

The Berenstain Bears
and the
ATTIC TREASURE



Stan & Jan Berenstain



It's just a pile
of junk, upstairs,
but it's full of surprises
for all of the Bears.



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and the
ATTIC TREASURE



Stan & Jan Berenstain

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Printed in the U.S.A.

The Bear family was spending a quiet evening at home in the big tree house at the edge of the forest deep in Bear Country. Papa Bear was reading the paper, Mama Bear was looking at the latest issue of Tree Housekeeping Magazine, and Brother and Sister Bear were playing a game.





"Here's an interesting idea," said Mama, showing Papa a feature in the magazine. The headline said: Convert Your Gloomy Cluttered Attic Into A Lovely Family Room.

"Very interesting," agreed Papa, looking at the Before and After pictures.

"Our attic sure is cluttered," said Brother.

"And gloomy," agreed Sister.



Up the stairs they went to the seldom-visited room at the top of the tree house. As they looked into the gloom and clutter—boxes piled on boxes, strange shapes leaning against other strange shapes—they

pictured a neat, clean, cozy new room.

"Let's do it," said Mama. "Let's get rid of this mess and have a lovely Family Room."



"But what will we do with all this junk?"
asked Papa.

"We'll have a Yard Sale," Mama said.

"Hey, terrific!" he said. "We'll turn this
worthless junk into cash."

"Super," said Brother.

"Super-de-duper," agreed Sister.



The next day, the Bear family went to work on the project. Papa made a big sign which said: **BIG YARD SALE TOMORROW AT 2 O'CLOCK!**



"It'll be so nice having a family room up here," said Mama as she began rummaging through the boxes piled on boxes.

"And think of all the money we'll make," said Papa as he began looking through an old chest of drawers. "I wonder how much we'll get for this piece of junk," he added, dusting off an old cracked honey pot.



"That piece of junk happens to be one of our first wedding presents," said Mama, taking it and tenderly putting it aside.



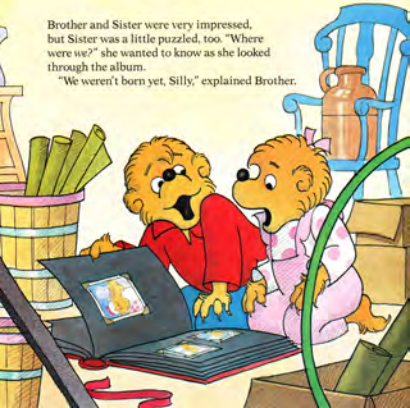
"What are these funny old pictures?" asked Brother as he and Sister looked through a dusty photo album.

"Those funny pictures, young fellow," said Papa Bear, "just happen to be your mother's and my wedding pictures." It was true. There were Mama and Papa all dressed up as a bride and groom.



Brother and Sister were very impressed, but Sister was a little puzzled, too. "Where were we?" she wanted to know as she looked through the album.

"We weren't born yet, Silly," explained Brother.



"Oh," she said. Then, changing the subject, she asked, "Hey, what's this?"





"That's my old twirl-a-hoop," said Brother. "Here, I'll show you how to do it." But he couldn't get it going. He had lost the knack.



Sister turned out to be a twirl-a-hoop whiz. "We can't sell this! It's terrific!" she cried, twirl-a-hooping up a storm.



So, one by one, it was decided that
the things in the attic—

the cracked honey pot,



the wedding pictures,



the twirl-a-hoop—



weren't really junk at
all. They were family
treasures.



And many other things as well:



the framed painting of Great-Great Uncle Ned who first settled Bear Country, Papa's old baseball card collection,



the trumpet Mama used to play in her school band,





and the trophy Papa won for coming in
second in a sack race,

"Now, here are some things we
can surely get rid of," said Mama
Bear, pointing to a pile of baby
furniture.



"But that's our baby furniture," protested Sister.
"Yeah. What if we ever have another baby?" asked Brother.
"Good thinking," chuckled Papa.



After a moment's thought,
Mama agreed—which left the
Bear family with nothing to
offer at the Big Yard Sale.
So the sale was canceled.





It turned out that the Bears didn't have to convert their attic into a family room. All it needed was a little cleaning and straightening, because it already was one — the best sort of family room a family could ever have.

HOW TO MAKE READING TO YOUR CHILDREN EVEN MORE FUN



You can make reading a lot more fun for your children by paying attention to the following things when you read aloud to them:

Expression. You can put extra life into a story by changing your voice for different characters and varying its volume, tone and pitch.

Pace. Set a relaxed pace while reading. Rushing through the story may make reading seem like work and/or a bother. If you don't have a lot of time, choose a shorter story, read poetry, or read just one chapter of a longer book.

Involvement. Try to answer any questions your children may have about the story you are reading.

They are showing you their involvement and understanding by the questions they ask. By your answers (and patience) you will encourage them to participate even more. Also, ask them questions about the story—and when they answer correctly, be sure to show how proud you are of them.

Sharing stories should be fun and will create a closeness that your children will remember all their lives.

How about setting up a reading club for your children and their friends? Encourage them to read to themselves and each other by putting up a wall chart and rewarding them for every book they read.

Be sure your children have their own library cards. Your librarian is an excellent source for choosing stories.

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