Jasper's Story
SAVING MOON BEARS

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

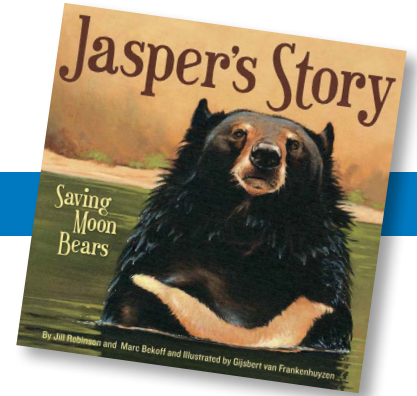**Themes:** Animals, Empathy, Perseverance

Book Brief: Jasper is a moon bear, kept in a small cage by bear farmers who wanted to sell his bile. This is the tale of Jasper's rescue and the team of caregivers who helped nurse him back to health.

Authors:
Jill Robinson
and Marc Bekoff

Illustrator:
Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen

TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: Why do you think Jasper is called a "moon bear"? Based on the cover, what do you think will happen in this story?

While reading, make connections: Can you think of a time that someone helped you get through a tough time? A time that someone taught you something very important? Have you ever had a problem that seemed difficult to solve?

After reading, ask questions:
◆ What was the major problem in this story?
◆ How was it solved?
◆ What do you think would have happened to Jasper if the team had not rescued him?
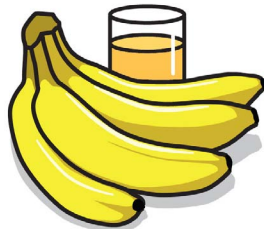
RELATED ACTIVITIES

BEAR WATCH

Visit **http://explore.org/live-cams/player/brown-bear-salmon-cam-brooks-falls** to watch a different kind of bear in its natural habitat!

JASPER JUICE SMOOTHIE

Ingredients: 4 frozen bananas, 2 cups orange juice

Jasper's caregivers placed food throughout the outdoor area to teach him how to smell and search for food. They filled the centers of hard toy balls with fresh fruit. Follow this recipe to make a yummy fruit smoothie fit for anyone with a bear of an appetite!

Mix the frozen bananas and orange juice in a blender until smooth. Pour into a cool glass and enjoy!

BUILD A BEAR HABITAT

Materials: cardboard, shoe box, construction paper, natural objects, glue, tape, scissors

Take a nature walk to collect various items you might find in a bear's natural habitat (leaves, grass, twigs, etc.). Use these materials and construction paper to build a model bear habitat in a box. As you build the habitat, think about how it could meet a bear's needs.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT MOON BEARS

Saving Yasha: The Incredible True Story of an Adopted Moon Bear, Lia Kvatum (2012), *Moon Bear,* Brenda Z. Guiberson (2010).

Reading Is Fundamental