

The Berenstain Bears®

BACK TO SCHOOL



Stan & Jan Berenstain

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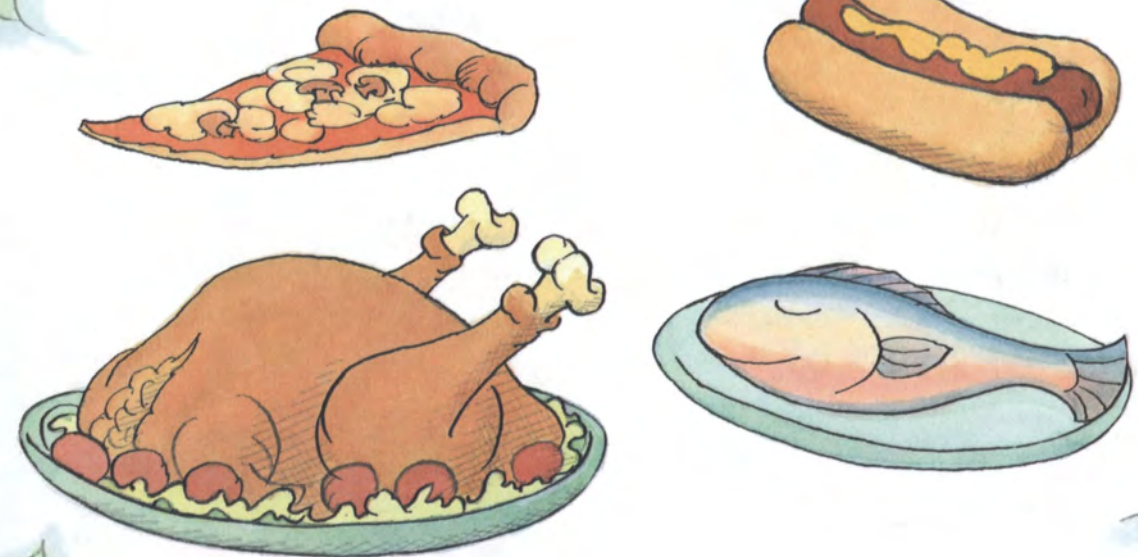
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The members of the Bear family were sitting around talking about their favorite things —

their favorite colors,



their favorite foods,



their favorite movies and TV shows.



After a while they got to their favorite seasons.
“What’s your favorite season, Papa?” asked
Brother.

“Winter,” said Papa. “Winter is my
favorite season because it’s rugged.

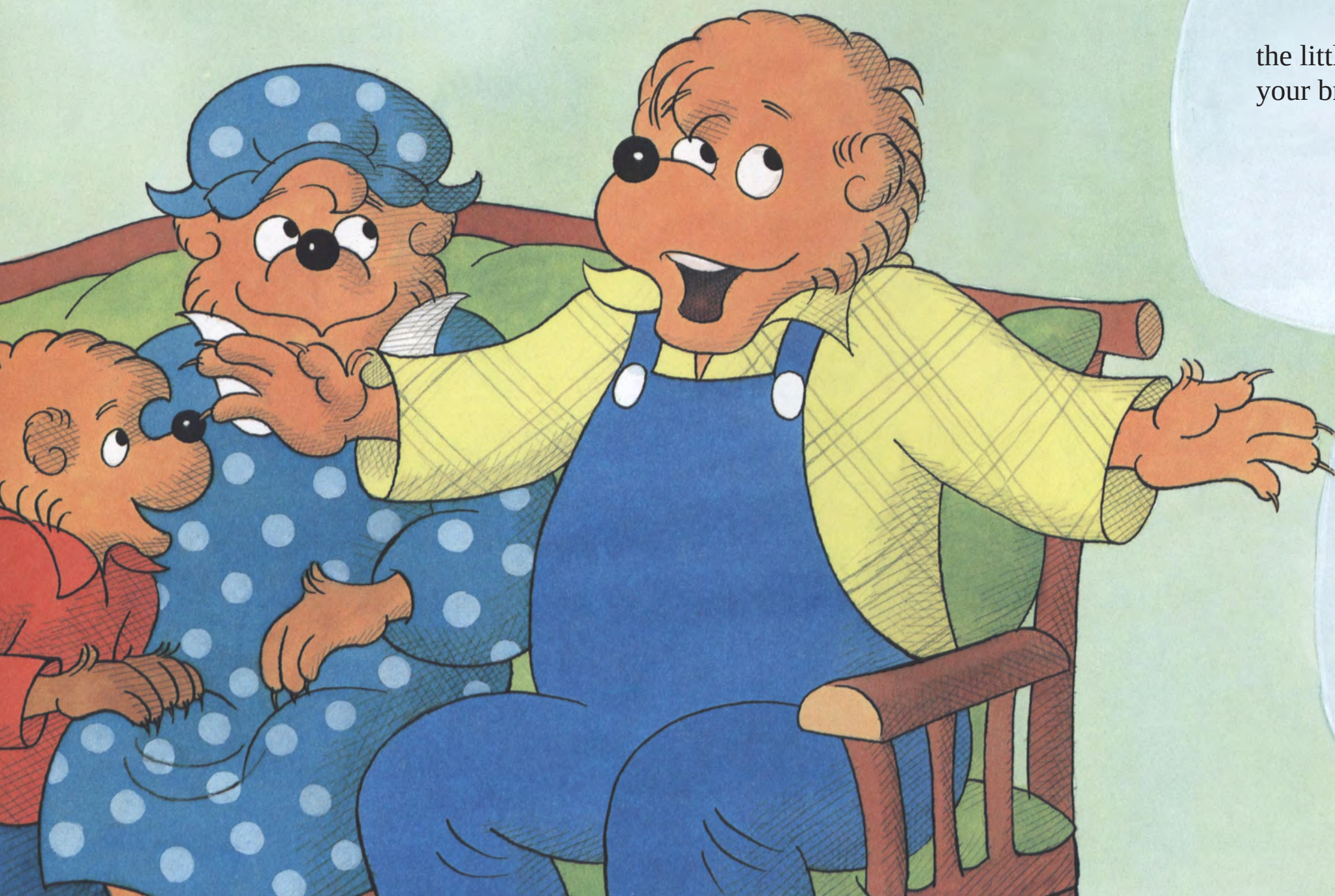
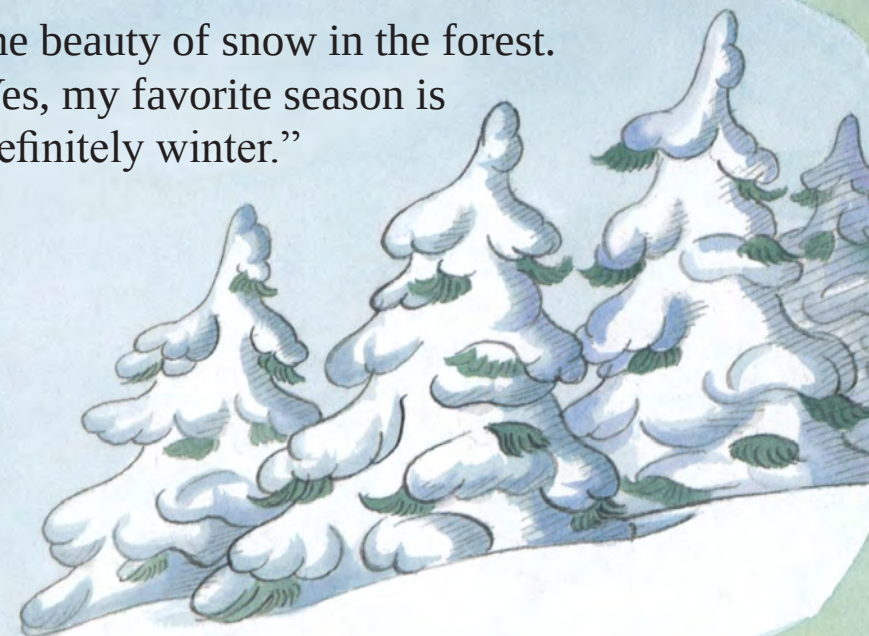
I like the crunch of snow
beneath my feet,



the little clouds
your breath makes,



the beauty of snow in the forest.
Yes, my favorite season is
definitely winter.”



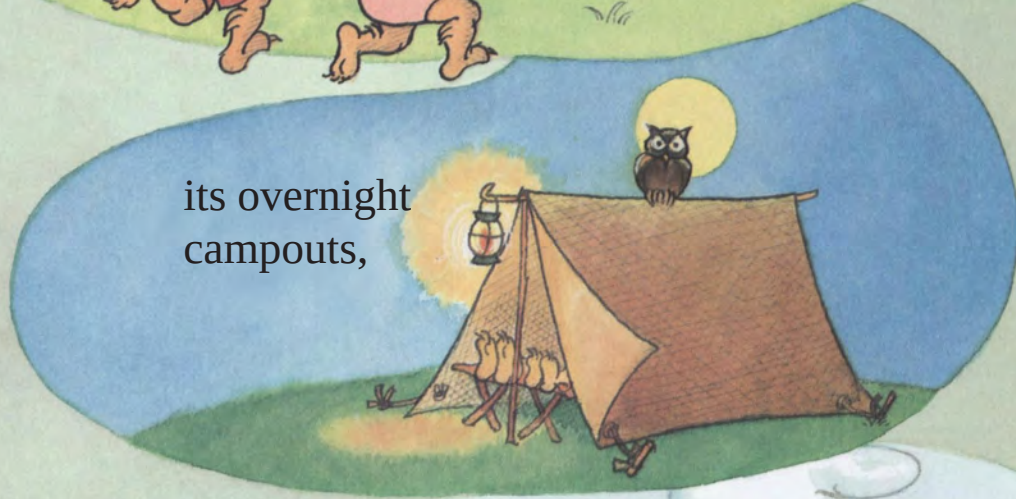
"Tell me, cubs," said Papa. "What's your favorite season?"

"Summer!" shouted the cubs. It wasn't exactly a big surprise that summer was the cubs' favorite season.

Summer with its trips to the old swimming hole,



its overnight campouts,

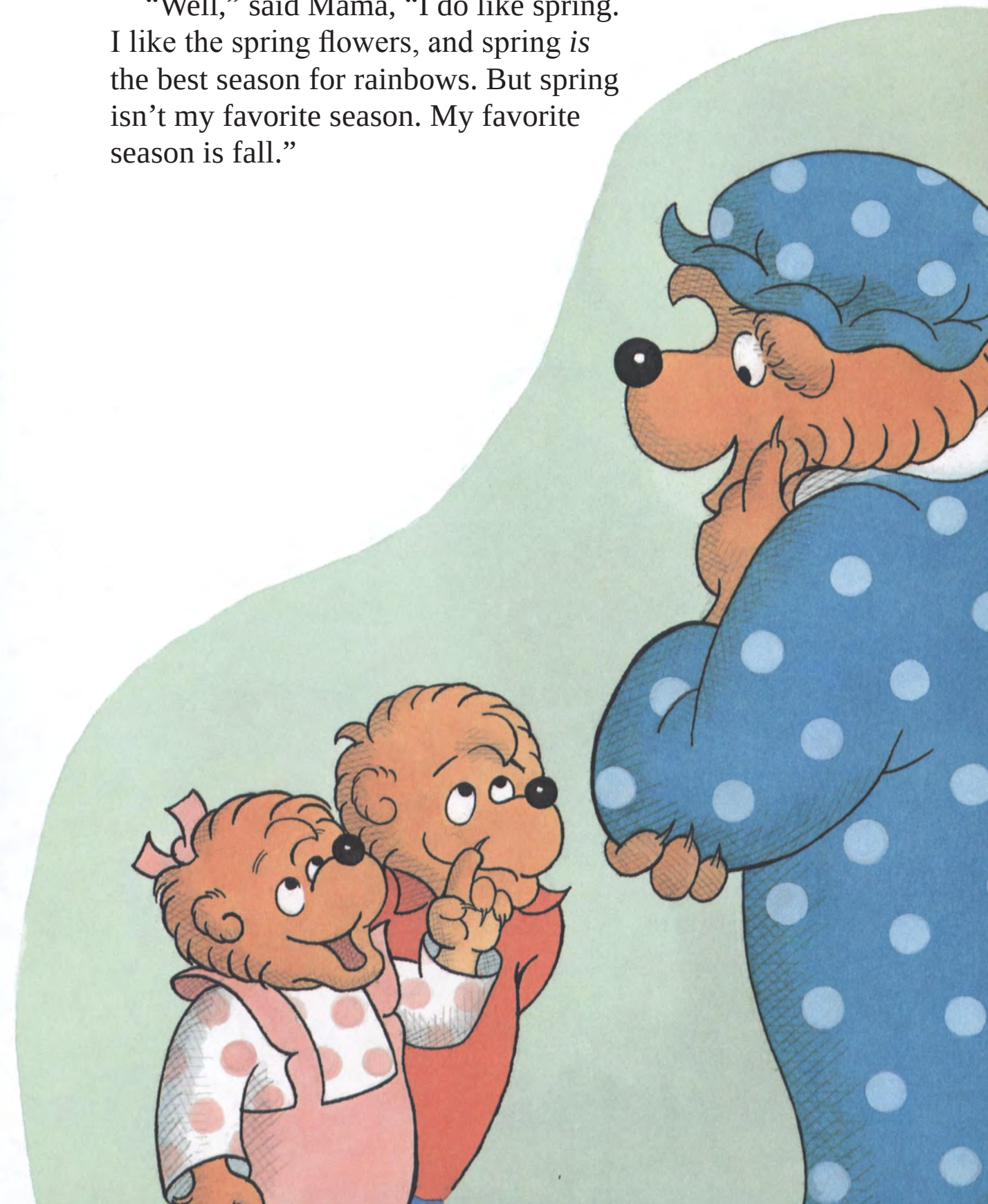


and just lying around watching the sky.



"I bet I know your favorite season, Mama," said Sister. "Spring!"

"Well," said Mama, "I do like spring. I like the spring flowers, and spring is the best season for rainbows. But spring isn't my favorite season. My favorite season is fall."



“Why is that, Mama?” asked Brother.

“Is it because the leaves turn beautiful colors?”
asked Sister.

“Is it because of October’s bright blue weather?”
asked Brother.

“No,” said Mama. “Fall is my favorite season
because in the fall, it’s BACK TO SCHOOL!”



School! thought the cubs. They had all but forgotten about school.

Their minds flashed back to the last day of school, many weeks ago, when they and their friends cheered and shouted, "No more pencils! No more books! No more teacher's dirty looks!"



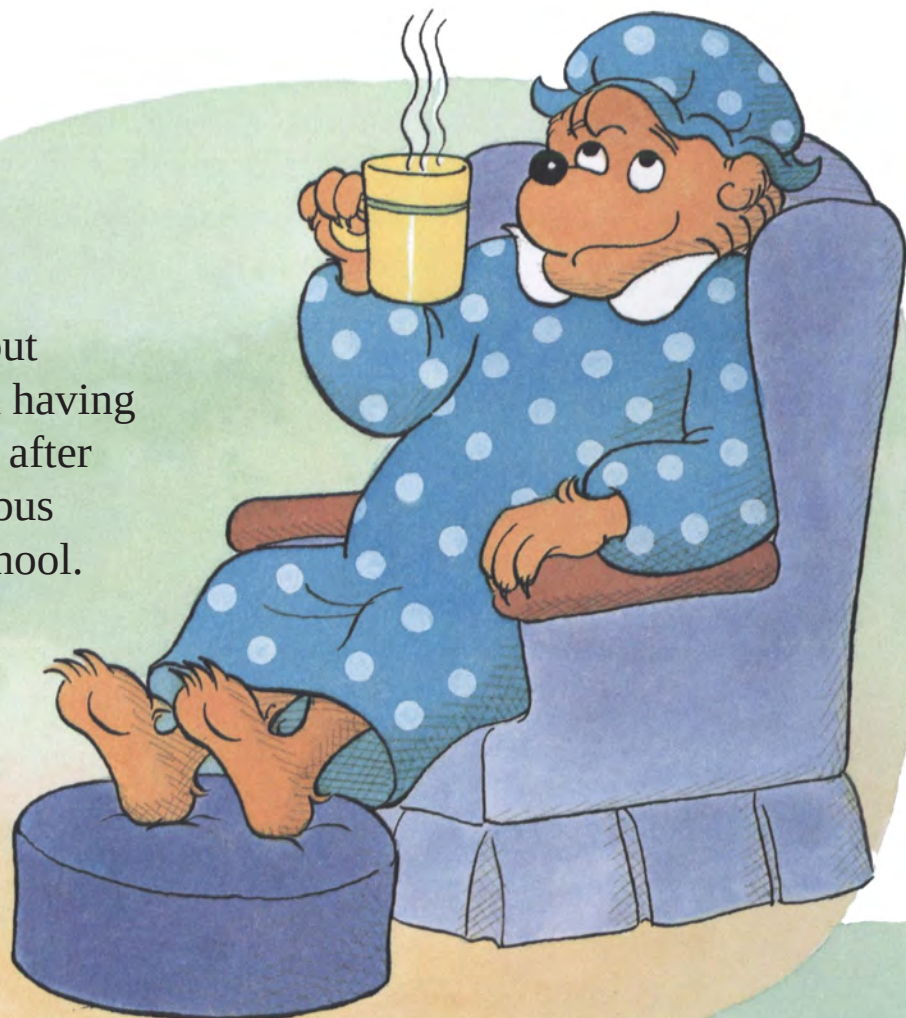
But soon they would be going back to school and it would be, "Lots more pencils! Lots more books! Lots more teacher's dirty looks!"



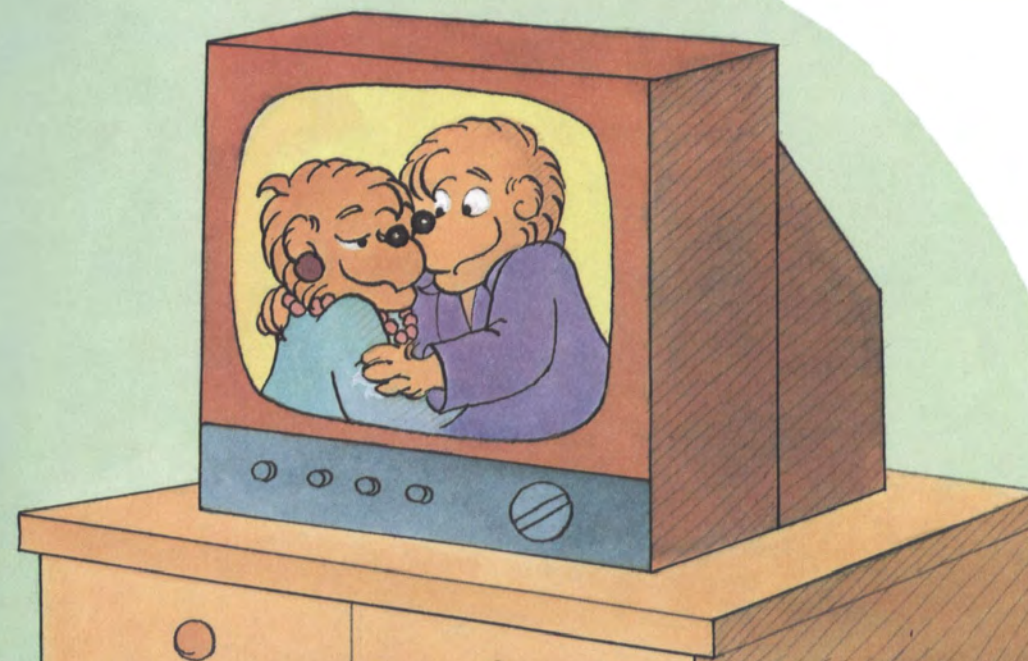


Mama went to the calendar and circled the day they would be going back to school. Her thoughts were different.

Her thoughts were about putting her feet up and having a second cup of coffee after the big yellow school bus took the cubs off to school.



Perhaps she would catch up on her soap operas.

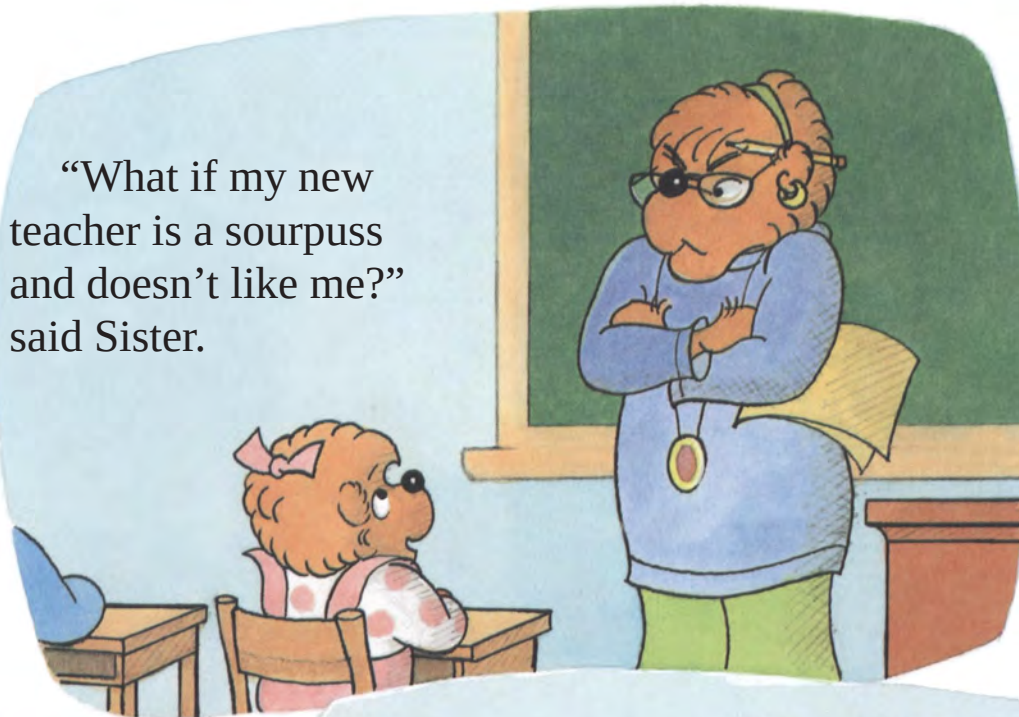


Maybe she would do some shopping at the mall.

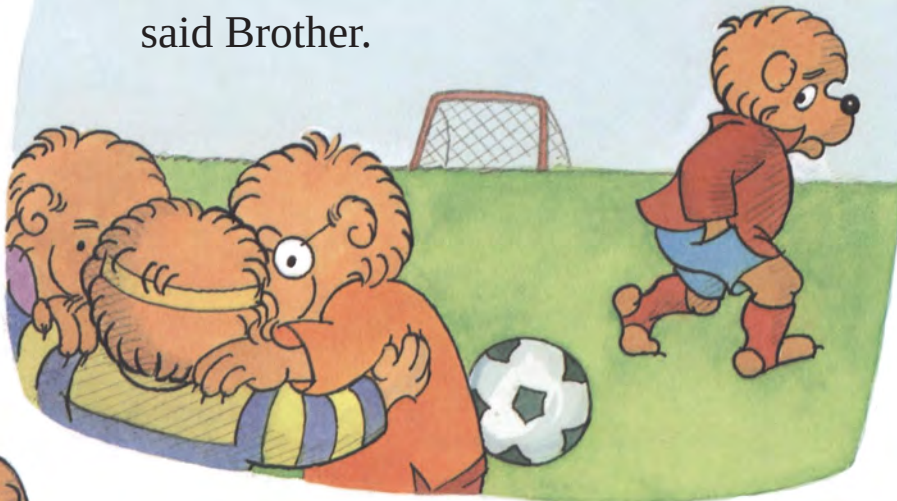


As back-to-school day came closer,
the cubs began to worry.

“What if my new
teacher is a sourpuss
and doesn’t like me?”
said Sister.



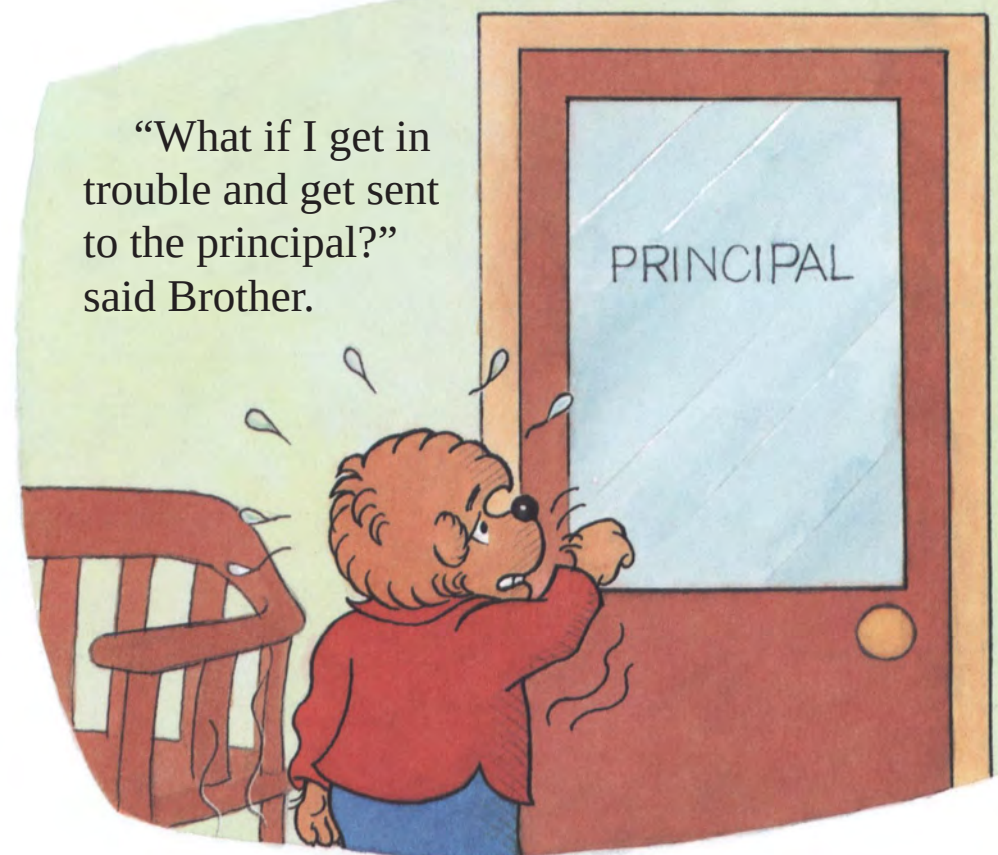
“What if I go out for soccer
and don’t make the team?”
said Brother.



“What if the work is too hard,
and I can’t do it?” said Sister.



“What if I get in
trouble and get sent
to the principal?”
said Brother.



“Now, now,” said Mama.
“None of those things is
going to happen. You’re
going to do fine.”

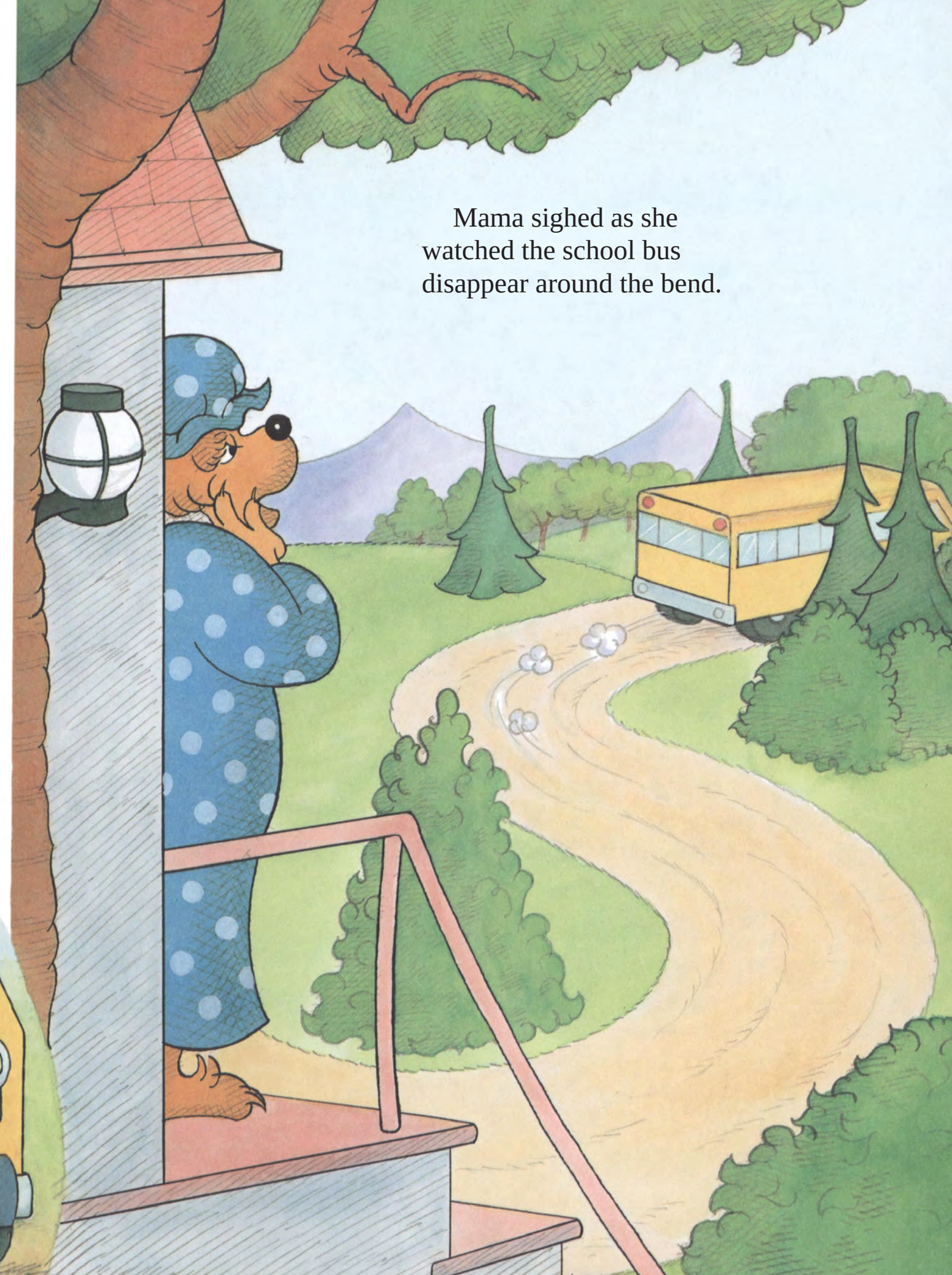
“Your mama’s right,”
said Papa. “There’s
absolutely nothing
to worry about.”



But the cubs couldn’t help
worrying. They were still
worrying when the bus
came and took them
off to school.



Mama sighed as she
watched the school bus
disappear around the bend.



Woodsbear Papa had already left for his work in the forest.

Alone at last, thought Mama as she looked around the house.



She put on one of her soap operas. But it seemed stupid and boring, and she had lost track of the story.



She poured herself a second cup of coffee and looked at the morning paper. The headline said: "School Starts Today!" She already knew that.

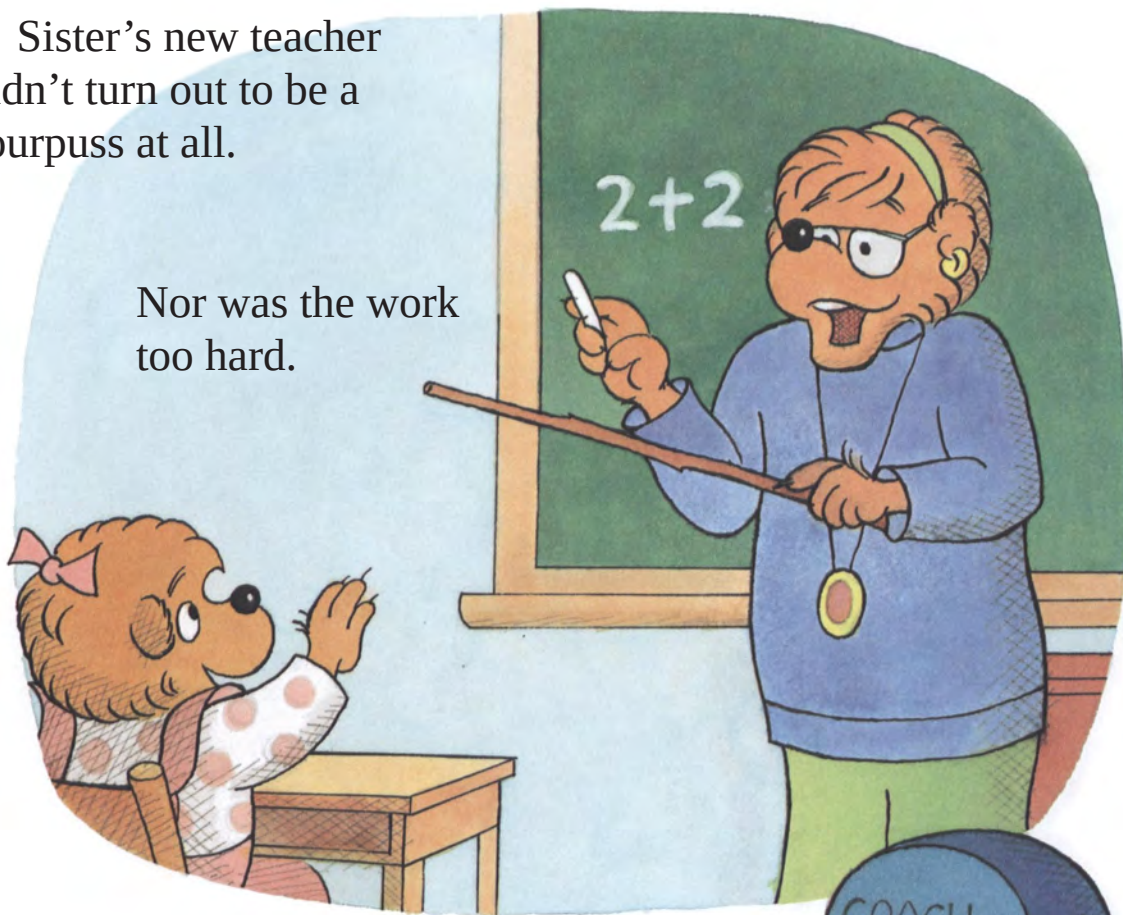


She decided to go shopping at the mall. But by the time she got ready, she had changed her mind. She just wasn't in the mood for shopping.

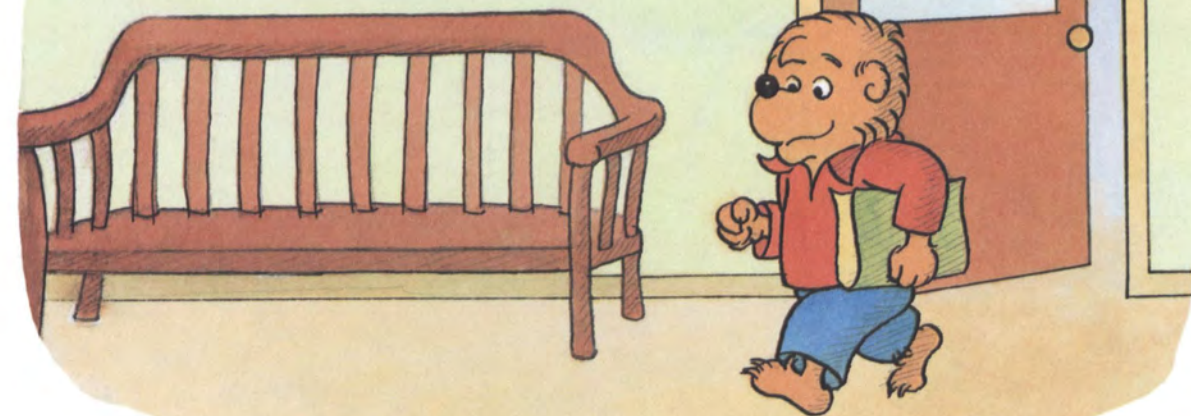


Sister's new teacher
didn't turn out to be a
sourpuss at all.

Nor was the work
too hard.



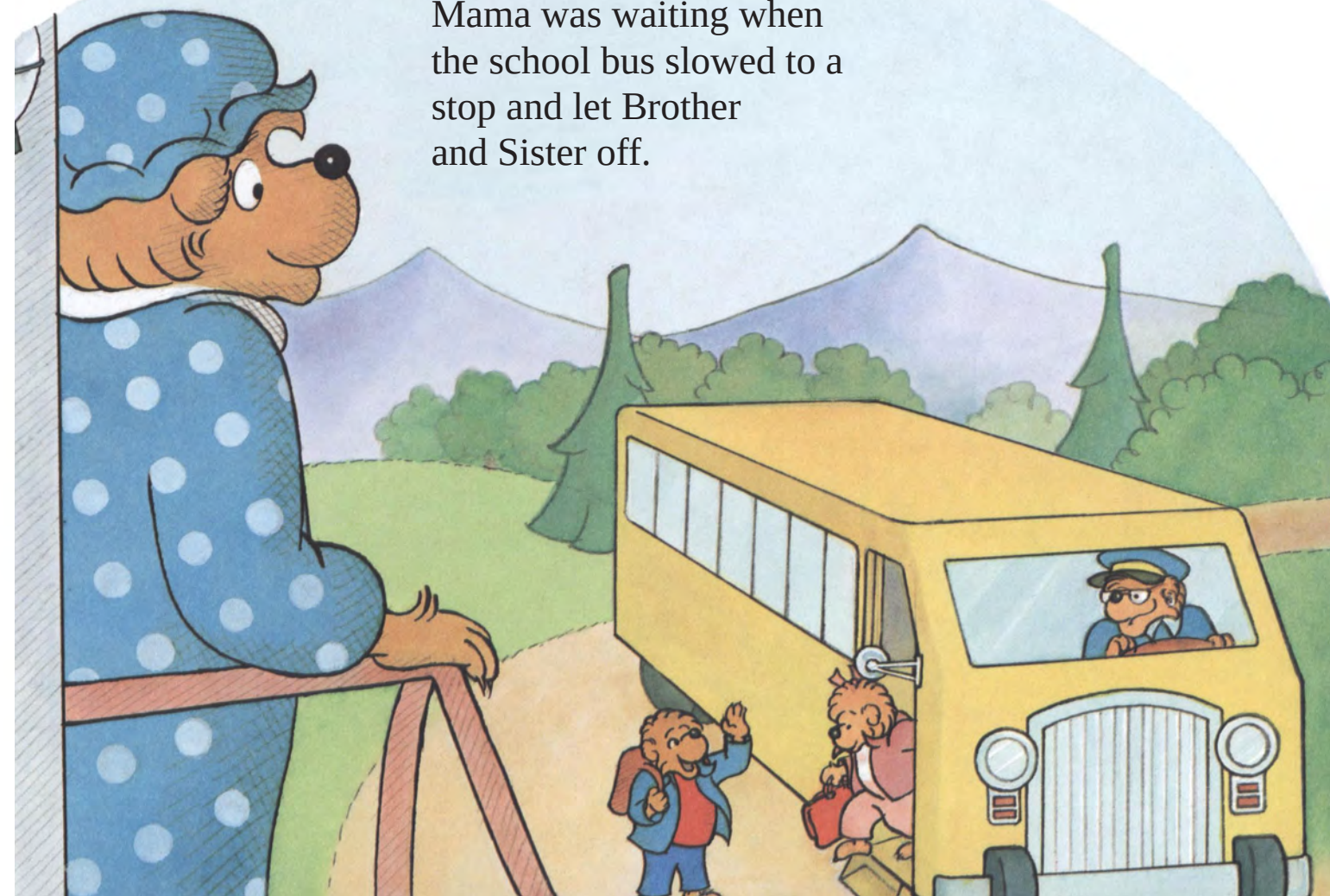
And he did get sent to
the principal — but it wasn't
because he was in trouble.
It was because he was
chosen to be the principal's
special messenger.



The coach told Brother
he was a sure starter
on the soccer team.



Mama was waiting when
the school bus slowed to a
stop and let Brother
and Sister off.



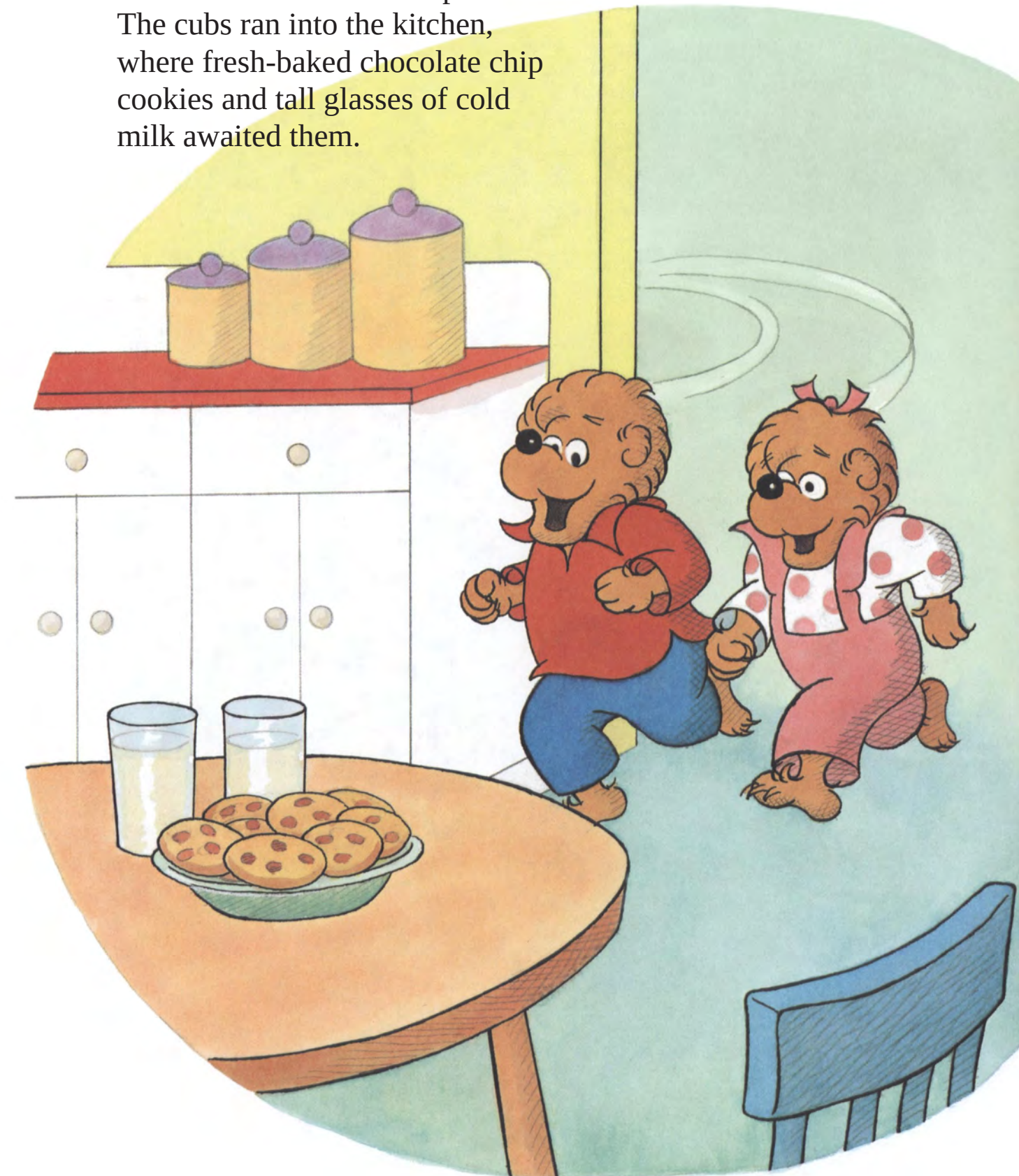
“What was school like?” asked Mama.
“It was like ... school,” said Sister.
“What was the work like?” asked
Mama.

“It was like ... work,” said Brother.
“Hey!” he said as Mama picked up the
cubs and gave them a really big hug.

“Hey!” said Sister. “We’re just
getting home from school is all, Mama!”



“Mmm!” said Brother. “I smell
fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies!”
The cubs ran into the kitchen,
where fresh-baked chocolate chip
cookies and tall glasses of cold
milk awaited them.



“Mmm!” said Sister. “These cookies are good!”

“Glad you like them,” said Mama.



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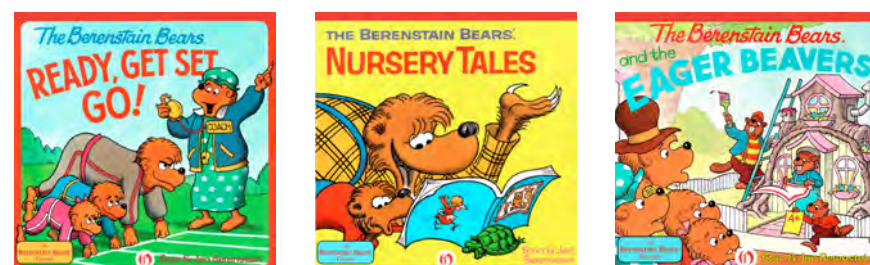
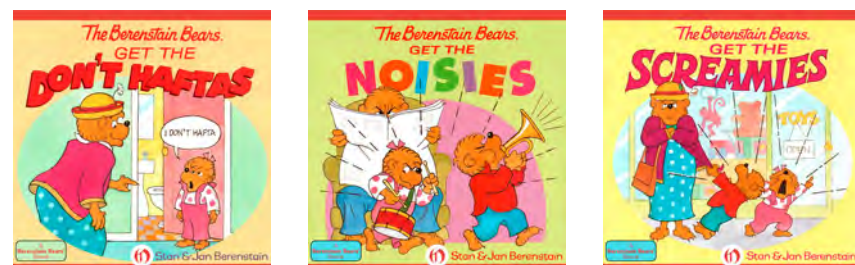
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