The New LiBEARian

Hannah Webb
The librarian’s late for story time. Where could she be? Upon following some suspicious pawprints, the kids find their librarian’s desk covered in honey and torn books. Behind the desk is none other than a bear as their new librarian! After he reads (well...growls) them a story, the old librarian shows up to read them Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Uh-oh, looks like Baby Bear is missing from the pages! With some coaxing, the bear hops back into the story, but it appears he wasn’t the only character to escape the book!

This picture book is filled with silly and captivating artwork. Some of the pages feature a lot of fun details that make for a whimsical visual experience. The story itself is not very engaging and lacks a cohesiveness, making it feel a bit clunky. There doesn’t seem to be a clear moral or point to the story. However, it is refreshing to see a depiction of children excited about reading, rather than the tired trope of students hating school, homework, or anything related to academics. It’s a cute book that encourages imagination, but not necessarily a memorable one.