

King Bear

Characters:

Narrator
Papa Bear
Baby Bear (girl)
Mama Bear
Fox
Rabbit



ACT I

(The setting of the scene is in a forest, just outside a bear's den. A family of three bears is coming out of the den. They are stretching and yawning.)

NARRATOR

The Bear family is ready for spring after a long hibernation.

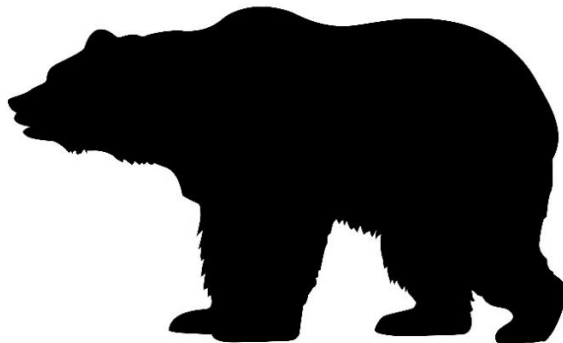
PAPA BEAR

Family, gather around for an important announcement.

(The bears gather around Papa Bear.)

PAPA BEAR

I have decided that I will become king of the forest and rule this land.



BABY BEAR

(laughing hysterically) Great idea, Dad. Then I can become Princess Bear, and the animals of the forest will give me jewels.

PAPA BEAR

This is not a joke, Baby Bear. It will be the best thing to ever happen to the Bear family. All animals in the forest will have to respect and obey me. We will never go hungry, and we will always have animals to wait on us.

MAMA BEAR

You can't just declare yourself to be the king all on your own. I have never heard of such a ridiculous thing. The other animals won't take kindly to this decision. Why do we even need a king?

FOX

Sorry to interrupt, but I couldn't help but overhear that you are now king of the forest. I would like to be the first to congratulate you on this accomplishment! I have long believed that this forest could use a good king, and a mighty bear is the perfect leader to control these lowly animals. I bow before you, King Bear!



NARRATOR

Remember, foxes are tricky animals. No fox would truly feel happy to bow down to a bear and call him king. Fox must be up to something!

PAPA BEAR

It's time to share my royal news with the citizens of my kingdom!

NARRATOR

So, Papa Bear went marching through the woods very proudly, with Mama Bear and Baby Bear following reluctantly behind him.

MAMA BEAR

Well I guess you will need a crown if you are going to be the king. I can make you one out of spring flowers.

PAPA BEAR

Excellent idea, dear Queen. You think of everything.

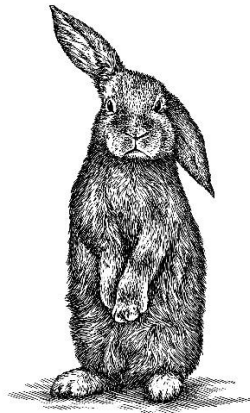
BABY BEAR

Look, there's Rabbit!

(The bears walk over to Rabbit, who is happily eating grass.)

PAPA BEAR

Hello, Rabbit. I am now the king of this fine forest, and I greet you with a happy hello on this spring day.



NARRATOR

Of course, Rabbit was frightened at the sight of three bears approaching him. The rabbit dropped a mouthful of grass and began shaking with fear.

RABBIT

I-I-I-I don't know what you mean. We have a king? Do I need to gather food for you?

PAPA BEAR

Brilliant idea, young peasant. That would suit my royal family well. Bring us berries on Mondays, minerals on Tuesdays, and other fruits on Wednesdays. That should make us quite happy. Thank you for your loyal service.

ACT II

(The setting is a tree stump in the forest where Fox stands to give a speech to the forest animals.)



NARRATOR

Just as we suspected, Fox had something on his mind. He called a meeting for all forest animals to discuss what they could do about the new King Bear.

FOX

The easiest thing to do is to play Bear's own game. If he can just declare himself king, then I can declare myself king, too. There is no law that says our forest must have only one king. In fact, you can all be kings and queens, and your children will be princes and princesses.

(The forest animals gave one loud, unanimous cheer.)

FOX

Quiet, now. We don't want to give away our plan. First, let's make our crowns with spring flowers, just like King Bear did. I will be King Fox, you can be Queen Frog, you are Queen Squirrel, and you are King Rabbit. *(pointing at the crowd)*

RABBIT

Yes! I would love to be a king. Now I won't have to collect food for King Bear! If we are all royals, then no one will be able to tell anyone in this forest what to do.

FOX

Exactly, wise Rabbit. Then things will be exactly as they have always been. There will be no way that King Bear could say that he was better than King Rabbit or Queen Frog.

NARRATOR

And with that thought on their minds, the animals created crowns out of the finest spring flowers. Each crown was more beautiful than the next, and everyone was happy.

ACT III

(The setting is the Bear's den, just before dinner.)

NARRATOR

Today is Monday, which is the day that King Bear expects Rabbit to bring him berries. King Bear is eagerly waiting outside his den for a pile of berries so he can make a lovely berry soup. As King Bear grows impatient, Rabbit approaches, without any berries.

RABBIT

Greetings, fellow king, on this lovely spring evening.

PAPA BEAR

Where are my berries? Why are you wearing a king's crown?

RABBIT

There are no rules about how kings are declared or how many there may be, but I'm sure you are aware of that. I worked hard on my crown and hope you find it to be as fine as yours. Unfortunately, King Bear, I will not be able to provide you with the food that you requested because I, too, am a king. You will also find that the other animals in the forest are all kings, queens, princes, and princesses.

PAPA BEAR

But how did this happen? I declared myself king, and everyone else decided to do the same thing! But what will we all rule? A king needs to rule something.

BABY BEAR

(Steps forward.) We will all have to rule ourselves, just like we did before you declared yourself to be king. Things work best when animals rule themselves, not when one animal rules everyone else.

NARRATOR

And with those wise words from Baby Bear, the reign of King Bear was over. The animals of the forest wore beautiful crowns every day of the spring and summer, and everyone lived happily ever after.

