How to Share With A Bear

Carlie Smith
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 certain 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.