

Jasper's Story

SAVING MOON BEARS

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

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.

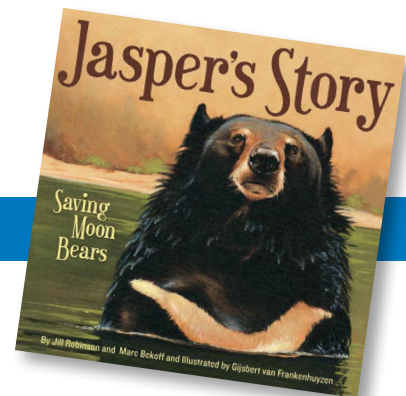
Authors: Jill Robinson and Marc Bekoff

Illustrator:

Gijsbert van
Frankenhuyzen

Content Connections:

Social Studies, Science



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Why do you think that Jasper is called a moon bear? What inferences can you make about his natural habitat based

on the picture? Can you figure out the setting of this story? Locate China on a map or globe.

The Pictures: Show students the picture of the moon bears sleeping in the moonlight and the picture of the bears in their cages. Ask them to share what they

notice about the two different settings. Which habitat do they think the bears prefer?

Prior Knowledge: Ask students to share what they know about bears and other animals in captivity. What kinds of things does a captive animal need to thrive?

Vocabulary: crescent, sanctuary, bile

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about the overall theme. What does the author want you to learn from this story?



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What does the author mean by "the team was left wondering if his spirit would ever recover"?
- ◆ How could the caregivers tell Jasper was recovering?
- ◆ Why was it important for Jasper to spend time in the outside enclosure with his fellow bears?

- ◆ How did the bears interact? What does this remind you of?
- ◆ How did Jasper react to new bears that arrived at the sanctuary?
- ◆ Explain this sentence: "He embraced his new life and seemed to have forgiven the past."

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What message do you think the author was trying to convey through this story? What themes can you identify?

Extending Our Thinking: How is Jasper's story similar to others you have read? What other kinds of animals might experience a situation like Jasper's? Can you think of any ways to help those animals?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental