

LEVELED BOOK • N

Brainstorm Bear



MULTI
level
H•K•N

Written by Torran Anderson
Illustrated by Dani Jones

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Focus Question

Why does the family in the story
brainstorm?

Words to Know

bouncy

sketching

brainstorm

trail

moat

trampoline

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Correlation

LEVEL N	
Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28



Sam was setting up tables in the driveway for the yard sale. Suddenly, he noticed a brown bear up a tree in the neighbors' yard.

"Mom, there's a bear in that tree over there!" Sam called.



Sam's little sister Sarah nervously chewed on her shirtsleeve. "What if it comes down and attacks us?" Sarah asked.

Mrs. Miller took Sarah's hand. "We're a safe distance away from the bear," she said. "Plus, it looks very happy up there. I don't think it's coming down anytime soon."



“We need to get it down before our yard sale starts,” Sam said.

“We could always cancel the yard sale,” Mrs. Miller said.

“I already hung up a hundred and fifty fliers,” Sam groaned. “I need to raise the money for my choir trip. I know we can get the bear to come down if we can **brainstorm** the right idea.”



“What do you have in mind? I don’t want another solution like the one you tried for the squirrels,” his mom said.

Two weeks before, Sam had tried to stop the squirrels from eating all the birdseed. On a whim, he dug a **moat** around the bird feeder and destroyed his mother’s tulips.



“This is different,” Sam said. “I promised you I’d draw all my ideas first before I actually do anything.”

“We could move our **trampoline** under the tree so the bear could jump onto it,” Sarah suggested.



Sam pulled out his notepad and drew what he thought would happen if the bear landed on the trampoline. He pictured the heavy bear being launched high into the air. “I think the trampoline’s too **bouncy**, Sarah. Besides, I don’t think the bear would jump out of the tree. Bears are probably scared of trampolines.”



Sarah sighed and shook her head.
“I suppose you’re right,” she said.
“Mom, what would you do to get
the bear out of the tree?”

Mrs. Miller thought about it and started laughing. “I’d play that new Boy Band Extreme song that’s always on the radio. That song would make anyone run for the hills,” she said.



Sam chuckled and drew in his notepad. He imagined the terrified bear scurrying to the top of the tree to escape the noise.

“If you play that Boy Band Extreme song, the bear will never come down,” Sam said.



As they giggled at Sam's drawing,
some nuts fell near the base of
the tree.

"Look, the bear's eating something
up there," Sarah said.

"He's probably found some nuts that
were stashed away by squirrels,"
Mrs. Miller said.



“I’ve got it!” Sam shouted. He scribbled his plan in the notepad and showed Sarah and his mom.

“We’ll collect a big pile of nuts and make a **trail** leading back to the forest,” Sam said. “We can toss nuts under the tree so we don’t have to get too close to the bear,” he added.

“Let’s get nuts!” Sarah yelled.



“All right, let’s try it,” Mrs. Miller said. “Good job **sketching** out your ideas first.”

Sam dropped his sketchbook and sprinted to the chestnut tree in the backyard. Sarah and her mother grabbed two large paper bags from the kitchen and met Sam out back.

“We’re going to get that bear out of the tree!” Sam shouted. “I’m one-hundred percent sure this plan will work.”



While they were filling the bags with chestnuts, the brown bear climbed down from the tree. Sam was so busy with his plan he didn't notice the bear was leaving. He returned just in time to see the bear disappear into the woods behind the neighbors' house.



“Aw, the bear is gone!” he said.

“Look on the bright side,” Mrs. Miller said. “At least you can have the yard sale now,” she smiled.

Bear Safety

In many places, bears sometimes come close to people’s homes. If you see a bear near your house, do not go near it. Back away slowly and calmly and go inside your house. Stay inside and call your local Department of Wildlife if you need help.

Glossary

bouncy (*adj.*) causing things to bounce easily; springy (p. 8)

brainstorm (*v.*) to share and develop ideas, often related to solving a problem (p. 5)

moat (*n.*) a deep, wide ditch often filled with water that surrounds a place such as a castle (p. 6)

sketching (*v.*) making a rough drawing or outline of something (p. 13)

trail (*n.*) a series of tracks, signs, or smells left behind when something passes from one place to another (p. 12)

trampoline (*n.*) a device for bouncing that has a strong, tightly stretched piece of fabric attached with springs to a frame (p. 7)

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A Reading A-Z Level N Leveled Book

Word Count: 623

Connections

Writing and Art

How would you have tried to solve the family's problem? Draw a picture and write about it.

Science

What do you know about bears? Share your ideas with a partner.

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