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How to Share With A Bear

Carlie Smith

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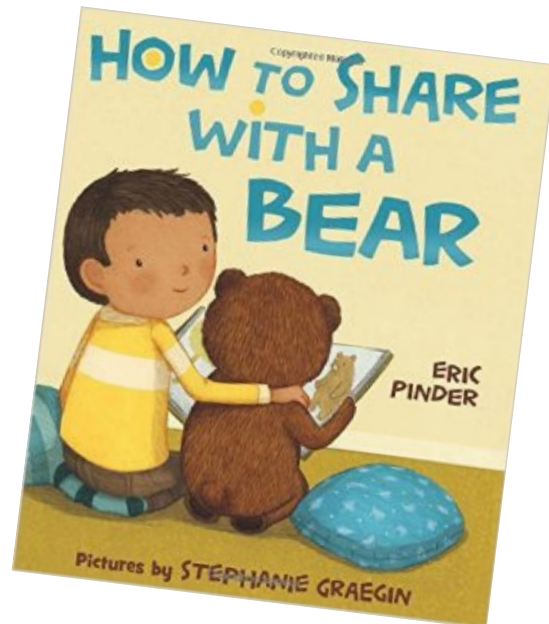
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Book Review

Title: How to Share With A Bear
Author: Eric Pinder
Illustrator: Stephanie Graegin
Reviewer: Carlie Smith
Publisher: Farrar, Strous Giroux Books for Young Readers
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9780374300197
Number of Pages: 30
Interest Level: Preschool
Rating: Excellent



Review

Thomas leaves his cozy cave made of blankets and pillows for just a few minutes only to find it occupied by a bear when he returns! He tries to distract the bear with blueberries, back-scratchers, toys, and honey oat cereal, but these tactics work only fleetingly—each time the bear returns! Finally nestled in with a flashlight and book, Thomas has to confront the bear who longs to join him. Thomas decides to share and allows the bear, who is really his little brother, into the cave. But the two of them are too big and cause a cave-in! Together they rebuild a better cave and share the space, a bowl of blueberries, a good book, and a lesson on kindness.

Though every brother or sister may not have to share with a bear, they certainly know about the frustrations of sharing with a sibling. This book addresses this commonplace family issue with softness and optimism. The moral of the book is obviously wholesome, and the kindness behind Thomas' distractions of his little brother is also very sweet. The warmth of the story is mirrored in the soft lines and warm earth tones of the pictures: the author and illustrator are united as the brothers in their book.