

The Berenstain Bears' ESSENTIALS on CHARACTER EDUCATION



MAKING THE CONNECTION

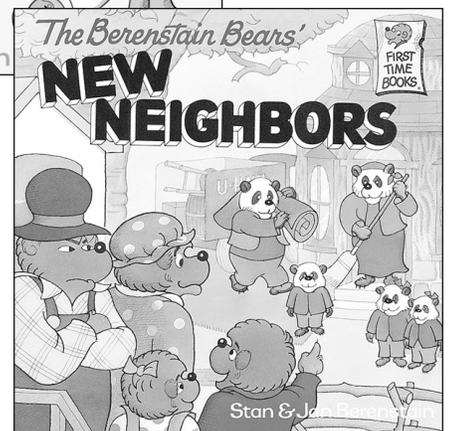
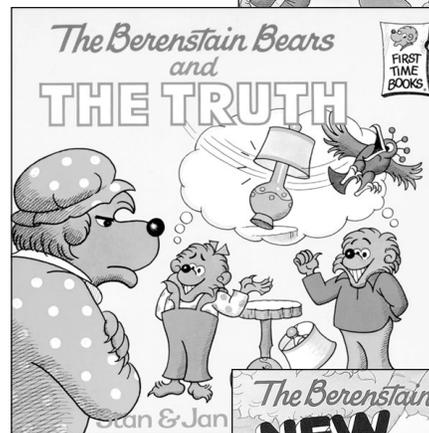
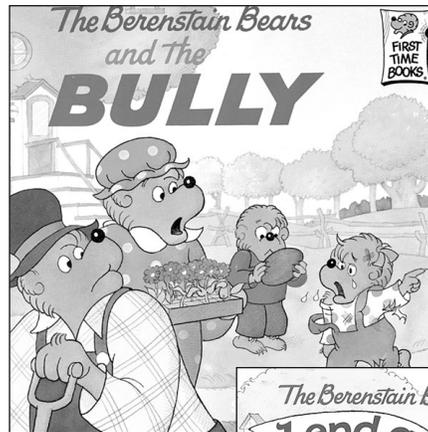
Teasing
Bullying
Honesty
Peer Pressure
Acceptance

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Character education promotes an environment where all people are treated with respect and dignity, with students taking responsibility for their behavior. This kind of education has made a huge comeback with many programs being implemented to help with the promoting of

values and with making good decisions when disagreements arise. Through their books, Stan and Jan Berenstain have helped to instill these good qualities in children through the Berenstain Bears' characters.

Whether the topic is bullying, teasing, telling the truth, or lending a helping hand, the Berenstain Bears always show a foundation of good values. Encouraging such traits as responsibility, perseverance, caring, self-discipline, citizenship, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect promotes empathetic behavior, making any situation better. This guide is the perfect resource for stimulating thoughts and discussion to implement character education in your daily activities.



FEATURED BOOKS

The Berenstain Bears and the Blame Game
The Berenstain Bears and the Excuse Note
The Berenstain Bears and the Homework Hassle
The Berenstain Bears and the In-Crowd
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Teasing
The Berenstain Bears Don't Pollute (Anymore)
The Berenstain Bears Go Out for the Team
The Berenstain Bears Lend a Helping Hand
The Berenstain Bears' New Neighbors
The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need

MORE CHARACTER EDUCATION BOOKS

The Berenstain Bears and the Bully
The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room
The Berenstain Bears' Report Card Trouble
The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Friends
The Berenstain Bears and the Truth
The Berenstain Bears' Dollars and Sense
The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners
The Berenstain Bears Get in a Fight
The Berenstain Bears Get the Gimmies
The Berenstain Bears Go to School
The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers
The Berenstain Bears and the Missing Watermelon Money
The Berenstain Bears' Trouble at School

HONESTY RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY FAIRNESS PERSEVERE



THE BERENSTAIN BEARS' NEW NEIGHBORS

About This Book

A new family moves in across the street from the Berenstain Bears. See how the Bears convince Papa Bear to befriend the Pandas even if they're *different*.

Respect—Discuss the importance of respecting others and appreciating different beliefs, behaviors, and appearances. Discuss how boring we all would be if we were the same. Ask students to brainstorm some things about themselves that they are proud of and are different from anyone else. Reproduce the “Celebrating Our Differences” sheet, then have students write and illustrate how they are different. Collect to make a book and share with the class.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE BLAME GAME

About This Book

Who's to blame? The Berenstain Bears learn what really matters is how we work together to fix the problem.

Responsibility—Discuss the importance of being responsible for one's own actions and facing the consequences for those actions. For every action there is a consequence, one that often needs a solution. What caused the window and the vase to break? How did the Berenstain Bears solve the problem of the broken vase and the window? Use the reproducible “The Berenstain Bears Explore Cause and Effect” sheet to help extend this lesson.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS LEND A HELPING HAND

About This Book

When Mama concludes that there's too much “Me, me, me!” in Brother and Sister's behavior, she encourages them to help elderly Widow McGrizz to see that there are rewards in giving a helping hand to those less fortunate.

Caring—In the story Brother and Sister only think of themselves—they even cringe when Mama Bear offers their assistance with cleaning Widow McGrizz's attic. However, once they start sorting through all the interesting items, they find that helping other can be fun and giving at the same time. Have the students brainstorm different ways they can help their neighbors or community, then choose one to have as a class project.



THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE HOMEWORK HASSLE

About This Book

Mama and Papa Bear receive a letter from Brother Bear's teacher reporting that he has *not* been completing his homework assignments. They soon realize that there's a whole lot of activities distracting Brother's attention.

Self-Discipline—Brother Bear and Papa Bear both have difficulty keeping up with their work. What lesson did Brother Bear learn by going to Grandpa and Grandma's house? What lesson did Brother learn after seeing the BRS agent speaking with Papa? Do you think they both learned their lesson? Define the term self-discipline, as doing something that you are supposed to, even if there are sometimes you may not want to. Ask students if they put things off that they shouldn't and have them give examples. Then as a class comes up with some strategies to help fellow classmates find a way to exercise self-discipline. Use the “Berenstain Bears Help with Homework” sheet to keep track of assignments and chores.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE IN-CROWD

About This Book

Queenie McBear, the bossy new she-cub in town, tries to take over by putting other cubs down. Sister Bear decides not to give in to Queenie's peer pressure tactics.

Courage—Discuss the pressures one goes through in hopes to keep up with the in-crowd. It takes courage to stand up to others, even when the others are some of your friends. Mama Bear tries helping by buying Sister Bear a new designer outfit, hoping that she will fit in with Queenie. Why was that not the best solution? How did Sister gain that insight and how does she overcome the need to fit in with the in-crowd? Using the “Berenstain Bears Stomp Out Peer Pressure” worksheet, have students think of situations where there may be pressure to do something they don't want to do and write them inside the circles. Tell students to use the spokes to record ways to handle each situation.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE EXCUSE NOTE

About This Book

Sister Bear loves school except for gym class. But when a slight twist of fate gives her the chance to sit on the sidelines, will Sister stretch the truth instead of her arms?

RANCE SELF-DISCIPLINE COURAGE CARING CITIZENSHIP



Honesty—Define honesty and discuss as a class why being honest is important. Was Sister being honest with Teacher Jane by using the note Mama gave her even when her ankle was feeling better? Ask students to write in their journals about a similar situation where they chose to be honest with another person. How did that make them feel?

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS DON'T POLLUTE (ANYMORE)

About This Book

When careless citizens pose a threat to Bear Country's environment, Brother and Sister Bear form the Earthsavers Club to deliver a timely message about polluting and wasteful ways.

Citizenship—Brother and Sister learn the importance of ecology, conservation, and recycling. Define these terms then as a class, then brainstorm some different ways they help stop pollution. Have students make posters to help encourage people not to pollute and display them for the whole school to see.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS GO OUT FOR THE TEAM

About This Book

When backyard sluggers Brother and Sister join the Bear Country Cub League, they get real uniforms and play on a baseball field. But can Mama's advice help them prepare to overcome the pressure and competition?

Perseverance—Brother and Sister put in a lot of time to try out for the Bear Country Cub League, and even the missed ground balls don't stop them from trying. Ask the students why they think Brother and Sister continued practicing. Define perseverance and how important it is to keep trying, no matter how difficult the task may become. Have students write and illustrate an experience they have had that was very challenging, but they succeeded only because of their hard work.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND TOO MUCH TEASING

About This Book

Brother Bear is a master at teasing—until the tables are turned and he's the one being heckled for being the principal's pet. And when Brother finally understands that teasing isn't just mean, it's also dangerous, he actually decides to stick up for the new kid at school.

Fairness—Brother loves teasing Sister, even though he knows she hates it. When Brother in turn gets teased once he becomes Mr. Honeycomb's special messenger, some would think he got what was fair or "what comes around, goes around." Ask students what they think about teasing and if it is fair to tease back. Discuss how Brother does what is fair when he finds a way to stop the others from teasing him.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS THINK OF THOSE IN NEED

About This Book

Mama Bear convinces the family that cleaning out the house can not only simplify their cluttered lives, but can also benefit those who are in need!

Caring—Discuss the importance of helping those in need. Review the different charitable actions of the Berenstain Bears in the story. Ask the class to brainstorm things they could do to help those in need. Choose a project to work on as a class.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Goodcharacter.com — www.goodcharacter.com

Free character education resources. Curriculum materials, discussion questions, and more!

National Character Education Center www.ethicsusa.com

Includes information about national seminars.

Character Counts! — www.charactercounts.org

Character Counts! is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian coalition of schools, communities, and nonprofit organizations working to advance character education.

The Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character — www.bu.edu/education/caec

This network is a place for students, teachers, schools, and communities to facilitate character education.

READ ALL THE BERENSTAIN BEARS FIRST TIME BOOKS!

The Berenstain Bears and Baby Makes Five 0-679-88960-4 • GLB: 0-679-98960-9
The Berenstain Bears and the Bad Dream 0-394-87341-6
The Berenstain Bears and the Bad Habit 0-394-87340-8
The Berenstain Bears and the Big Blooper 0-679-88962-0 • GLB: 0-679-98962-5
The Berenstain Bears and the Blame Game 0-679-88743-1
The Berenstain Bears Blaze a Trail 0-394-89132-5
The Berenstain Bears and the Bully 0-679-84805-3
The Berenstain Bears Count Their Blessings 0-679-87707-X • GLB: 0-679-97707-4
The Berenstain Bears' Dollars and Sense 0-375-81124-9 • GLB: 0-375-91124-3
The Berenstain Bears Don't Pollute (Anymore) 0-679-82351-4
The Berenstain Bears and the Double Dare 0-394-89748-X
The Berenstain Bears and the Ghost of the Forest 0-394-80565-8
The Berenstain Bears and the Green-Eyed Monster 0-679-86434-2
The Berenstain Bears and the Excuse Note 0-375-81125-7 • GLB: 0-375-91125-1
The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners 0-394-87333-5
The Berenstain Bears' Funny Valentine 0-375-81126-5 • GLB: 0-375-91126-X
The Berenstain Bears Get in a Fight 0-394-85132-3
The Berenstain Bears Get Stage Fright 0-394-87337-8
The Berenstain Bears Get the Gimmies 0-394-80566-6
The Berenstain Bears Get Their Kicks 0-679-88955-8 • GLB: 0-679-98955-2
The Berenstain Bears Go Out for the Team 0-394-87338-6
The Berenstain Bears Go to Camp 0-394-85131-5
The Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor 0-394-84835-7 • GLB: 0-394-94835-1
The Berenstain Bears Go to School 0-394-83736-3 • GLB: 0-394-93736-8
The Berenstain Bears and the Homework Hassle
0-679-88744-X • GLB: 0-679-98744-4
The Berenstain Bears in the Dark 0-394-85443-8
The Berenstain Bears and the In-Crowd 0-394-83013-X
The Berenstain Bears Lend a Helping Hand 0-679-88956-6
The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers 0-394-87334-3 • GLB: 0-394-97334-8
The Berenstain Bears' Mad, Mad, Mad Toy Craze 0-679-88958-2
The Berenstain Bears and Mama's New Job 0-394-86881-1
The Berenstain Bears Meet Santa Bear 0-394-86880-3
The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room 0-394-85639-2 • 0-394-95639-7
The Berenstain Bears and the Missing Honey 0-394-89133-3
The Berenstain Bears and the Missing Watermelon Money
0-394-89133-3 • GLB: 0-679-99230-8
The Berenstain Bears and Moving Day 0-394-84838-1 • GLB: 0-394-94838-6
The Berenstain Bears' New Baby 0-394-82908-5
The Berenstain Bears' New Neighbors 0-679-86435-0 • GLB: 0-679-96435-5
The Berenstain Bears: No Girls Allowed 0-394-87331-9 • GLB: 0-394-97331-4
The Berenstain Bears and Papa's Day Surprise
0-375-91129-4 • GLB: 0-375-91129-4
The Berenstain Bears and the Prize Pumpkin 0-679-808477-7
The Berenstain Bears: Ready, Get Set, Go! 0-394-80564-X
The Berenstain Bears and the Real Easter Eggs
0-375-81133-8 • GLB: 0-375-91133-2
The Berenstain Bears' Report Card Trouble
0-375-81127-3 • GLB: 0-375-91127-8
The Berenstain Bears and the Sitter 0-394-84837-3
The Berenstain Bears and the Slumber Party 0-679-80419-6
The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need
0-679-88957-4 • GLB: 0-679-98957-9
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Birthday 0-394-87332-7
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food
0-394-8721-7 • GLB: 0-394-97217-1
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Pressure 0-679-83671-3
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Teasing 0-679-87706-1 • GLB: 0-679-97706-6
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much TV 0-394-86570-7
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Vacation 0-394-83014-8
The Berenstain Bears: Trick or Treat 0-679-80091-3
The Berenstain Bears and the Truth 0-394-85640-6
The Berenstain Bears' Trouble at School 0-394-87336-X
The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Friends 0-394-87339-4
The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Grownups 0-679-83000-6
The Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Money 0-394-85917-0
The Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Pets 0-679-80848-5
The Berenstain Bears and the Week at Grandma's 0-394-87335-1
The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist 0394-84836-5 • GLB: 0-394-94836-X
The Birds, the Bees, and the Berenstain Bears 0-679-88959-0 • GLB: 0-679-98959-5

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS HAVE SOMETHING FOR OLDER READERS, TOO!

The Berenstain Bears and the Dress Code 0-679-86665-5
The Berenstain Bears and the New Girl in Town 0-679-83613-6
The Berenstain Bears and No Guns Allowed 0-679-88953-1 • GLB: 0-679-98953-6
The Berenstain Bears and the Red-Handed Thief 0-679-84033-8
The Berenstain Bears and the School Scandal Sheet 0-679-85812-1
The Berenstain Bears and the Wheelchair Commando 0-679-84034-6

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS HAVE LEVELED READERS!

STEP INTO READING

The Berenstain Bears Step into Reading Books

Step 1/Pre K-K

The Berenstain Bears' Big Bear, Small Bear 0-679-88717-2 • GLB: 0-679-98717-7
The Berenstain Bears Go In and Out 0-679-89225-7 • GLB: 0-679-99225-1
The Berenstain Bears Go Up and Down 0-679-88720-2 • GLB: 0-679-98720-7
The Berenstain Bears and the House of Mirrors
0-679-89226-5 • GLB: 0-679-99226-X

Step 2/Pre K-Grade 1

The Berenstain Bears by the Sea 0-679-88719-9 • GLB: 0-679-98719-3
The Berenstain Bears Catch the Bus 0-679-89227-3 • GLB: 0-679-99227-8

Step 3/Grades 1-3

The Berenstain Bears and the Missing Watermelon Money
0-679-89230-3 • GLB: 0-679-99230-8
The Berenstain Bears and the Tic-Tac-Toe Mystery
0-679-89229-X • GLB: 0-679-99229-4

Step 4/Grades 2-3

The Berenstain Bears and the Escape of the Bogg Brothers
0-679-89228-1 • GLB: 0-679-99228-6

DISCOVER THE LIVES OF STAN AND JAN AND HOW THE BERENSTAIN BEARS BEGAN

Biography

Down a Sunny Dirt Road 0-375-81403-5 • GLB: 0-375-91403-X

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Stan and Jan Berenstain were both born in 1923 in Philadelphia. They didn't know each other as children, but met later at the Philadelphia College of Art. They liked each other right away, and found out that they both enjoyed the same kinds of books, plays, music, and art. During World War II, Stan was a medical assistant in the Army, and Jan worked in an airplane factory. When the war was over, they got married and began to work together as artists and writers, primarily drawing cartoons for popular magazines. After having their two sons, Leo and Michael, the Berenstains decided to write some funny children's books that their children and other children could read and enjoy. Their first published children's book was called *The Big Honey Hunt*. It was about a family of bears, who later became known as the Berenstain Bears.

Over 50 children's books later, Stan and Jan still plan all of their books together—both write the stories, and both draw the pictures. They live outside of Philadelphia in the country.

For more on the Berenstain Bears, visit
www.randomhouse.com/kids/berenstainbears