

# Time for a picnic

Share this wonderful story featuring a whole host of teddy bears that belong to nursery rhyme and fairytale characters



**P**icnic time for teddy bears!' said the notice pinned to the Little Nut Tree. 'All young teddy bears welcome. Come down to the woods this afternoon. Please bring your own dish and spoon.'

'Can we go?' cried Baby Bear, hopping up and down, then down and up.

'I can't,' said Daddy Bear, 'because I'm too old.'

'And I can't,' said Mummy Bear, 'because I'm too busy. But you can go, because you're just right!'

The Three Bears hurried home, ate their porridge and made sure that their beds were empty. They packed one shiny spoon and one unbreakable dish. Then they walked through the woods and did not stop to talk to any big bad wolves.

Soon, they heard excited noises coming from a clump of mulberry bushes. They turned the corner and there were all the other teddy bears sitting on a neat, round lawn.

'Come and join the circle,' said Cinderella, kindly. 'We're just waiting for Little Bo-Peep's bear, and then we can start.'

Baby Bear waved goodbye to his mummy and daddy, and sat beside Little Red Riding Hood's teddy. Together, they tried to guess who owned all the other bears. The enormous green one belonged to the giant from the beanstalk. The tiny one belonged to Little Tom Thumb. The muddy one was Doctor Foster's. The pink ones belonged to the Three Little Pigs. The sleepy one was Little Boy Blue's, and the one with the bandage belonged to Jack and Jill. At last, hooray! Little Bo-Peep's woolly bear arrived, so the fun could begin.

Cinderella rang a silver bell that she had borrowed from Mary, Mary and called out: 'Teddy bears, teddy bears, turn around! Teddy bears, teddy bears, touch the ground!'

All the teddies twirled and giggled and touched the grass. The silver bell jingled again, and this time Cinderella told everyone to hold paws.

'We're going to dance around the mulberry bush and pretend to brush our ears,' she explained. 'But if you are enormous, please try not to squash someone tiny!'

Cinderella's fairy godmother played a magical tune, and the teddies danced until they were dizzy. 'Can we play 'Round and round the garden?'' asked a royal bear, who belonged to Sleeping Beauty. But all the others groaned and held their heads.

'No,' said Cinderella firmly. 'We're going on a bear hunt!'

This was everyone's favourite game, and they all took turns to hide. After that, there was a hopping race.

Cinderella shouted, 'Ready! Teddy! Go!' and because the bears always ran in circles, nobody won and nobody lost.

By this time, everyone was ready for tea, and it was delicious. There were two sorts of sandwiches (honey and marmalade), bear-shaped biscuits and wibbly, wobbly jellies. As the last crumbs vanished, a clock chimed six o'clock and the mummies and daddies came to take their tired little teddies home to bed.

'Thank you, Cinderella,' said Baby Bear with a yawn. 'It was...'

But he was already fast asleep on Daddy Bear's shoulders, dreaming about the picnic.

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