. Do we ever treat these people in a special way? Why?
- C. Are there any things that are the same about people everywhere? What?
- D. What do you think the bears in the zoo would think if they met the bears from the circus?





The Bear That Wasn't

Wise Owl Questions

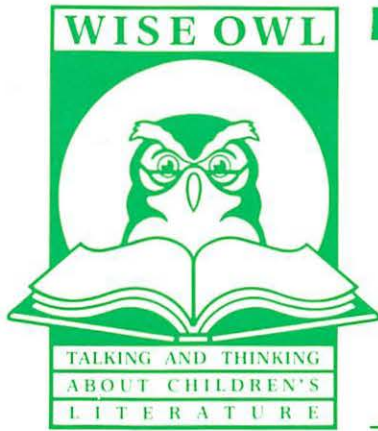
6. When the foreman told the Bear to get back to work, the Bear said, "I don't work here, I'm a bear."

- A. Is being a bear a good reason for not working in a factory?
- B. Sometimes animals do work; they build nests, gather food, and take care of their children.

What kind of work do the animals that you know do?

- C. In what ways are people's work and animals' work different? In what ways are they the same?





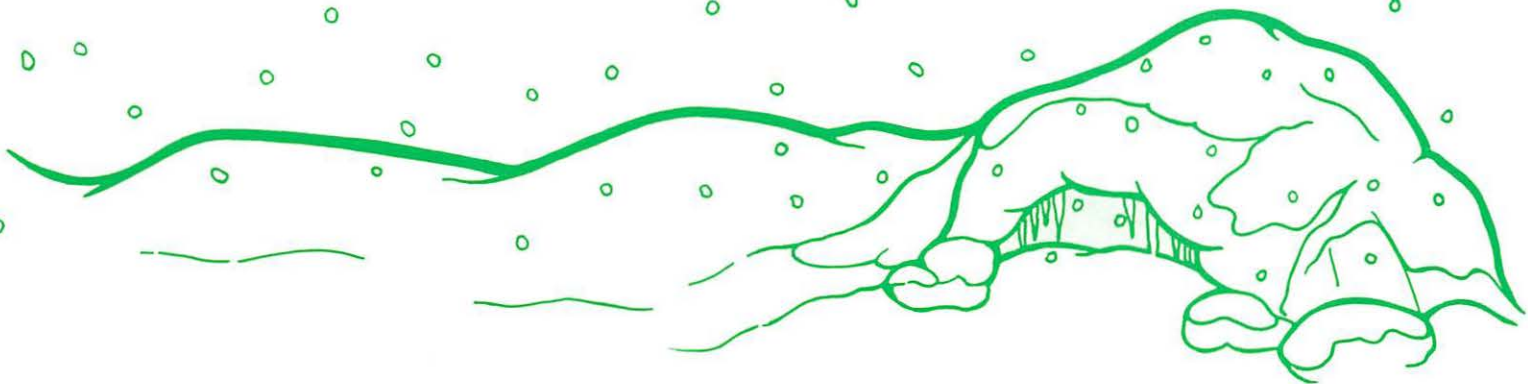
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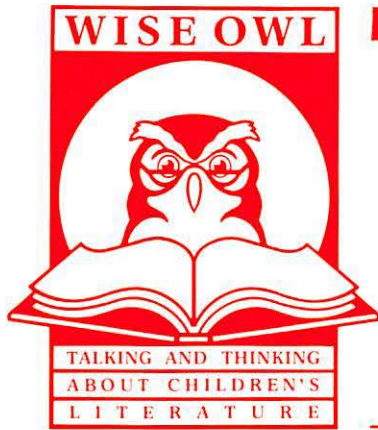
Wise Owl Questions

7. When the factory was built (in fact, it was on a Wednesday), men came with charts and maps and surveying instruments. The Bear met many men in the factory. He met the foreman, the Third Vice President, the Second Vice President, the First Vice President, and finally, the President himself.

In the story, all the people who do these jobs are men. Sometimes women have these jobs too.

What different kinds of work do the women that you know do?





The Bear That Wasn't

Wise Owl Questions

8. When the Bear went back to the forest after the factory closed, he wasn't sure if he really was a bear.

A. Could you ever not be sure that you were you?

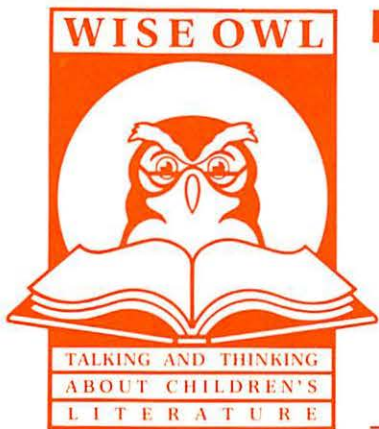
What if people told you over and over again that you weren't really a person, that you were a little bear that had had a shave and didn't wear a fur coat? Could you start to believe it? Why? Why not?

What could you do or say to convince people that you really were a person?

B. Sometimes we say things about people like "He's always late"? or "She's always messy." Do we really mean what we say?

If we say these things over and over again, might the person we say them about start to believe them?

C. If you believe in something enough, can you make it true?

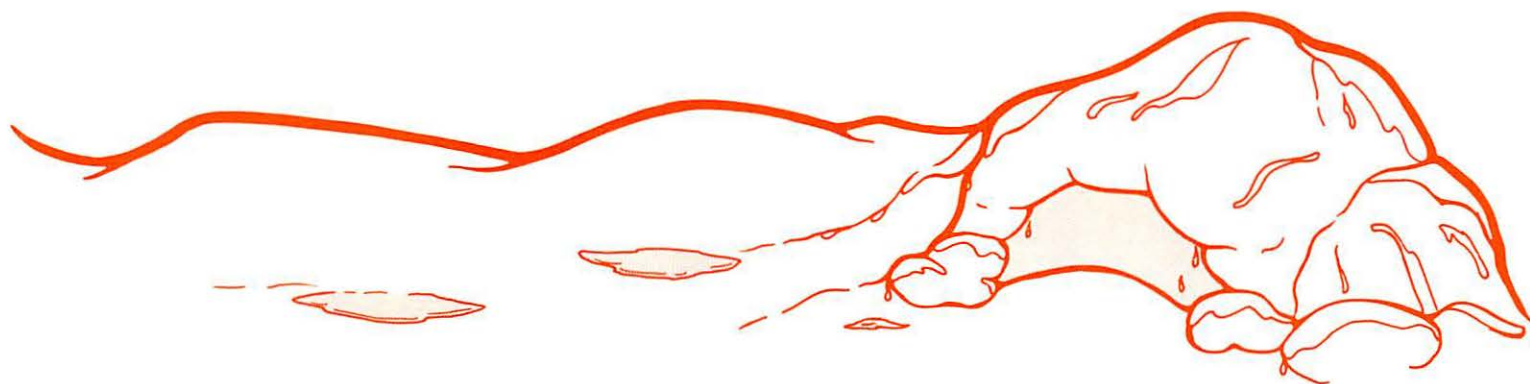


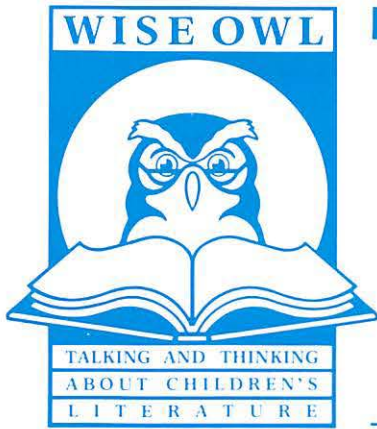
The Bear That Wasn't

Wise Owl Questions

9. The title of this story is *The Bear That Wasn't*.
- A. What "wasn't" the Bear?
 - B. What would it mean if someone pointed to a person and said, "There goes the king that wasn't . . ."?
 - C. What would it mean if someone pointed to a big, fluffy cloud in the sky and said, "There goes that castle that wasn't . . ."?
 - D. Can you point to something that "isn't"?

How can something "not be"?





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10. MAKE UP A STORY — EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- A. Make up a story about Jennifer, who wakes up one morning and thinks that she is dreaming. She tries all kinds of things to tell whether or not she is dreaming. Finally, her brother Sam does something to convince her that she really is awake.
- B. Maybe Sam can't convince Jennifer. Maybe Jennifer convinces Sam that he's dreaming instead. Describe how this could happen.
- C. Make up a story about Willy the Walrus, who wanders into a supermarket one day, and nobody believes he is a walrus.

