

Blurb

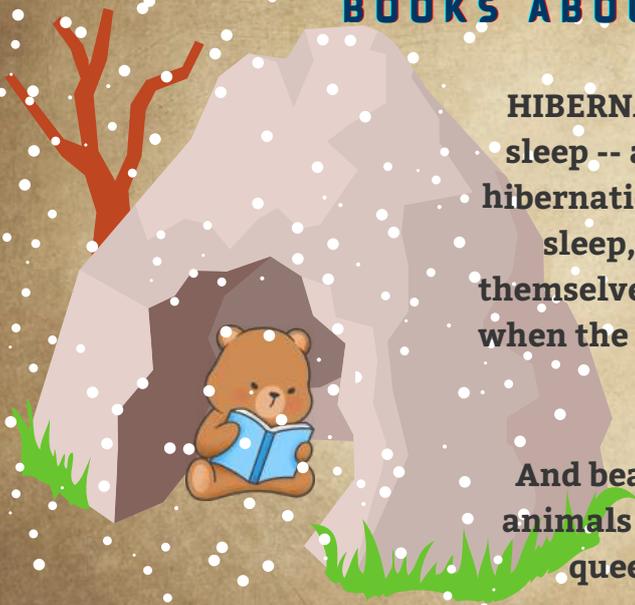
FOR READERS OF CHILDREN'S NOVELS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

MCCRACKEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, PADUCAH, KY

HIBERNATION ISSUE

BOOKS ABOUT BEARS AND SLEEP



HIBERNATION makes me think of two things -- bears and sleep -- and that's what this issue will focus on. However, hibernation isn't just about those things. Hibernation is like sleep, but not totally. It occurs when an animal puts themselves in a state of minimal activity to conserve energy when the weather is bad and food is scarce. This can be sleep but it can also just be extreme stillness.

And bears aren't the only animals that hibernate. Other animals include turtles, groundhogs, snakes, bats, snails, queen bees, chipmunks, wood frogs, and skunks.

The Winnie Behind the Bear

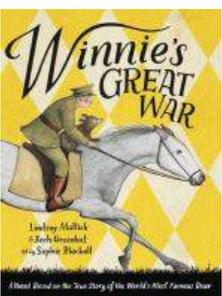


The real Winnie with his rescuer Harry Colebourn, 1914.

Winnie-the-Pooh might be the most famous fictional bear of all time. Author A. A. Milne introduced Winnie in a short story on Christmas Eve in 1925. Since then Winnie has been the star of many more books, Disney movies, and cartoons. You can see his likeness on just about everything from greeting cards and wrapping paper, to T-shirts and mugs.

But did you know Winnie's name came from a real bear?

Milne named his character Winnie because his son Christopher had a toy bear named Winnie. Christopher named his toy bear after a real bear that he liked to visit at the London Zoo named Winnie. That real Winnie was from Canada and was named after the Canadian city of Winnipeg. At the start of World War I, a veterinarian/soldier rescued Winnie at a train stop in Ontario, Canada. The bear traveled with the soldier all the way to England, and before he went to the front lines in France, the soldier sent Winnie to live at the London Zoo. You can read about the real bear in *Winnie's Great War* by Lindsay Mattick.



MOST FAMOUS BEAR?

The previous article claims that Winnie-the-Pooh may be the world's most famous fictional bear. But there are a whole lot more. Can you name these others? Answers are on the next page.



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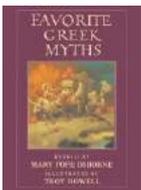
REALLY LONG SLEEPERS

Some of the oldest (and most familiar) stories that we have are about sleeping. But not regular sleeping. They are about sleeping for a really, really, really long time...almost like hibernation. Myths, fairy tales, and folklore are full of characters that fall into a deep sleep for sometimes decades at a time.

Why do you think authors create characters who sleep for so long?

Authors of myths and fairy tales use sleeping like time travel, like old school science fiction. It's a way for the author to start a character in one place and time, and in just a few words, have them wake up in a completely different place and time. The character misses everything while they are asleep, and when they wake up, everything is different and foreign.

Here are some examples:



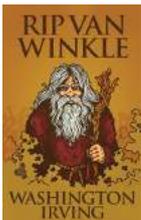
Story of Epimenides (6th century BC Greek myth)

A shepherd falls asleep in a cave for 57 years. When he wakes up, his whole family is dead, but he has the gift of prophecy. He ends up becoming a philosopher and poet. Legend says that he lived to the age 300.



Sleeping Beauty (16th century French Folk Tale)

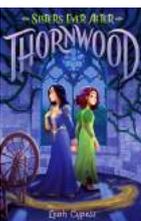
The details vary depending on which version you read. But in the most well known version, a wicked fairy puts a curse on a young princess that puts her to sleep for 100 years. She'll only wake after a kiss from a prince.



Rip Van Winkle (1819 story by Washington Irving)

Rip wanders into the mountains of New York with his dog Wolf where he runs into some weird Dutch people. He has a drink with them and falls asleep for 20 years. He wakes to find he's missed the American Revolution.

INSPIRED BY SLEEPING BEAUTY



Thornwood by Leah Cypess

Briony is cursed. It's foretold that on her 16th birthday she will prick her finger on a thorn and everyone in the castle will sleep for 100 years. That, of course, happens. The real story begins, however, when Briony finally wakes up.

Dream On by Sarah Mylnowski

Abby and her friend Robin are having a sleepover. But wouldn't you know it...the magic mirror in Abby's room pulls the two right into the world of Sleeping Beauty. Robin falls asleep just like the princess. Can Abby wake her friend and will the two of them find a way to escape the fairy tale?



Big Word in a Small Space Somnambulist

Somnambulist is the fancy word for a sleepwalker. It's a combination of two Latin words: *somus* which means to sleep and *ambulare* which means to walk. Scientists have a lot of theories why people sleepwalk, but the real reason is still unclear.



TRUE SLEEPWALKER STORY

At times, sleepwalking can be goofy and funny. But sometimes it is also super serious...and dangerous. Sleepwalkers have wandered into traffic, started fires, and frozen to death...all without ever waking up. Take the case of 18 year old Rachel Ward of Sussex, England. In 2009 Rachel got out of bed, put on a sweater, and walked outside. The only problem was that she went outside through her second floor bedroom window and plunged 25 feet to the ground. Amazingly, she suffered no broken bones. In fact, the fall didn't even wake her up.

FAMOUS BEAR ANSWERS AND FACTS



Yogi - Cartoon created in 1958 by Hanna-Barbera. Loves picnic baskets. Hangs out with buddy Boo-Boo. Always wears a collar and tie.



Paddington - First book came out in 1958. Has appeared in twenty more books and a popular film series. Named for a London train station.



Baloo - First appeared in 1895 in Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book. Starred in Disney version in 1967. He is Mowgli's primary caretaker.



Fozzie - First appeared on Muppet Show in 1976. Tells terrible jokes. Always wears a pork pie hat and pink polka-dotted tie. Friends with Kermit.



Smokey - First appeared in 1944. Works for the U.S. Forest Service. Teaches people how to prevent forest fires. Always wears jeans, but no shirt.



Care Bears - First appeared in 1981 on greeting cards. Later became toys and then TV stars. Pictured here is Cheer Bear. She's happy and encouraging

The Bear and the Bees

a fable by Aesop

A Bear roaming the woods in search of berries happened on a fallen tree in which a swarm of Bees had stored their honey. The Bear began to nose around the log very carefully to find out if the Bees were at home. Just then one of the swarm came home from the clover field with a load of sweets. Guessing what the Bear was after, the Bee flew at him, stung him sharply and then disappeared into the hollow log.

The Bear lost his temper in an instant, and sprang upon the log tooth and claw, to destroy the nest. But this only brought out the whole swarm. The poor Bear had to take to his heels, and he was able to save himself only by diving into a pool of water.



Moral: It is wiser to bear a single injury in silence than to provoke a thousand by flying into a rage.

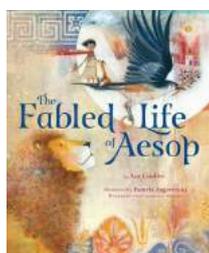
WHAT IS A FABLE? WHO WAS AESOP?

A fable is a story that has three distinct elements:

1. It is super-duper short.
2. It features animals or inanimate objects that act like humans.
3. It is meant to teach a lesson and often ends with a one sentence moral.

The most famous fable writer of all time was Aesop, if he ever existed that is. Legend says that Aesop was born in Greece more than 2500 years ago. Aesop was a slave who gained his freedom because of his wise storytelling. The truth of his biography is questionable but what isn't questionable is the popularity of the 725 fables attributed to him. His fables have been told nonstop for more than 25 centuries. In fact, the first illustrated book ever printed on a printing press was a collection of Aesop's fables.

The Fabled Life of Aesop



Want to know more about Aesop and his fables, or do you just want to look at a book with beautiful illustrations? This book written by Ian Lender and illustrated by Zagarenski is phenomenal on both counts.

"Bears" that Aren't Bears

There are animals called "bears" that aren't really bears at all. Perhaps it's because they look like bears. Perhaps it's because they act like bears or eat the same things. In any case, the name stuck, so I guess we'll all just have "bear" with it.



Koala Bear - Koalas are cute like teddy bears, but are actually marsupials, which means they have a pouch for their young. They're closely related to kangaroos and wombats. They primarily eat eucalyptus leaves and are native to Australia.



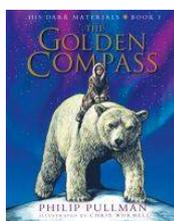
Bearcat - It looks like a cross between a bear and a cat, but is more closely related to mongooses. Bearcats are native to rainforests in Southeast Asia. They also happen to be the mascot of the University of Cincinnati.



Water Bears - Water bear is only a nickname. The real name of this microscopic creature is the Tardigrade. Water Bears live everywhere and are one of the most resilient creatures ever discovered. They have been found in the deep sea, on mountaintops, and in the Antarctic. They can survive radiation, starvation, deep pressure, and extreme temperatures. Tardigrades have also survived exposure to outer space.

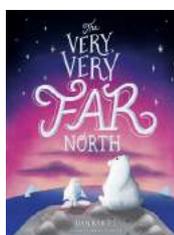
Polar Bears

Of all the types of bears that appear in children's novels, polar bears are probably the most popular, likely because they look cute. But if you ever encounter one in real life, you should beware. Polar bears, like grizzlies, are extremely dangerous. They are the largest living bear, weighing around 1500 lbs. They have 42 teeth meant for eating meat, they can swim for days without resting, and they can smell prey a mile away. Polar bears are native to Canada and the Arctic and feed primarily on seals.



The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman

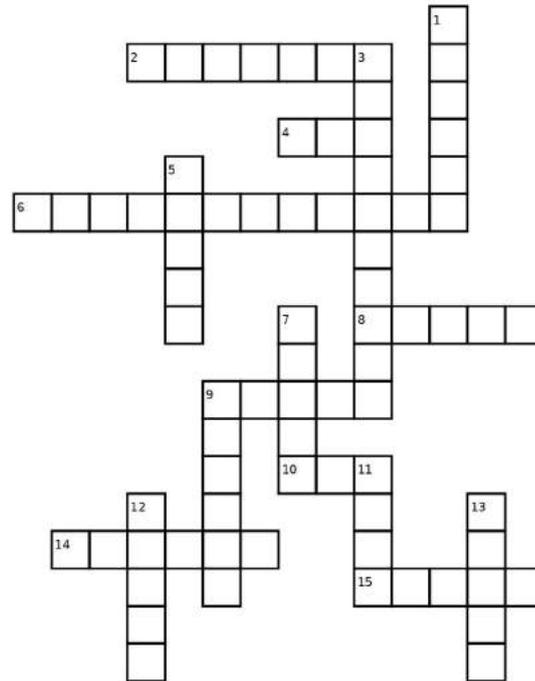
This book contains one of the most famous polar bear characters of all time...Iorek Brynison. Iorek is a member of a race of armored bears, and he helps the main character of this book, Lyra, fulfill her destiny. *The Golden Compass* is the first book in the His Dark Materials trilogy.



The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el

A curious polar bear named Duane makes friends with a wide array of animals: a bossy puffin, a handsome musk ox, and shy caribou. This book has a sequel called *Just Beyond the Very, Very Far North*.

Can You Bear This Crossword



Down:

1. Pooh's porky pal
3. Water Bear's Real Name
5. Jungle Book bear
7. Bears up north
9. Fozzie stars on The ____ Show
11. Bear feet
12. Australian "bear" that is not a bear
13. Kung Fu ____ (2008 film)

Across:

2. University of Cincinnati mascot
4. Animal Hair
6. Big word for sleepwalker
8. Famous fable author
9. Pooh author A.A. ____
10. ____ Van Winkle
14. Spokesbear for the Forest Service
15. Stinky Hibernator

HINT!!! The answers to many of these clues can be found in this newsletter!!!



FunJungle Series

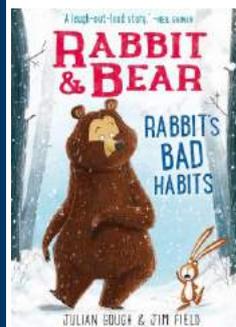
FunJungle Series by Stuart Gibbs

Need a fun mystery that's made even more fun because it takes place in a zoo? Try the Funjungle series by Stuart Gibbs. There are seven books in the series, two of them feature bears, and one features an animal that's called a bear but isn't.



The latest book, *Bear Bottom*, deals with a giant gizzly, disappearing bison, and a missing sapphire necklace. Intrigued?

Rabbit & Bear Series



This new early chapter book series is getting a lot of good attention for being very, very funny. There are currently five books in the series, and I bet there will be a whole lot more.

In this first book, Bear and Rabbit have to deal with snowmen, hungry wolves, an avalanche, and just a little bit of poo.