

learn more about our Native culture and heritage.

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## THE INDIAN BOY AND THE BEARS

**The Indian boy and the bears**, Nancy Cleaver and Rosemary Knight. Illus. Shirley Day. Highway Book Shop, 1981. 30 pp. \$3.95 paper. ISBN 0-88954-225-2.

The book is reminiscent of the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." The beginning of the story takes the listener or reader right into the story as if it were really happening. I feel that the tale is faithful culturally in that it states that the early Indian hunters never took an animal's life unless they needed it for food and fur.

The story line, where so many animals take a turn trying to free the boy when he was imprisoned inside the cave, keeps the reader almost frantic as to which animal will be successful. As we read this section of the book, we tend to read a bit faster as if in a hurry to find the hero. The whole story is full of appealing adjectives that bring it alive. It ends in a way that leaves the reader wondering how the father would react upon returning to find his son. I like this uncertain ending because it could be used as a literature assignment or in a Native study project — e.g. — "Complete the story as you would imagine or want it to end."

The theme of the story is to remember with pride the value and importance of our wild animals. It encourages the reader to learn more about them. The story tends to bring a message to our older group of people and also to many who are now young parents. The message is that mothers — regardless of species — are loving, protective, faithful and wise.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story, as did my family. The book is small, contains pictures on almost every page and possesses a good satisfying print. The story appeals to both young and old and could be used from grades 4-6 as a Native study text, so I recommend that it be used in all Native schools. I hope to be able to find one on the shelf in our library at Peguis in the near future. If it is not, it will certainly be ordered.

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