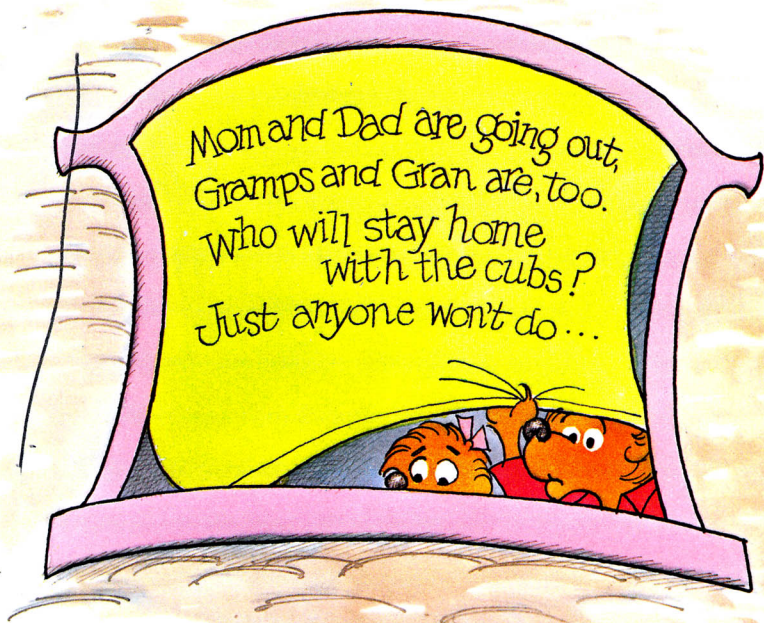


The Berenstain Bears
and The
SITTER



Stan & Jan Berenstain

The Berenstain Bears
and The
SITTER




A FIRST TIME BOOK™



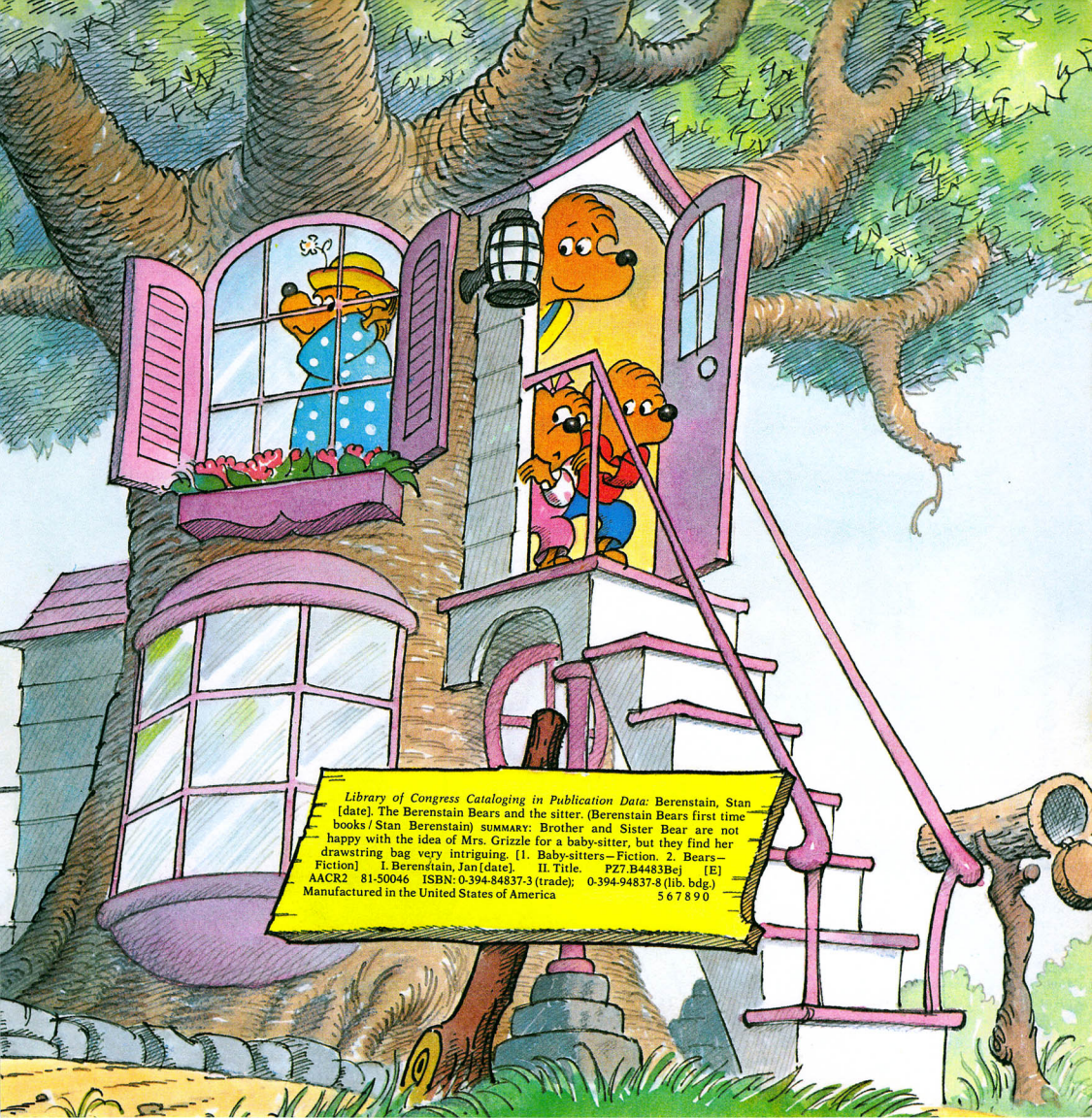
The Berenstain Bears and The **SITTER**

Stan & Jan Berenstain

Random House  New York

Copyright © 1981 by Berenstains, Inc. All rights reserved
under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.
Published in the United States by Random House, Inc., New
York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of
Canada Limited, Toronto.





Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data: Berenstain, Stan
[date]. The Berenstain Bears and the sitter. (Berenstain Bears first time
books / Stan Berenstain) SUMMARY: Brother and Sister Bear are not
happy with the idea of Mrs. Grizzle for a baby-sitter, but they find her
drawstring bag very intriguing. [1. Baby-sitters—Fiction. 2. Bears—
Fiction.] I. Berenstain, Jan [date]. II. Title. PZ7.B443Baj [E]
AACR2 81-50046 ISBN: 0-394-84837-3 (trade); 0-394-94837-8 (lib. bde.)
Manufactured in the United States of America 5 6 7 8 9 0



"What's this?" said Papa Bear, as he took the day's mail from the Bear Family's mailbox.

It was a notice telling about an important meeting that night at the Bear Country Town Hall.





Mama Bear called up Grizzly Gran.
Brother and Sister Bear sometimes
stayed with Gramps and Gran when
Mama and Papa Bear had to be away.

But Gramps and Gran were
planning to go to the meeting, too.
So Brother and Sister couldn't
stay with them.



Or with Aunt Maude . . .



or Cousin Wilbur.
They were going to the
meeting, too.



"Why can't we go with you?" asked Sister, beginning to get a little upset.

"Yeah!" added Brother Bear.

"Because," said Papa, "this meeting is for grown-ups. And, besides, it won't be over until late—way past your bedtime."

"Well, where are we going to stay?" the cubs wanted to know.





"You're going to stay right here,"
said Mama, as she put down the phone.

"Alone?" asked Sister.

"Of course not," said Mama.
"I've arranged for a sitter."

"A sitter?!" said Brother.

"Who is it going to be?"
Sister asked.

"Mrs. Grizzle, who lives
in the hollow stump at the
end of the road," said Mama,
feeling much better about
the whole thing.

"Mrs. Grizzle!" said the
cubs, not feeling better
at all. . . .

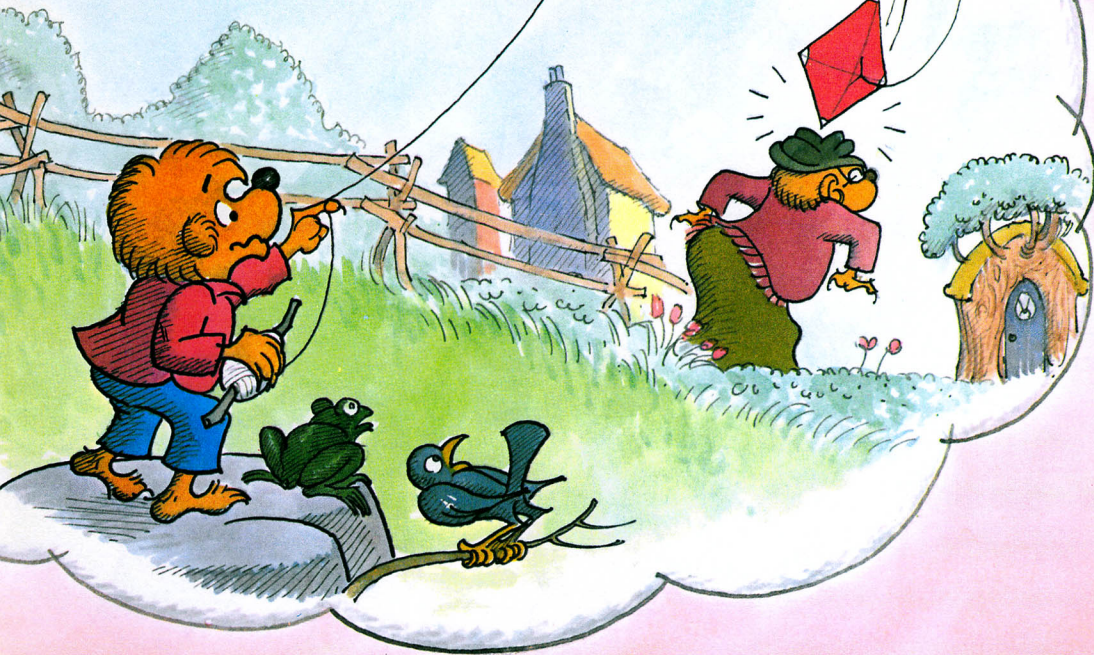


Once, when Sister was playing with her friends, their ball went into Mrs. Grizzle's flower garden.

Mrs. Grizzle wasn't too happy about it.



And another time, when Brother was flying his kite, it swooped and bumped Mrs. Grizzle on the hat.



She wasn't too tickled about that, either.

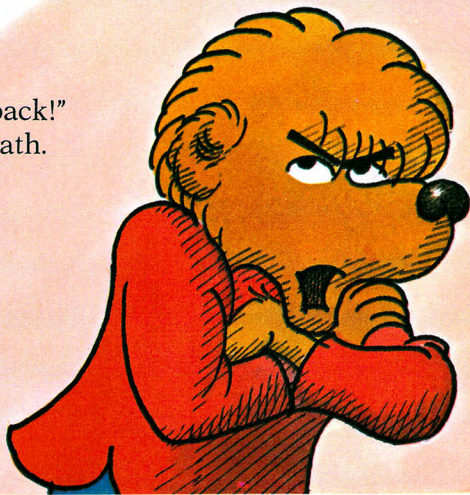


Later that evening, after the supper things had been cleaned up, Mama and Papa got ready to go to the town meeting.

"But who's going to scrub our backs, read us a story, and tuck us in?" asked Sister, still a little nervous about the idea of a sitter.

"I understand that Mrs. Grizzle has raised seven cubs of her own," said Mama, putting on her hat. "And I'm sure she's a perfectly good back scrubber, story reader, and tucker-inner."

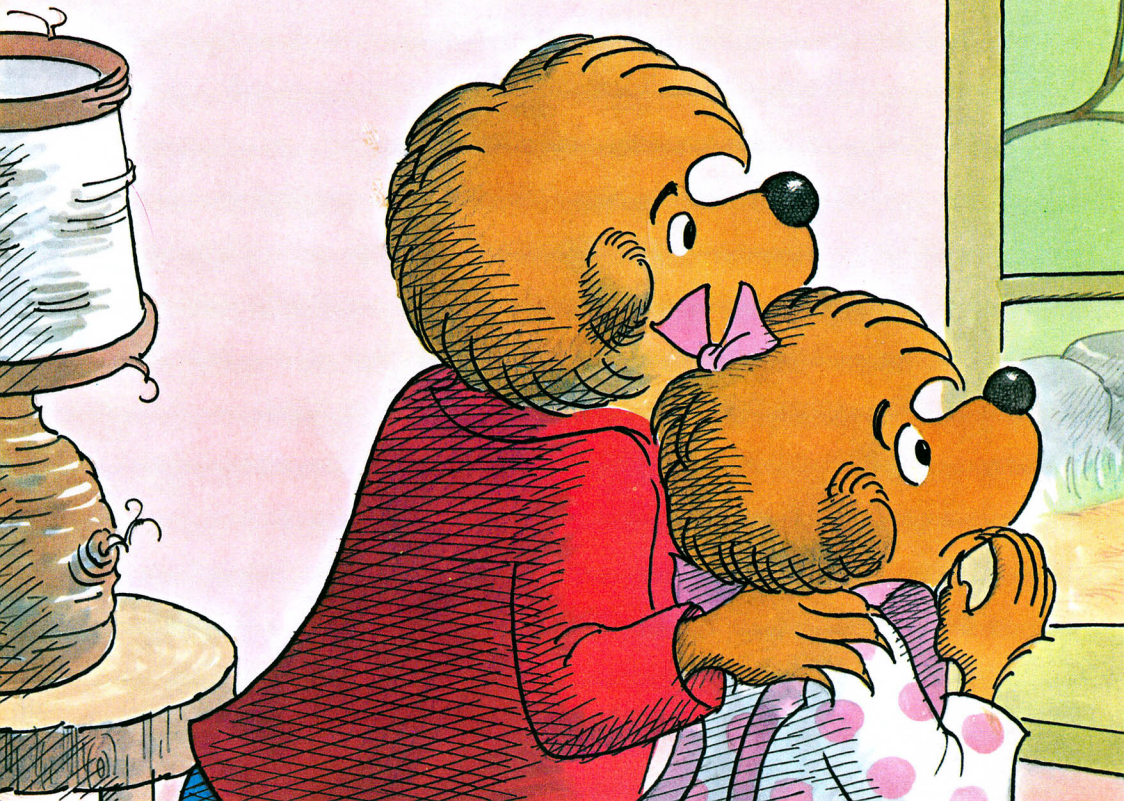
"She's not going to scrub *my* back!"
Brother Bear said under his breath.



Mrs. Grizzle came walking up the path to the Bears' tree house right on time.

There was no question about it. It was the same Mrs. Grizzle who got bopped with the kite and didn't like cubs tromping her flowers.

She was very large—almost as big as Papa—and she carried a drawstring bag.



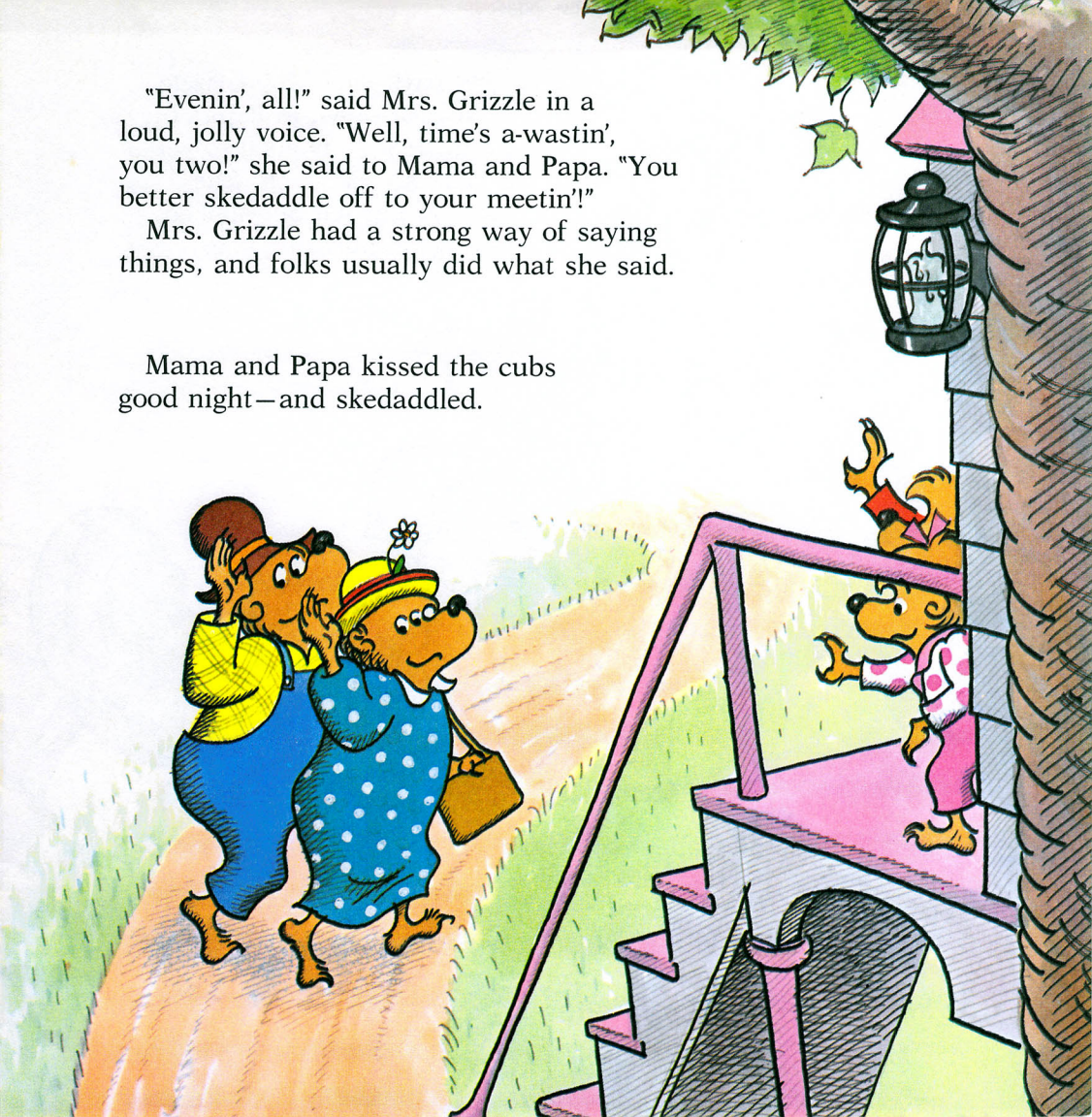





"Evenin', all!" said Mrs. Grizzle in a loud, jolly voice. "Well, time's a-wastin', you two!" she said to Mama and Papa. "You better skedaddle off to your meetin'!"


Mrs. Grizzle had a strong way of saying things, and folks usually did what she said.

Mama and Papa kissed the cubs good night—and skedaddled.





"Whew!" said Mrs. Grizzle, as she sat down in Papa's big chair. "It sure is good to get a load off your feet!" She took off her hat and looked into her drawstring bag.



There's something about somebody looking into a bag that makes cubs very curious.

"Mrs. Grizzle?" said Sister.

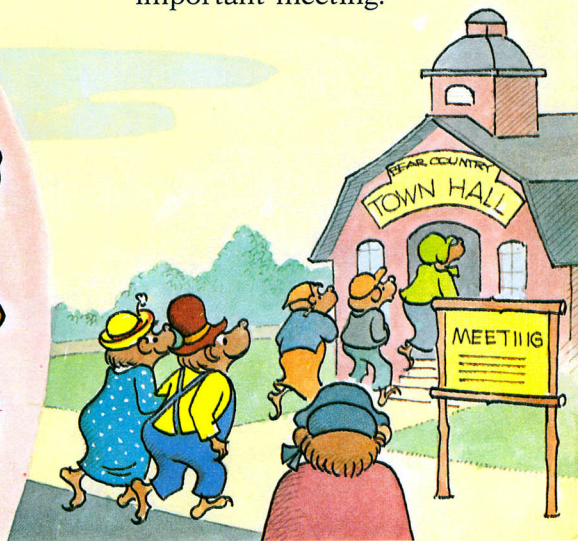
"Yes?"

"What's in the bag?"

"Nothin' much. Just some things I take along
when I go sittin'—a piece of string, a pack of
cards . . ."



Meanwhile, over at the
Town Hall, the bears were
getting ready for their
important meeting.



They were getting ready for speeches, voting,
and arguments about some new laws.



But Mama's mind was not on the meeting.
Neither was Papa's. Mama and Papa Bear were
thinking about what was going on back home.

"Sister looked a little worried when we left,"
fretted Mama.

"So did Brother," agreed Papa.

They decided to call home and
see how things were going.



"Things are goin' just fine," said Mrs. Grizzle.
"Brother and Sister can't come to the phone right
now. They're busy playin' Cat's Cradle. . . ."

"Have a good meeting!" shouted the cubs.

"—But they say to have a good meetin'!"





After Cat's Cradle, they played Go Fish with the cards that came out of Mrs. Grizzle's drawstring bag.

Then they played Tiddly-winks with a special set of winks that Mrs. Grizzle had made out of polished stones and a snail-shell cup.





After a while, the cubs got the yawns, and Mrs. Grizzle began getting them ready for bed.



And she did, indeed, turn out to be a very good back scrubber (Brother changed his mind about not having his back scrubbed). . . .



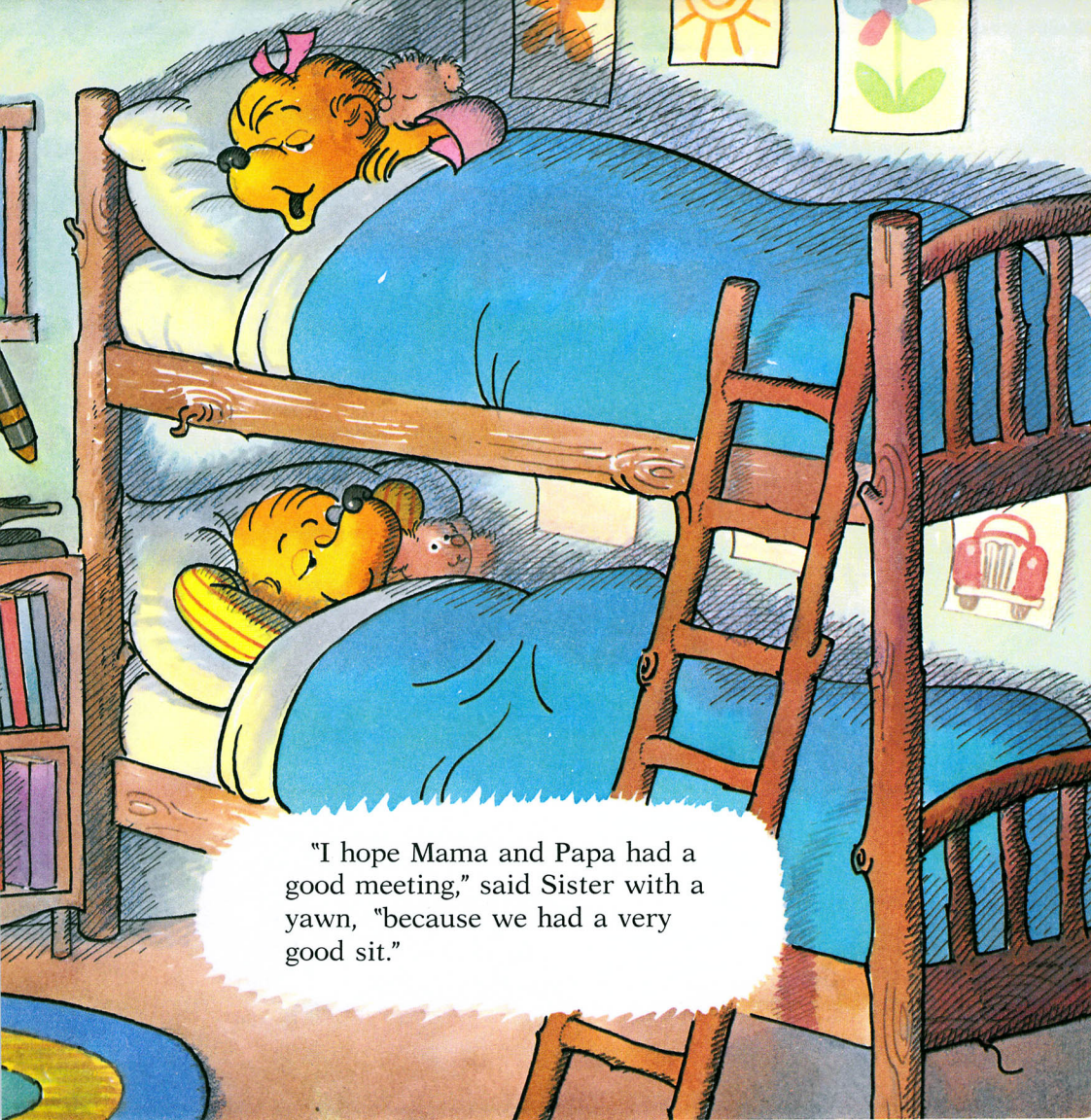
And she was
a fine story reader . . .



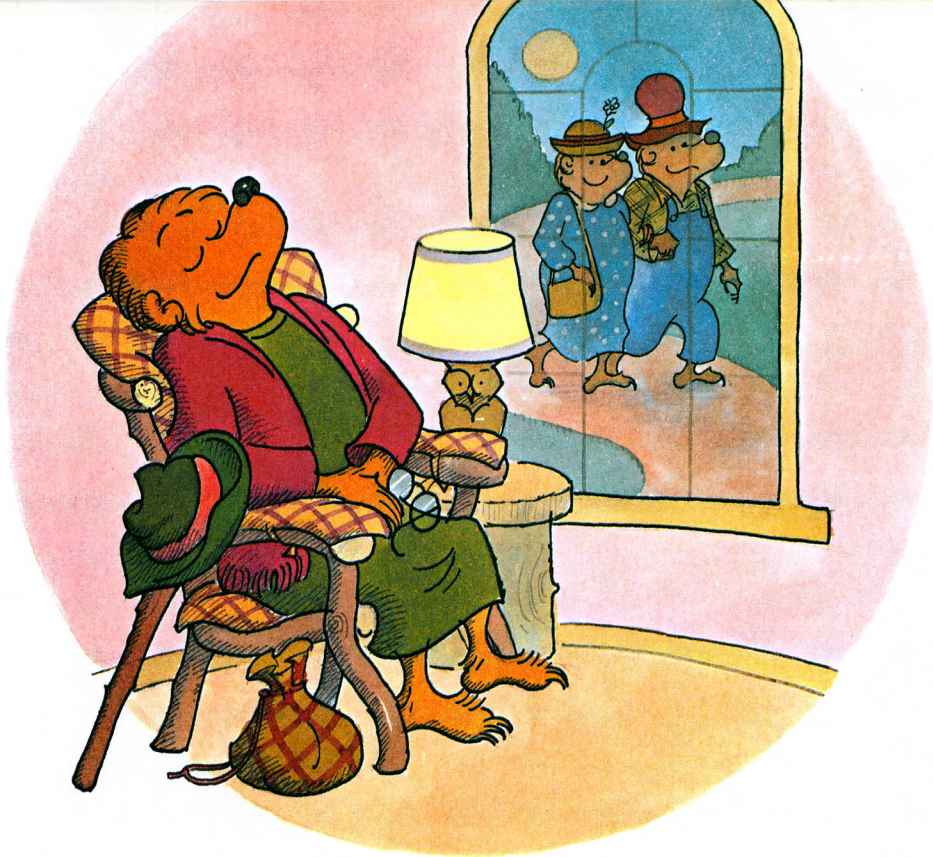
and a really super
tucker-inner.







"I hope Mama and Papa had a good meeting," said Sister with a yawn, "because we had a very good sit."



The cubs had a number of different sitters from time to time, but Mrs. Grizzle was their favorite—and they were always glad to see her.



THE BERENSTAIN BEARS GO TO THE DOCTOR

Take a deep breath. Stick out your tongue. Come see Doctor Grizzly while you are young.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS VISIT THE DENTIST

Taking good care of their teeth is something all bears do. That's why Sis and Brother brush—and go to the dentist, too.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS' MOVING DAY

Their stuff is all packed! Here comes the truck! Let's move with the Bears and wish them good luck.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE SITTER

Mom and Dad are going out. Gramps and Gran are, too. Who will stay home with the cubs? Just anyone won't do. . . .

**Let the Berenstain Bears help out at
your house with these delightful stories
about first-time experiences!**



ISBN 0-394-84837-3

RANDOM HOUSE

\$1.50