

The Story of the Three Bears

Once upon a time there were Three Bears, who lived together in a house of their own, in a wood. One of them was a Little, Small, Wee¹ Bear; and one was a Middle-sized Bear, and the other was a Great, Huge Bear. They had each a pot for their porridge, a little pot for the Little, Small, Wee Bear, and a middle-sized pot for the Middle Bear, and a great pot for the Great, Huge Bear. And they each had a chair to sit in; a little chair for the Little, Small, Wee Bear; and a middle-sized chair for the Middle Bear; and a great chair for the Great, Huge Bear. And they each had a bed to sleep in; a little bed for the Little, Small, Wee Bear; and a middle-sized bed for the Middle Bear; and a great bed for the Great, Huge Bear.

One day, after they had made the porridge for their breakfast, and poured it into their porridge-pots, they walked out into the wood while the porridge was cooling², that they might not burn their mouths, by beginning too soon to eat it. And while they were walking, a little old Woman came to the house. She could not have been a good, honest old Woman; for first she looked in at the window, and then she peeped in³ at the keyhole; and seeing nobody in the house, she lifted the latch. The door was not fastened⁴, because the Bears were good Bears, who did nobody any harm, and never suspected⁵ that anybody would harm⁶ them. So the little old Woman opened the door, and went in; and well pleased she was when she saw the porridge on the table. If she had been a good little old Woman, she would have waited till the Bears

1. **wee**, adj.: informal, very small, to a small degree. *I am a wee bit tired.* (NEPATRNÝ, MALIČKÝ, VELMI ČASNÝ)

2. **to cool**, v.: to become cold or colder, for example meal, emotion. *They opened the window to cool the room down.* (OCHLADIT, ZCHLADIT)

3. **to peep in(to)**, v.: to look at something quickly and secretly, especially through a hole. *I caught him peeping through the keyhole.* (PODÍVAT SE, KOUKNOUT, JUKNOUT)

4. **to fasten**, v.: 1. to join together two sides of a coat or bag, so that

Příběh tří medvědů

Žili spolu kdysi tři medvědi ve svém vlastním domečku v lese. Jeden byl medvěd malý, Paleček, Maloušek. Druhý byl medvěd Středňák a ten třetí medvěd velký, Obrovák. Každý z nich měl svůj kastrolek na krupičnou kaši: maličký kastrolek medvěda malého, Palečka, Malouška, střední medvěda Středňáka a velký kastrolek medvěda velkého, Obrováka. Měli každý také svou židličku: maličká medvěda malého, Palečka, Malouška, střední medvěda Středňáka a velká medvěda velkého, Obrováka, a každý i svou postýlku: malou, která patřila medvědovi malému, Palečkovi, Malouškovi, střední, která byla medvěda Středňáka, a velká, kde spal medvěd velký, Obrovák.

Jednoho rána, když si uvařili kaši k snídani a nalili ji do kastrolků, šli se spolu projít do lesa, než se kaše zchladí, to aby si čumáky nepopálili, když by ji chtěli sníst ještě horkou. Zatímco se procházeli, přišla k jejich domečku malinká stařena. Nemohla to být hodná, poctivá stařena, neboť napřed nakoukla okýnkem dovnitř, pak klíčovou dírkou, a když viděla, že nikdo není doma, vyšoupla petlici. Dveře nebyly zamknuté, protože medvědi byli hodní medvědi, kteří nikomu neublížovali a nečekali, že by kdy někdo ublížil jim. Tak otevřela malá stařena dveře a vešla dovnitř, a byla velmi potěšena, když uviděla na stole kaši. Kdyby byla pořádnou hodnou stařenou, počkala by, než se medvědi vrátí, a oni by ji možná

it is closed; 2. to firmly close a window, a gate etc., so that it will not open. *Make sure all the windows are securely fastened before you leave.* (UPEVNIT, ZAVŘÍT, PŘIPOUTAT)

5. to suspect (sb. of sth.), v.: 1. to think that something is probably true or likely, especially something bad. *She strongly suspected her husband had been lying to her.* 2. to think that someone is guilty. *He is suspected of murder.* (PODEZŘÍVAT, PODEZÍRAT)

6. to harm, v.: to damage something, to hurt someone. *The dogs look scary, but they wouldn't harm anyone.* (UBLÍŽIT, UŠKODIT)

came home, and then, perhaps, they would have asked her to breakfast; for they were good Bears – a little rough¹ or so, as the manner of Bears is, but for all that very good-natured and hospitable. But she was an impudent², bad old Woman, and set about³ helping herself.

So first she tasted the porridge of the Great, Huge Bear, and that was too hot for her; and she said a bad word about that. And then she tasted the porridge of the Middle Bear, and that was too cold for her; and she said a bad word about that, too. And then she went to the porridge of the Little, Small, Wee Bear, and tasted that; and that was neither too hot nor too cold, but just right; and she liked it so well that she ate it all up: but the naughty old Woman said a bad word about the little porridge-pot, because it did not hold enough for her.

Then the little old Woman sat down in the chair of the Great, Huge Bear, and that was too hard for her. And then she sat down in the chair of the Middle Bear, and that was too soft for her. And then she sat down in the chair of the Little, Small, Wee Bear, and that was neither too hard, nor too soft, but just right. So she seated herself in it, and there she sat till the bottom of the chair came out⁴, and down she came, plump upon the ground. And the naughty old Woman said a wicked⁵ word about that, too.

Then the little old Woman went upstairs into the bed-chamber in which the three Bears slept. And first she lay down upon the bed of the Great, Huge Bear; but that was too high at the head for her. And next she lay down upon the bed of the Middle Bear, and that was too high at the foot for her. And then she lay down upon the bed of the

1. rough, adj.: 1. not gentle, using force or violence. *Rugby is a very rough game.* (HRUBÝ, DRSNÝ)

2. impudent, adj. formal: to speak rudely or disrespectfully, or do something that one hasn't the right to do. *Some people are impudent and insulting.* (DRŽÝ, NESTYDATÝ)

3. to set about, phr. v.: to start doing something, especially something that needs a lot of time and effort. *She set about cleaning up after the party.* (ZAČÍT, SNAŽIT SE, POKUSIT SE)

pozvali s nimi posnídat, protože to byli hodní medvědi – trošičku snad ráznější, jak už to u medvědů chodí, ale přesto moc přátelští a pohostinní. Ale protože to byla nestydatá nehodná stařena, jala se posloužit si sama.

Ponejprv tedy ochutnala kaši medvěda velkého, Obrováka, ale ta na ni byla moc horká, a tak něco nepěkného o tom řekla. Potom ochutnala kaši medvěda Středňáka, ale ta se jí zas zdála příliš studená, a zas i o tom řekla něco nepěkného. A pak šla ke kaši medvěda malého, Palečka, Malouška, a ochutnala. Tahle kaše nebyla ani moc horká, ani moc vystydlá, ale úplně akorát, a chutnala jí tolik, že ji všecku snědla. Ale ta ošklivá stařena řekla něco nepěkného o nejmenším kastrolku, neboť jí byl příliš maličký.

Pak se stařena usadila na židli medvěda velkého, Obrováka. Ta na ni byla moc tvrdá. Sedla na židli medvědovi Středňákovi, a ta zas jí byla příliš měkká. Potom se uvelebila na židličce medvěda malého, Palečka, Malouška, která nebyla moc tvrdá, ani moc měkká, ale dočista akorát. Seděla si na ní tak dlouho, až se sedátko úplně prosedělo a upadlo, a s ním i stařena, bác sebou na zem. A tahle nehodná stařena řekla něco moc zlého i o židličce.

I vyšla stařena potom po schodech do medvědí ložnice. Nejprv si lehla na postel medvědovi velkému, Obrovákovi, ale ta jí byla pod hlavu příliš vysoká. Potom si lehla na postel medvědovi Středňákovi, a ta se jí zas zdála moc vysoká tam, kam si dala nohy. A pak vlezla do postýlky medvěda malého, Palečka, Malouška, která nebyla

4. to come out, phr. v.: to finish an action or a process in a particular way, with a particular result. *I can never get cakes to come out well.* (DOPADNOUT)

5. wicked, adj.: behaving in a way that is morally wrong, evil. *He had a wicked stepmother.* (ZLÝ, ŠPATNÝ, PODLÝ)

Little, Small, Wee Bear, and that was neither too high at the head nor at the foot, but just right. So she covered herself¹ up comfortably, and lay there till she fell fast asleep².

By this time the Three Bears thought their porridge would be cool enough, so they came home to breakfast. Now the little old Woman had left the spoon of the Great, Huge Bear, standing in his porridge.

“Somebody has been at my porridge!”

said the Great, Huge Bear, in his great, rough, gruff voice. And when the Middle Bear looked at his, he saw that the spoon was standing in it, too. They were wooden spoons; if they had been silver ones, the naughty³ old Woman would have put them in her pocket.

“Somebody has been at my porridge!”

said the Middle Bear in his middle voice.

Then the Little, Small, Wee Bear looked at his, and there was the spoon in the porridge-pot, but the porridge was all gone⁴.

“Somebody has been at my porridge, and has eaten it all up!”

said the Little, Small, Wee Bear, in his little, small, wee voice.

Upon this the Three Bears, seeing that someone had entered their house, and eaten up the Little, Small, Wee

1. to cover (oneself), v., also cover up: to put something over the top of something in order to hide or protect. *Cover the pan when the sauce boils.* (POKRÝT, PŘIKRÝT)

2. fast asleep, idiom: sleeping very deeply. *Shh, the baby is fast asleep.* (HLUBOCE SPÁT, TVRDĚ SPÁT)

moc vysoká ani pod hlavou, ani pod nohama. Byla to pos-
týlka úplně akorát, a tak se stařena přikryla a ležela tam,
až usnula.

Medvědi si zatím v lese řekli, že už jim kaše snad dost
vystydla, a vrátili se posnídat. stařena nechala lžičku, co
patřila medvědu velkému, Obrovákovi, ležet v jeho kas-
trolku.

„Někdo mi jedl z kaše!“

povídá medvěd velký, Obrovák svým mohutným,
drsným, hrubým hlasem. A když se medvěd Středňák po-
díval na svůj kastrolek, uviděl, že i on v něm má polože-
nou svoji lžičku. Byly to lžičky dřevěné. Kdyby byly stří-
bné, ta nehodná stařena by si je strčila do zástěry.

„Někdo mi jedl z kaše!“

povídá medvěd Středňák svým prostředním hlasem.
Potom se na svůj kastrolek díval medvěd malý, Pa-
leček, Maloušek, a byla v něm lžička, ale kaše byla všec-
ka pryč.

„Někdo mi jedl z kaše a všecku mi ji snědl!“

povídá medvěd malý, Paleček, Maloušek svým ma-
lým, paleččím, malouščím hláskem.

Když medvědi zjistili, že jim někdo vlezl do domečku
a snědl medvědovi malému, Palečkovi, Malouškovi sní-

3. naughty, adj.: naughty child behaves badly and is rude and dis-
obedient. *Look what you have done, you are very naughty.*
(ZLOBIVÝ, NEHODNÝ)

4. to be gone, idiom: to disappear, to be away. *Suddenly, everybody
was gone after the party.* (ZMIZET, VYPAŘIT SE)

Bear's breakfast, began to look about them. Now the little old Woman had not put the hard cushion straight¹ when she rose from the chair of the Great, Huge Bear.

“Somebody has been sitting in my chair!”

said the Great, Huge Bear, in his great, rough, gruff voice.

And the little old Woman had squatted down² the soft cushion of the Middle Bear.

“Somebody has been sitting in my chair!”

said the Middle Bear, in his middle voice.

And you know what the little old Woman had done to the third chair.

“Somebody has been sitting in my chair and has sat the bottom out³ of it!”

said the Little, Small, Wee Bear, in his little, small, wee voice.

Then the three Bears thought it necessary that they should make further⁴ search; so they went upstairs into their bed-chamber. Now the little old Woman had pulled⁵ the pillow of the Great, Huge Bear out of its place.

“Somebody has been lying in my bed!”

said the Great, Huge Bear, in his great, rough, gruff voice.

1. to put something straight, phr. v.: to make something look clean and tidy, to make the situation better. *It took us all weekend to put the garden straight.* (UROVNAT, DÁT NA MÍSTO)

2. to squat (down), v.: to sit with your knees bent under you, your bottom off the ground on your feet. *The woman squatted down in order not to be seen.* (DŘEPNOUT SI)

3. to sit out, phr. v.: to stay where you are until something

dani, začali se rozhlížet. stařena neurovnala tvrdý polštářek na židli medvěda velkého, Obrováka, když se z ní zvedla.

„Někdo mi seděl na židli!“

povídá medvěd velký, Obrovák svým mohutným, drsným, hrubým hlasem.

Stařena splácla měkkoučký polštářek na židli medvěda Středňáka, když na něm seděla.

„Někdo mi seděl na židli!“

povídá medvěd Středňák svým prostředním hlasem.

A co stařena udělala se třetí židličkou, to už víte.

„Někdo mi seděl na židli a sedátko úplně prosedl!“

povídá medvěd malý, Paleček, Maloušek svým malým, paleččím, malouščím hláskem.

I řekli si medvědi, že budou muset dál hledat, tak šli nahoru do ložnice. Stařena posunula polštář v posteli medvěda velkého, Obrováka.

„Někdo mi ležel v posteli!“

povídá medvěd velký, Obrovák svým mohutným, drsným, hrubým hlasem.

finishes, especially something boring or unpleasant; to cause some effect by long sitting. (VYSEDĚT, POSEDĚT SI)

4. further, adj. (only before noun) or adv.: more or additional, to do something more and more, to a greater degree. *He hasn't made any further progress.* (DALŠÍ, VÍCE, DÁLE)

5. to pull, v.: to use your hands to make something move towards you or in the direction that you are moving. *Help me move the piano, you push and I will pull.* (TÁHNOUT, TAHAT)

And the little old Woman had pulled the bolster¹ of the Middle Bear out of its place.

“Somebody has been lying in my bed!”

said the Middle Bear, in his middle voice.

And when the Little, Small, Wee Bear came to look at his bed, there was the bolster in its right place, and the pillow in its place upon the bolster; and upon the pillow was the little old Woman’s ugly, dirty head – which was not in its place, for she had no business there.

“Somebody has been lying in my bed – and here she is!”

said the Little, Small, Wee Bear, in his little, small, wee voice.

The little old Woman had heard in her sleep the great, rough, gruff voice of the Great, Huge Bear; but she was so fast asleep that it was no more to her than the roaring² of wind or the rumbling of thunder³. And she had heard the middle voice, of the Middle Bear, but it was only as if she had heard someone speaking in a dream. But when she heard the little, small, wee voice of the Little, Small, Wee Bear, it was so sharp, and so shrill⁴, that it awakened⁵ her at once. Up she started; and when she saw the Three Bears on one side of the bed, she tumbled⁶ herself out at the other, and ran to the window. Now the window was open, because the Bears, like good, tidy Bears as they were, always opened their bed-chamber window

1. bolster, n.: a long firm pillow that you put under another pillow. *I am lying too flat, I need a bolster.* (PODHLAVNÍK)

2. to roar, v.: to make a deep, very loud noise, to say something or shout in a deep, powerful voice. *We heard a lion roar.* (ŘVÁT, KŘIČET, ZAŘVAT)

3. rumbling (of thunder), n.: low, long sounds, especially a long distance away. *A tank rumbled past.* (HŘMĚT, RACHOTIT, DUNĚT, KRUČET)

Stařena nechala podušku medvěda Středňáka jinak, než byla.

„Někdo mi ležel v posteli!“

povídá medvěd Středňák svým prostředním hlasem.

Když se šel na svoji postýlku podívat medvěd malý, Paleček, Maloušek, poduška byla na svém místě, polštář také, a na polštáři byla hlava ošklivé, umouněné stařeny – která na svém místě nebyla, neboť tam neměla vůbec co dělat.

„Někdo mi ležel v posteli – a ještě tam je!“

povídá medvěd malý, Paleček, Maloušek svým malým, paleččím, malouščíím hláskem.

Stařena slyšela ve spánku mohutný, drsný, hrubý hlas medvěda velkého, Obrováka, ale spala tak tvrdě, že jí nebyl než hučením větru a duněním hromu. Slyšela i prostřední hlas medvěda Středňáka, ale bylo to, jen jako by slyšela někoho ve snu mluvit. Ale když zaslechla malý, paleččí, malouščí hlásek medvěda malého, Palečka, Malouška, byl tak ostrý a pisklavý, že ji vmžiku probudil. Vyletěla, a když viděla podél postele stát tři medvědy, skutálela se druhou stranou a běžela k oknu. Bylo otevřené, protože medvědi, jak byli takovými pořádnými

4. shrill, adj.: a shrill sound is very high and unpleasant, piercing. *He heard a shrill voice of a woman.* (PRONIKAVÝ, OSTRÝ, ŘEZAVÝ, NÁPADNÝ)

5. to awaken, v. formal: to wake up or to make someone wake up. *The noise outside awakened him.* (VZBUDIT, PROBUDIT)

6. to tumble, v.: to fall quickly and suddenly downwards, especially with a rolling movement. *She lost her balance and tumbled backwards.* (SVALIT SE, PŘEVALIT SE)

when they got up in the morning. Out the little old Woman jumped; and whether she broke¹ her neck in the fall; or ran into the wood and was lost there; or found her way out of the wood, and was taken up by the constable and sent to the House of Correction for a vagrant² as she was, I cannot tell. But the Three Bears never saw anything more of her.

1. to break one's neck, v. idiom, colloquial: to hurt oneself very badly, especially by falling onto the ground. *The path was really icy, I was lucky I didn't break my neck.* (SRAZIT SI VAZ)

a spořádanými medvědy, vždycky když ráno vstali, otevřeli okno do ložnice. Stařena vyskočila, a jestli si vaz zlomila, do lesa odběhla a tam se ztratila, nebo z něj cestu našla a sebral ji strážník a zavřel pro potulku, to nevím. Jisté je jen, že ji medvědi pak už nikdy neviděli.

2. vagrant, n. formal: someone who has no home or work, especially someone who begs. *We went past a vagrant who was sitting in the street.* (TULÁK)