

# ***Eat Like A Bear***

**AUTHOR:** April Pulley Sayre

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Steve Jenkins

**PUBLISHER:** Henry Holt and Company

**COPYRIGHT DATE:** 2013

**ART MEDIUM:** Cut and torn paper collage to create the illustrations

**GENRE:** Nonfiction

**LIFE SKILLS:** Resourcefulness, Perseverance, Problem Solving

## **SYNOPSIS:**

Follow a big brown bear throughout the year. Bear wakes in April and is hungry. Beginning with just a few plants, bear journeys through the wilderness of Yellowstone National Park and eventually finds fish, rodents, and insects to eat as well. Short, active sentences sprinkled with a few rhymes keep this story flowing through bear's year. Gorgeously detailed collage art realistically depicts bear and her surroundings.

## **BOOKTALK:**

What would you like to learn about a bear? It's [insert current month]. Start reading about them. But where? Listen to your teacher read this book or read it on your own. Look at the pictures. Follow bear through the year.

Do you know more about bears? Yes, you do!

## **AUTHOR**

April Pulley Sayre    <http://www.aprilsayre.com>

April Pulley Sayre loves the sounds of animals and the sounds of words. She is an award-winning author of over 55 natural history books for children and adults. Her read-aloud books, known for their lyricism and scientific precision, have been translated into French, Dutch, Japanese, and Korean. Her picture book *Vulture View*, illustrated by Steve Jenkins, received the Theodor "Seuss" Geisel Honor from the American Library Association. *Stars Beneath Your Bed: the Surprising Story of Dust*, received the AAAS/SB&F/Subaru Prize for Excellence in Science Books and was named an ALA Notable title. *One is Snail: Ten is a Crab* was an ALA Notable title and received Britain's highest literacy award. *The Bumblebee Queen* marked her third win of the John Burroughs Award. Sayre and her husband Jeff have followed lemurs in Madagascar, pursued army ants in Panama, and eaten piranha in the Peruvian Amazon. Mostly, though, they garden for wildlife and munch blueberries at their home in the Midwest.

## **Other books written by the author**

*Rah, Rah, Radishes!: A Vegetable Chant*  
*Go, Go, Grapes!: A Fruit Chant*  
*Ant, Ant, Ant!: An Insect Chant* (American City Series)

## **ILLUSTRATOR**

Steve Jenkins <http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com>

Steve Jenkins has written and illustrated thirty picture books for young readers, including the Caldecott Honor-winning *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?* His books have been called stunning, eyepopping, inventive, gorgeous, masterful, extraordinary, playful, irresistible, compelling, engaging, accessible, glorious, and informative. He lives in Colorado with his wife and frequent collaborator, Robin Page, and their children.

## **Other books illustrated by the illustrator**

*Rain, Rain, Rain Forest*  
*What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?*

## **CHALLENGING WORDS (...due to pronunciation, spelling and/or defining):**

animals/plant foods: horsetail, bison hide, sedges, cow parsnips, spruce, osprey, trout  
verbs: forage, unearth, talus slopes

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why is the bear waking in April?
2. Why is so little food available this time of year?
3. Where do you think the story is set?
4. What does it mean to “winter like a bear”?
5. How do you think the artist made the pictures?

## **ACTIVITIES with CORE STANDARDS**

### **Visual Arts**

- Make a collage. Discuss how Steve Jenkins made the art for this book. This is his signature style. See if students can find an example of a cut shape and a torn. Provide as many types of paper as possible. Have kids cut and tear

shapes to recreate a plant or animal or scene from the book. (Tell them how excited April Sayre was when she found out that Steve made the bears from Mexican bark paper from fig trees to resemble a fuzzy coat (her husband is a plant scientist so she loves art from plants).

**Visual Arts K.2.1 and 1.2.1** Recognize that art from one artist has a similar look or style.

### **Science**

- Use the graphic organizer provided and have your students draw a picture of how the bears needs are met for each season.

**1.3.4** Describe how animals' habitats, including plants, meet their needs for food, water, shelter and an environment in which they can live.

### **RELATED INTERNET SITES**

April Pulley Sayre info

<http://www.aprilsayre.com>

Steve Jenkins

<http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com>

### **ATTACH ACTIVITY SHEETS HERE**

### **ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:**

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