

Silence in the Court!



“QUIET PLEASE!”

There was a sudden hush in the courtroom as the judge walked in and sat behind the tall desk. He looked sternly at the group standing in front of him and started to speak. “Ladies and gentlemen,” he said. “We are here today to listen to a problem. The Three Bears from Bear Cottage have reported a break-in. When they got home from a walk in the woods, they found Goldilocks asleep in their bed.”

Some of the crowd started looking and pointing at Goldilocks.

“They also say that she broke their chair and ate their food,” continued the judge. “But Goldilocks says that she was so frightened by the Three Bears that she has been having nightmares ever since. So I have asked Goldilocks and the Three Bears here today to tell their side of the story. When they have finished, you will all help me decide what to do. Let’s begin.”



The Break-in



EVERYBODY SAT DOWN. The judge looked at the Three Bears. "Please tell us what happened," he said.

Papa Bear stood up. "Every morning, we go for a walk in the woods," he said. "Baby Bear likes to look at all the different plants and animals. When we get home from our walk, we have our breakfast. But last Friday, when we got home, the door was wide open. We hadn't left it open, so we knew that somebody must have broken in."



Mama Bear stood up too. "I thought that someone had decided to take all the lovely honey that we had just finished collecting for the winter," she said. "So I went into the kitchen to check."

"Was the honey gone?" asked the judge.

"No," said Mama Bear. "We called out to see if anyone was there, but nobody answered."

"We thought that the person must have already gone," said Papa Bear.

"But she hadn't!" squeaked Baby Bear.

The judge looked over at Goldilocks. “Did you break into the Three Bears’ cottage?” he asked.

“No, sir,” said Goldilocks. “At least, I didn’t mean to.”

“What do you mean?” asked the judge.

“I had been for a walk too,” said Goldilocks. “I had walked a long way and I was very tired. Then I saw the cottage. I decided I would knock on the door and ask whoever was inside if I could come in and rest.”



“I knocked on the door, but nobody answered. Then I turned the door handle and it opened. I thought that somebody must be at home if the door wasn’t locked. So I called out to see if anyone was there. But nobody answered. I felt thirsty, so I went into the kitchen to have a drink of water. Then I was going to go straight home.”

“But she didn’t go straight home!” said Papa Bear.

