



OLD ROLY BEAR
visits his **COUSINS**



BEDTIME STORY BOOK
BOUND in Artistic Cloth

#725

Title: Old Roly Bear Visits His Cousins

Author: Samuel E. Lowe; Illustrated by H. Boylston Dummer

Language: English

Subject: Fiction, Literature, Children's literature

Publisher: World Public Library Association

(c) **worldLibrary.net**tm



World Public Library

The World Public Library, www.WorldLibrary.net is an effort to preserve and disseminate classic works of literature, serials, bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference works in a number of languages and countries around the world. Our mission is to serve the public, aid students and educators by providing public access to the world's most complete collection of electronic books on-line as well as offer a variety of services and resources that support and strengthen the instructional programs of education, elementary through post baccalaureate studies.

This file was produced as part of the "eBook Campaign" to promote literacy, accessibility, and enhanced reading. Authors, publishers, libraries and technologists unite to expand reading with eBooks.

Support online literacy by becoming a member of the World Public Library, <http://www.WorldLibrary.net/Join.htm>.

(c) **worldLibrary.net**tm



www.worldlibrary.net

This eBook has certain copyright implications you should read.

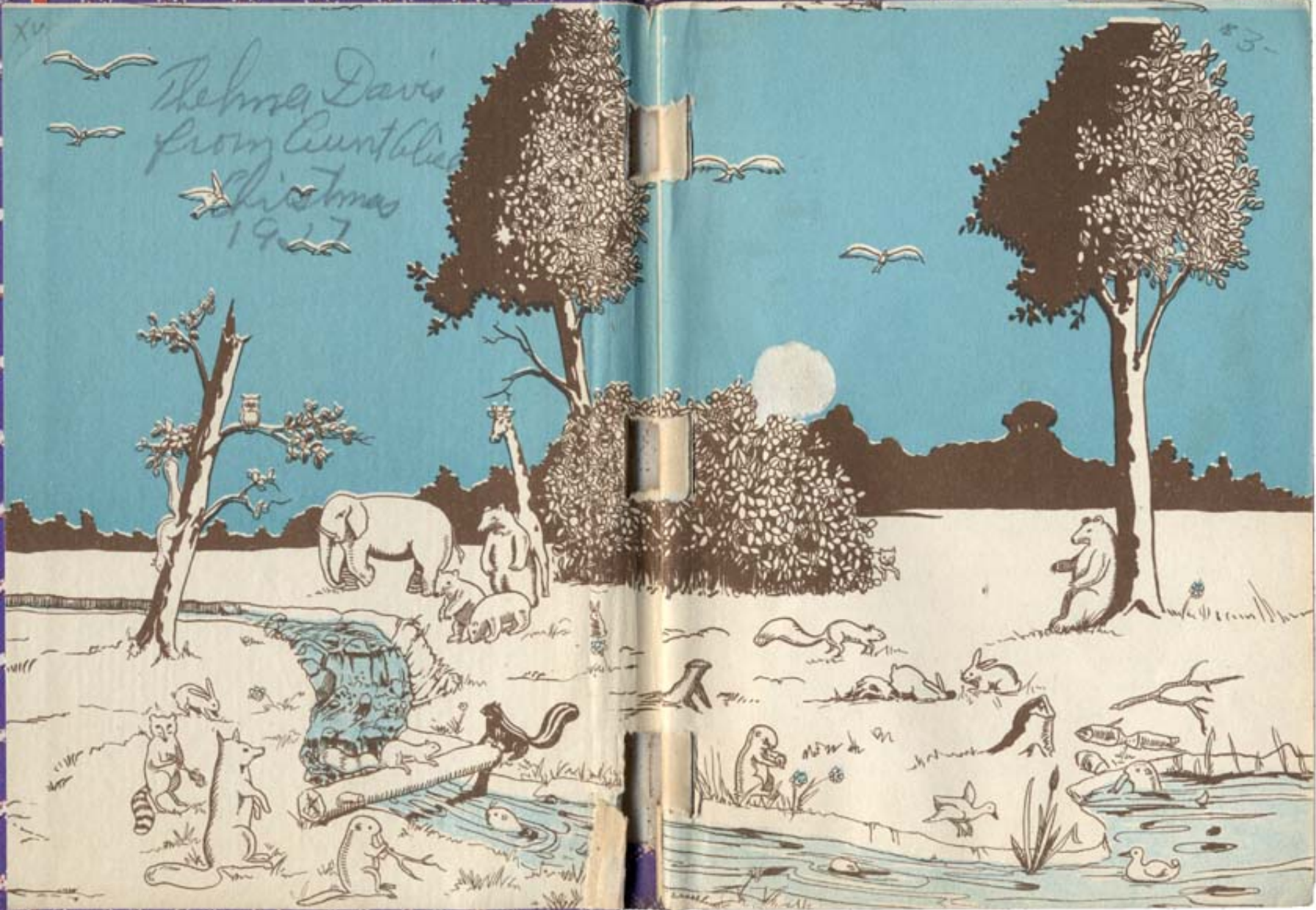
This book is copyrighted by the World Public Library. With permission copies may be distributed so long as such copies (1) are for your or others personal use only, and (2) are not distributed or used commercially. Prohibited distribution includes any service that offers this file for download or commercial distribution in any form, (See complete disclaimer <http://WorldLibrary.net/Copyrights.html>).

World Public Library Association
P.O. Box 22687
Honolulu, Hawaii 96823
info@WorldLibrary.net



(c) **worldLibrary.net**tm

XIV
Thelma Davis
from Aunt Alice
Christmas
1927





Old Roly Bear Visits His Cousins

By

Samuel E. Lowe

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
H. Boylston Dummer

The Stories In This Book

Old Roly Bear Starts on His Trip.....	7
Old Roly Bear In Tree Top Woods.....	12
Old Roly Bear Visits the School.....	19
Professor Bear Gives a Concert.....	25
Old Roly Bear Gives a Picnic.....	29
Fun at the Picnic.....	34
Old Roly Bear Invites Gypsy Fox.....	41
Old Roly Bear and Professor Bear Play Checkers.....	45
Old Roly Bear Returns Home.....	52
Old Roly Bear Arrives Home.....	55



WHITMAN PUBLISHING CO.
RACINE - WISCONSIN



Copyright 1926
Whitman Publishing Co.
Racine, Wis.

Lithographed in U.S.A.

Old Roly Bear Starts On His Trip

ONE morning Dick Sparrow, the letter carrier of Shady Brook, brought word to Old Roly Bear that the Chubby Bears, who were his cousins, were expecting him to pay them a visit.

Now it had been a long time since Old Roly Bear had visited the Chubby Bears. It really was time to go again.

When he spoke about it to Peter Fox, who, as you may know, was living with him, Peter said, "Why, of course, you should go, Roly Bear. I can get along here. I will keep the house nice and clean and go to school every day."

Old Roly Bear thought, "Peter will keep the house nice and clean; he will go to school

OLD ROLY BEAR STARTS ON HIS TRIP

every day. Well, perhaps, after all, I think I shall go for about a week."

But first he went to Teddy Bear the Toy-maker, an old friend, and asked him to keep an eye on Peter, and also on the house. Teddy Bear said he would.

Then he sent a letter to the Chubby Bears, saying that he would come for a visit, but he did not say when this would be.

Once Roly Bear had made up his mind, he was quite anxious to get started, and so a day later he was on his way. It was a two days' journey for him, for Old Roly Bear was no longer so swift as he was when he was young.

Dick Sparow brought the letter from Old Roly Bear to the Chubby Bears, and it made them very happy. But Mother Chubby Bear said it would probably be a week or two before he would arrive. That seemed a long way off to the little Chubby Bears.

OLD ROLY BEAR STARTS ON HIS TRIP

Can you imagine, therefore, how much of a surprise it was to Mrs. Chubby Bear to have Uncle Roly Bear appear two days later? No one else was at home at the time.

Kind Mother Chubby Bear! She saw how tired Old Roly Bear was when he arrived, so she made him lie down at once for a rest. Uncle Roly Bear thought the idea very foolish; if he could only sit down for a few minutes he would have all the rest he needed. But Mother Chubby Bear insisted, and the old bear finally obeyed her. It was not more than three minutes before he was fast asleep. He had missed his afternoon nap the last two days, and he was much more tired than he had thought.

Mother Chubby Bear met Tommy Chubby Bear and Billy Chubby Bear, her two youngest sons, at the door when they came home. Tommy had some fresh spring water in a pail.

"I have a surprise for you," said she. "A great surprise. Guess!"

OLD ROLY BEAR STARTS ON HIS TRIP

Tommy was just about to shout, "Who? What?" when Mother Chubby Bear said, "Ssh. Ssh! you must be quiet."

But Billy Chubby Bear was as quiet as he could be, for he was very, very small, and too young to know what was meant by a surprise.

Tommy Chubby Bear tried to guess, but all he could think of was good things to eat.

"No, silly," said Mother Chubby Bear, finally. "It is Uncle Roly Bear."

Even Billy Chubby Bear knew what that meant, and if Old Roly Bear had not been fast asleep, he would have been awakened at once by the loud shouts of both little bears. Uncle Roly Bear was the favorite uncle of all the Chubby Bears.

Mother Chubby Bear made the two little bears quiet down. But it was hard for them to wait until Old Roly Bear finally awakened. It seemed hours and hours went by before he opened his eyes.

OLD ROLY BEAR STARTS ON HIS TRIP



Mother Chubby Bear told them to play, and they really tried very hard, but every few minutes they would come over to see if the old bear had awakened. But the bear looked as if he were going to sleep for hours and hours.

Old Roly Bear In Tree Top Woods

IT WAS Billy Chubby Bear who was the first to see Uncle Roly Bear open his eyes.

"He's awake," he whispered very excitedly. "Look! See!"

But Tommy Chubby Bear did not need to be told.

Uncle Roly Bear raised his head; he then raised himself. Then he rubbed his eyes and looked about. Of course, he saw the two little bears.

"Well," said Uncle Roly Bear, "and who are you?"

Now Uncle Roly Bear really knew who the two little bears were, but he was a great tease, and so he pretended he did not know them.

OLD ROLY BEAR IN TREE TOP WOODS

"Why," said the astonished Tommy, "why, I'm Tommy Chubby Bear, and this is my little brother, Billy."

"Why, of course," said Uncle Roly Bear, "of course!" He laughed in great glee. "But I fooled you, I knew you."

"Well, come over and get acquainted," Uncle Roly Bear invited them, as they stood off bashfully. "Let me see how big you have grown."

Tommy went over, Billy following close behind.

When Uncle Roly Bear rose to make himself more comfortable in a chair, the two little bears found places near him for themselves.

"Well, little bears, you must have a lot to tell me. Your Uncle Roly Bear hasn't seen you for many months, and goodness me, how he has missed you. I don't know what I should have done for company if it had not been for Peter Fox."

OLD ROLY BEAR IN TREE TOP WOODS

"Who is Peter Fox?" asked Tommy Chubby Bear.

Uncle Roly Bear was just about to tell when the door bell rang. Mother Chubby Bear called out from the kitchen.

"Answer the door bell, Tommy, and see who it is."

Tommy did, and there was Jimmy Cottontail, on a visit to the two little bears. Jimmy pretended to be surprised when he found Old Roly Bear present, but I really think some one must have already told him about it.

"It's Jimmy Cottontail," Tommy explained to Uncle Roly Bear. "He's come to pay us a visit."

"Fine," said the old Bear in reply. "Come and join us, Jimmy."

Jimmy was glad. He did not need a second invitation.

"Do you children go to school?"

Tommy said he did; Billy said he had just started.

OLD ROLY BEAR IN TREE TOP WOODS



"Do you go, Jimmy?" asked Uncle Roly Bear.

"Oh, yes," replied the bunny. "I go to the same school, and I am in Tommy's class."

Uncle Roly Bear wanted to know all about the school; he wanted to know about the teacher; he wanted to know most everything.

When he had heard them tell all they could, he said he thought he would pay the school a visit and meet Miss Topsy Bear, the teacher.

OLD ROLY BEAR IN TREE TOP WOODS

Mother Chubby Bear now called, "Tommy, run outside and see if Father Chubby Bear is coming. It's time for lunch."

Jimmy Cottontail, when he heard this, picked up his hat to go, but Mother Chubby Bear saw him, and she at once invited him to stay, so Jimmy said he would.

Just then Tommy came back. Yes, Father Chubby Bear was coming.

When Father Chubby Bear came in and saw Uncle Roly Bear, he gave him a very pleasant, joyful welcome. That made Old Roly Bear very happy.

On the following Monday, Uncle Roly Bear had been with the Chubby Bears for the third day. He was beginning to feel thoroughly at home, but he was also beginning to think of Peter Fox, who was his godson, and whom he had left all alone, at home in Shady Brook.

"Well," he thought, "Teddy Bear will be on the lookout, and Peter is a good fox, so I really should not worry."

OLD ROLY BEAR IN TREE TOP WOODS

"Isn't it time for lunch?" he called to Mrs. Chubby Bear, who was in the kitchen.

"Almost," replied Mother Chubby Bear. "Tommy and Billy should be home from school."

"Well, here they are," replied Roly Bear. "Father Chubby Bear is just behind them."

Tommy was running now, and behind him was Billy, who was trying hard to keep up with his older brother. When Tommy came to the door, he shouted to Roly Bear, "What do you think, Uncle Roly Bear? Teacher wants you to come and pay a visit to our class."

"This afternoon," added Billy.

"Will you?" Tommy remembered that teacher had told him to ask his Uncle Roly Bear and to do it very politely.

Uncle Roly Bear pretended he did not want to go, that he had no business in a school-room, and what would he do if he did go? But he was really very pleased. He liked schools; he

OLD ROLY BEAR IN TREE TOP WOODS

liked children, and he liked to have children go to schools, and he liked to pay visits to them.

"Oh, yes, I guess I'll go," he finally agreed. "I'll be there about two-thirty."

This was more than an hour after the children would be back.

The two little bears could hardly wait until lunch time was over, for they wanted to hurry back to school with the news.



Old Roly Bear Visits the School

TEACHER Topsy Bear was pleased to know that Old Roly Bear would come, for she had heard a lot about him, and she wanted all the children to know him.

"And now, children," she said, "I hope you will all be very good, and especially when Mr. Roly Bear is here. I want him to think that this is as nice a class as any he has visited."

All the little animal folks promised, and they all were very good except Jumper Fox. First, he came late; then, he could not answer any of teacher's questions, and, last of all, he was naughty.

"Very well," said teacher, sadly. "I was hoping that no one would have to wear the cap

OLD ROLY BEAR VISITS THE SCHOOL

this afternoon, but I am afraid Jumper Fox will have to put it on."

So Jumper came forward. He was very sorry that he had been so bad. Teacher put the cap on him and made him stand in the corner for fifteen minutes.

"Are you sorry, now?" asked teacher, when the fifteen minutes were over.

"Yes, ma'am," said Jumper Fox.

"All right, then. Tell the whole class you are sorry, take off the cap and go back to your seat."

He was just in time, for a few minutes later there was a knock on the door, and when teacher said "Come in!" Old Roly Bear entered.

"How do you do, Mr. Roly Bear?" said teacher.

"How do you do, Miss Topsy Bear?" said Old Roly Bear. "How do you do, children?" he added.

OLD ROLY BEAR VISITS THE SCHOOL

Every one answered, "We are fine."

Teacher invited Old Roly Bear to the visitor's seat, and then the children went back to their lessons, while Teacher Topsy Bear explained how she taught them and how much the children knew.

Every little bear, every little fox, every little rabbit, every little squirrel, in fact, every little scholar, pretended to be very, very busy over his books. But out of the corners of their eyes, they were watching Old Roly Bear. He was a very famous bear, and they all knew about him.

Can you imagine how proud Chubby Tommy and Chubby Billy were? For Old Roly Bear was their uncle.

Teacher Topsy Bear had different little scholars stand up and answer questions. Little Curly Tail, the squirrel, Billy Chuck, the woodchuck, and Bobby Bear recited, and even Jumper Fox went to the blackboard and drew some nice pictures of trees and flowers.

OLD ROLY BEAR VISITS THE SCHOOL

Old Roly Bear said, "These are very bright children, and I am very glad to be here."

"Thank you, Old Roly Bear," replied teacher. "We are glad you like us. We are very proud to have you visit us. Not only are we proud, but so is all Tree Top Woods. For this reason we are to have all the grown-up folks come in to school, and perhaps you will make a speech."

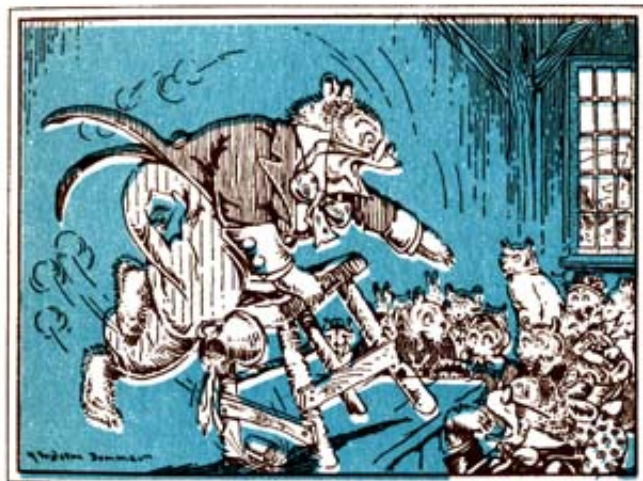
"Who? Me? No, I mean I?" Old Roly Bear was greatly surprised.

"Yes, sir," replied Topsy Bear the teacher. "And here they come."

Old Roly Bear saw them all coming in, Jimmy Skunk, Tom Coon, Chubby Bear, Mother Chubby Bear, old Mrs. Lion, and Tusker the Elephant. There were so many of them, it was hard to keep track, and, of course, most of them he did not even know.

Teacher Topsy Bear introduced him as soon as they were all seated.

OLD ROLY BEAR VISITS THE SCHOOL



Poor Old Roly Bear. It was such a surprise for him. He could not think of enough things to say.

Now there was an old chair in front of him. Old Roly Bear tried to rest his foot upon it. I do not think it was very strong, or perhaps he was very big and heavy. At any rate, it broke under him.

Old Roly Bear thought for a moment that he was going to fall right off the stage. He was

OLD ROLY BEAR VISITS THE SCHOOL

scared. But he caught hold of the same chair and saved himself.

No one laughed at him, and after a minute or two, the old bear forgot about his surprise and gave a nice speech. It was about how glad he was to have children go to school. Of course, he liked to see them play, too.

It was time for school to be over when Old Roly Bear finished, and Teacher Topsy Bear invited him to come again.



Professor Bear Gives a Concert

PROFESSOR Bear was to give a concert the very next evening under the full moon, and all Tree Top Woods was going to attend. Father Chubby Bear was one of the players and singers, so Old Roly Bear had two good reasons for going.

Tommy and Billy Chubby Bear finished their lessons early that afternoon, for they, too, wanted to go.

Father Chubby Bear said that folks had told him that Professor Bear had been a trained bear when he was young and that was why he was so clever.

It was a fine concert; all the foxes, bunnies, bears, and others did very well, thanks to the

leader of the band. But every one was most pleased when Professor Bear would get up to sing, then play his mandolin, then dance, and complete it all with a song, tune, and dance, all at one time.

Old Roly Bear said, "He is very wonderful and we must have him and his band come to Shady Brook. I must go and invite him when the concert is over."

Old Roly Bear did not forget, and, when it was all over, he had Father Chubby Bear introduce him to Professor Bear, whom he at once invited to Shady Brook.

"And bring your band, too, Professor," Old Roly Bear added.

"Fine," replied the leader of the band. "Let me see, we will make it next Wednesday a week."

"No, sir," interrupted Father Chubby Bear. "Not Wednesday. That's the day you play checkers with Grampa Fox."



"Why, of course," said Professor Bear. "Why, of course."

"Checkers?" shouted Old Roly Bear. "Did you say checkers?"

"Sure, I said checkers," Father Chubby Bear answered. "This old bear is a champion checker player."

"That's fine," said Old Roly Bear. "That's fine. Perhaps he'll play a game or two with me."

PROFESSOR BEAR GIVES A CONCERT

"Sure," said Professor Bear, for he liked nothing better than a game of checkers.

Now Old Roly Bear knew, of course, from what Father Chubby Bear had said that Professor Bear was a very good player. Of course, he did not tell them that he could play quite well, too, for he did not want to boast. But I can tell you right now that Old Roly Bear could spend a whole day over a checkerboard, and he was happiest when he found a good player against him.

Professor Bear wanted to play right then and there, but it was too late, and so it was arranged that they should meet the next evening. Both of them were so excited over the game they were to have that they completely forgot the thing about which they had first met—the invitation of Old Roly Bear to Professor Bear to have them come out to Shady Brook and give a concert.

Old Roly Bear Gives A Picnic

NOW teacher Topsy Bear was sometimes very strict and sometimes she was very "easy," as the scholars would say.

On the morning after Old Roly Bear had paid his visit, the children were very bad, in fact, she said, they had never been worse. It was too bad, because they had behaved so well when Old Roly Bear had been present.

Tom Porcupine was wearing the dunce cap. Teacher had only one dunce cap, or she would have had Reddy Fox wear it, too.

Bobby Coon was also naughty, and Jumper Fox was hiding behind his book and laughing. Poor Teacher Topsy Bear was very much displeased with her class.

OLD ROLY BEAR GIVES A PICNIC

Just at the moment when everything seemed so very bad, some one came in with a note for teacher. She read it, smiled; then she laughed.

She turned around and said to the little animals, "Perhaps if you knew what was in this note, you would be sorry you are so bad. But since you are so bad, I think it will be a good way to punish you."

The children wondered, of course, and wondering, they decided to be good, and when lunch time came they all went home, still wondering what was in the note teacher had received.

Tommy Chubby Bear and Billy Chubby Bear, when they returned to school, had the answer. It seemed Uncle Roly Bear had invited the school to a picnic. The little Chubby Bears said the picnic would have all the good things to eat from ice cream and nuts to things bunnies, foxes, raccoons, and others liked.

"Guess we won't go!" said Jumper Fox.

OLD ROLY BEAR GIVES A PICNIC



"That's how we're punished for being bad," said Jimmy Cottontail.

"I suppose we should be good," added Reddy Fox.

"Well then, let's be," suggested Tommy Chubby Bear.

"All right," said Jumper Fox.

"All right," said Tom Porcupine.

"All right," said the rest.

OLD ROLY BEAR GIVES A PICNIC

So when teacher came into the class room, she found them all very quiet in their seats, and on their best behavior.

Teacher wondered for a minute; then she thought of the Chubby Bears, and she guessed at once. She smiled all to herself, but she really was very glad to see them all so good, for she did not want to keep them from the picnic, nor did she like to disappoint Old Roly Bear.

No one had to wear the dunce cap that afternoon, and teacher thought to herself, that if there was a picnic to look forward to all the time, teaching would be very easy.

The animal children began to wonder as to what would happen, and Jumper Fox and Tom Porcupine were beginning to get restless. But about half an hour before school closed, Teacher Topsy Bear stood up and told them that they had been so good that afternoon that she would tell them what was in that note she

FUN AT THE PICNIC

had received in the morning. Then she told them.

“And we will all go,” she said very kindly.

She did not let them know that she was quite sure that they knew about the note, nor did they tell her, not one of them, that they had found out from the little Chubby Bears.

Instead, Bobby Coon shouted, “Hurrah!”

So did Jimmy Cottontail, so did all the rest. For a picnic with Old Roly Bear promised a lot of fun for them, and no school for a day.



Fun At The Picnic

THE picnic was to be the very next day, and it was to be at Swamp Woods. Of course, animal folk do not worry very much about swamps, and Swamp Woods had quite a deep creek, and was the favorite camping and picnic grounds for the folks in Tree Top Woods.

When Tommy and Billy Chubby Bear came home, they found Old Roly Bear very busy. He was getting things ready for the next day's picnic, and Chubby Bear, their father, was helping him. A whole lot of things had been bought. Neither Tommy nor Billy saw more than a few of the things, but they became quite excited over it all.

But Tommy Chubby Bear, as he stood there, suddenly decided that he could perhaps be useful.



"Can I help, Uncle Roly Bear?"

Billy Chubby Bear always followed his brother Tommy's lead, so he said, "Can I help, Uncle Roly Bear?"

"Of course, you can," replied Old Roly Bear.

Thereupon he gave them both so much to do that they were almost sorry they had offered to help.

"A picnic is lots of work," said little Billy Chubby Bear. "Isn't it?"

"Uh-huh," replied his brother. He was lifting a big basket of sandwiches, so it was hard for him to answer.

FUN AT THE PICNIC

It was not until it was quite dark that Old Roly Bear declared that he thought everything was prepared, and it was time for bed for every one who expected to picnic the next day. Mother Chubby Bear immediately suggested that Tommy and Billy get ready for bed. Uncle Roly Bear was already on his way, so they did not argue with Mother Chubby Bear.

Neither Tommy nor Billy could sleep very well, for they were quite excited, and early the next morning, in fact, it was so early that it was two hours earlier than on other mornings, the two decided that they would get up and be ready to help Uncle Roly Bear. But much to their surprise, they found Uncle Roly Bear up and wide awake. So were Mother and Father Chubby Bear. They were already working on their picnic preparations. In fact, Mother Chubby Bear and Father Chubby Bear had driven out to Swamp Woods with one load.

They all had an early breakfast and were on the picnic grounds long before any one arrived.

FUN AT THE PICNIC

But by nine-thirty that morning almost half of Tree Top Woods was present, and the picnic was in full action.

There was lots to do, fishing, tree climbing, and playing games. Races were to be in the afternoon.

Bobby Coon invited Teacher Topsy Bear to go rowing. Teacher Topsy Bear got into the boat, but she was so heavy that her side went deep into the creek, and Bobby Coon's side went high up. Every one laughed, but Teacher Topsy Bear was not the least bit worried.

It was great fun she thought. Poor Bobby Coon. He tried so hard to row, but the boat would not move. Tommy Chubby Bear climbed into the boat and sat on the bow end, which is the front of the boat. But Teacher Topsy Bear was still too heavy.

Pretty soon, Old Roly Bear himself found time to get into the row boat. It was no trouble for him to row, and he gave Teacher

Topsy Bear, Bobby Coon and Tommy Chubby Bear a nice ride.

The picnic had started quite early, and very soon every one began to grow hungry. But lunch time, Mother Chubby Bear said, was still half an hour away.

Father Chubby Bear said, "We are going to have a race, and the winner will get a watermelon."

"Goody," said Tommy Chubby Bear, for he was quite a runner, and he liked watermelon.

"Who else?" said Father Chubby Bear, who was to be referee.

"I," said Jimmy Cottontail.

"And I," added Longy Giraffe.

Jumper Fox shouted to count him in. So did Bobby Coon. This was going to be a real race, and every one became quite excited and almost forgot about eating.

"Get ready," said Father Chubby Bear.

The racers were ready.



"On your mark!" shouted Chubby Bear.

"One! Two! Go!" he shouted.

Away they went. Longy Giraffe had the best start, Jimmy Cottontail was second.

The race was to be two miles. Poor Tommy Chubby Bear made the slowest start.

Everyone thought Longy Giraffe would win quite easily. But pretty soon Jimmy Cottontail began to cut down the giraffe's lead. Tommy Chubby Bear, too, began to go faster.

All of a sudden, the giraffe stumbled and fell. Jimmy Cottontail raced into the lead, the young bear now close behind.

Jimmy Cottontail won the race. Tommy Chubby Bear was second. But Old Roly Bear said that if the race had been a mile longer, Tommy would have won.

Longy Giraffe was third, winning by a neck over Jumper Fox.

It was a great race, and every one congratulated the winner.

"Here is your watermelon," said Father Chubby Bear.

Jimmy Cottontail said, "Thank you, but what shall I do with it? It's so big."

Father Chubby Bear said that there would be plenty of folks to help him eat it.

"We'll eat, now," announced Mother Chubby Bear.

That was the most welcome news of all. How every one ran to the eating place.

Old Roly Bear Invites Gypsy Fox

NOW Tommy Chubby Bear and Billy Chubby Bear had wondered about all the food that the Chubby Bears and Old Roly Bear had prepared the night before and early in the morning. It seemed as if so much food could never be eaten.

But, presto, in a very few minutes all of it was gone. Those animals were hungry, and they proved it. Luckily, however, no one went hungry, and even Longy Giraffe found enough food for his immediate needs.

After every one had eaten, the picnic folks divided. The older animals wanted to rest, the younger wanted to play games. Some of them wanted to fish, some to swim, some to row.

It was a very jolly afternoon, but off in the distance, Gypsy Fox sat by himself watching them. Gypsy Fox was not very welcome in Tree Top Woods; he had been told it more than once.

He was very lonesome, very unhappy, and he would have given almost anything to be able to be one of the party.

As he sat there, so very unhappy, Sammy Crow, flying by, saw him. He told the Chattering Jay about it, and, of course, in no time at all, every one present at the picnic knew all about it.

And now, I shall tell you about one of the nicest things our friend, Old Roly Bear, ever did. He, too, heard about lonely Gypsy Fox. Without telling any one about it, he sauntered away, and soon he came upon the Gypsy.

"Hello," said Old Roly Bear in the kindest voice. "How are you?"

Gypsy Fox did not know whether to run away or not. No one was ever very kind to



him, and, of course, there was never any good reason for any one's being so.

"Hello," he answered very timidly.

OLD ROLY BEAR INVITES GYPSY FOX

"Want to come to the picnic?" Old Roly Bear asked. "We'll be glad to have you."

Gypsy Fox wondered; then he decided that Old Roly Bear meant exactly what he said.

"Yes, sir," he replied. "I'd like to."

So Old Roly Bear brought tattered and seedy Gypsy Fox to the picnic. He introduced him to the little Chubby Bears, to Jumper Fox, to Reddy Fox, and to Bobby the Coon. He introduced him to others, too, and because he was Old Roly Bear, and because it was he who introduced Gypsy Fox to them, they were all very nice and pleasant to the stranger.

Gypsy Fox had a splendid time. He left just before the picnic was over, while Old Roly Bear was playing checkers with Professor Bear. I am going to tell you of this game in the next story chapter.

Gypsy Fox never forgot Old Roly Bear's kindness and he was able to do a great favor to the Old Bear weeks and weeks later. But that is told in another story.

Old Roly Bear and Professor Bear Play Checkers

I SAID I would tell you about the checker game between old Roly Bear and Professor Bear. That was a very famous game—actually they played three games.

Professor Bear, you may remember, was a very good player, and there was nothing he liked more. Old Roly Bear, too, was a great player, and he liked to play just as much as Professor Bear.

The two played very carefully. Old Roly Bear won the first game; although it was not at all easy.

Professor Bear was greatly surprised. He did not think the other bear was so good a player. Nor did he think that Old Roly Bear could beat him again if they played once more.



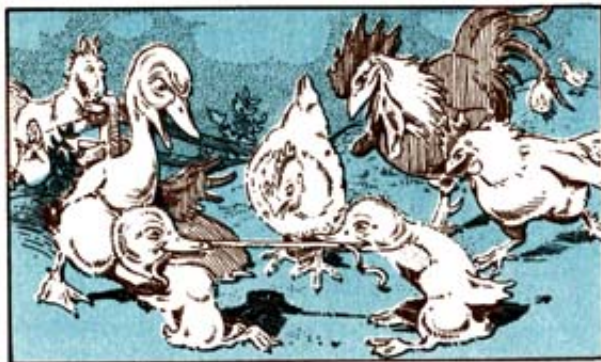
But he said very politely, "You are a very good player, Old Roly Bear. But perhaps we can play again."

"Why, of course," Old Roly Bear replied.

So they played again, and this time Professor Bear won. That made him feel better.

"That's better," said Old Roly Bear. "Let's play a third game, and may the best bear win."

The third game played was even more careful. They both played it very well, and it



looked like a tie. But Old Roly Bear was cleverer, and he blocked up the other player and won.

Professor Bear said, "You are a very wonderful player, Old Roly Bear. The best bear did win."

"You are a good player, too," replied Old Roly Bear, "and I hope we can play again."

"But not now," said Red Fox, the father of Reddy Fox. "Not now. They all want to hear a story, Old Roly Bear. It wouldn't be a real picnic without a story."

"Very well," said the old bear. "Very well. I'll tell them a story."

So he went over to the open green where all the little folks were seated in circles. Teacher Topsy Bear was arranging them in order and size.

"Here comes Old Roly Bear," said Jumper Fox.

"And we're just ready," said Teacher Topsy Bear.

Old Roly Bear said, "I hear you want a story, children."

"Yes, sir," they answered.

"Very well, then," said Old Roly Bear. "Here goes."

"Long, long, ago," he began, "there were two ducks who were twins. They were great favorites at the farm on which they lived. Mother Duck and Daddy Duck were very proud of them. So was every one else at the

farm, the horse, the dog, the cows, the pigs, and even the hens and the roosters.

"But as the little ducks grew older, they began to quarrel with each other, and, do you know, they were jealous, very jealous of each other.

"One morning every one heard a very loud quacking. They rushed over to see what the trouble was and saw Tommy Duck and Sammy Duck pulling very lustily at what looked like a very long worm.

"Tommy would let go for a second and quack, 'It's my worm.'

"Sammy would do exactly the same thing and say, 'It's my worm.'

"They both were very angry, very excited, and very noisy.

"'Why, what's this?' asked Daddy Duck, as he came upon them. 'Why all this noise? You silly ducks. Folks around here will grow to dislike you if you are going to be so quarrel-

some and noisy all the time. What is the trouble?’

“Tommy answered, ‘I found this worm and Sammy grabbed it. It’s mine.’

“Sammy said, ‘I saw it first, but Tommy grabbed it.’

“‘Worm, what worm?’ questioned Daddy Duck. ‘Where is the worm?’

“‘Why, this long worm,’ replied Sammy. ‘And it’s mine.’

“‘Worm?’ answered Daddy Duck in great disgust. ‘Why this is no worm, you sillies. It’s just a long string you have there.’

“‘What?’ said Tommy, in great surprise.

“‘What?’ added Sammy in greater surprise, and they both let go of the worm that wasn’t a worm.

“After that the two ducks did not quarrel. They grew up as little brothers should. They were never again so greedy or so quarrelsome,

and, of course, that pleased all the others on that farm.

“And that ends this story,” added Old Roly Bear. “I hope you liked it.”

“We did,” replied the little animal folk as they all nodded their heads in approval, and the big animal folks nodded theirs just as well.

“But we want to hear another story.”

“Very well,” said Old Roly Bear, “Then I will tell you of Peter Fox and how he found a new home.”

“Goody,” was the answer.

But I am not going to tell it to you as Old Roly Bear told it, for it is one of the other story books in this series of books and you can read it for yourself.

After the story of Peter Fox was over, the picnic was at an end. It had been a very splendid day for them all—there was not one who had not had a good time.

Old Roly Bear Returns Home

THE very next morning Old Roly Bear began to think of Shady Brook, of home, and of Peter Fox; and that very afternoon he said good-bye to the Chubby Bears and invited every one of them to visit him very soon. He did not forget to call on Professor Bear, who promised to come and bring his band to Shady Brook and also to bring his own checkerboard.

He also said good-bye to Teacher Topsy Bear and her pupils and every one else he met to and from the school.

Because he was anxious to get home, he made few stops, and he traveled in the dark.

Perhaps this was not so wise, for the next morning, when it grew light, he found he had lost his way and was in a strange land. Of

course, Old Roly Bear did not worry about this overmuch, for the sun was out, and there were other ways for him to find out which way to travel.

It was swamp land, and he had to be somewhat careful. Since other animals he might have met were strangers to him, they kept out of his way, for Old Roly Bear was big and strong, and unless you knew him real well, you would be frightened when seeing him. He was lucky, however, to meet a snipe. Have you ever seen one? He is a large bird, with long legs, ever so long. He also has a long bill, and he loves to wade in swampy places. The snipe was not afraid of Old Roly Bear, for he knew that the bear could not come out where he was, and, furthermore, he could always fly away.

"Good morning," said Old Roly Bear. "Is it good fishing?"

"Fair," said the snipe.

"I am on my way to Shady Brook," said Old Roly Bear. "Can you tell me the way?"

"Shady Brook? Shady Brook?" The snipe thought and thought. If it had not been a brook, I am afraid he never would have remembered.

"Oh yes," he said. He thereupon directed Old Roly Bear, who found he was almost ten miles out of his way.

"Thank you," he said to the snipe. "I must hurry."

But first he took quite a rest and looked around for his breakfast. When he had a complete rest and had all the breakfast he wanted, he went on.

Old Roly Bear, as he went on, suddenly remembered that he would pass the home of Lone Crusty Fox and Wise Lawyer Owl, old friends of his. Perhaps some of you have heard of them. So he decided that he would plan to stop there for that night.

Old Roly Bear Arrives Home

JUST as Old Roly Bear was within a stone's throw of the home of Lone Crusty Fox, he heard some one say, "Hoot, hoot, whom have we here?"

Old Roly Bear recognized the voice of Wise Lawyer Owl. The owl had no trouble seeing him, for it was night, but he did not recognize Old Roly Bear.

"I'm an old bear on my way to Shady Brook. Can I find a night's lodging?"

"A night's lodging? A night's lodging? Hoot! Hoot! We shall see. We shall see," replied Wise Lawyer Owl.

Just then, however, Lone Crusty Fox came out of the woods near at hand. He recognized Old Roly Bear at once.

OLD ROLY BEAR ARRIVES HOME

"Hello, Old Roly," he shouted. "If it isn't Old Roly Bear, himself." Lone Crusty Fox was delighted, for the old bear was a great friend of his.

"Why, of course, why, of course," said Wise Lawyer Owl. "I knew it all the time," he pretended. Lone Crusty Fox looked at old Roly Bear, Old Roly Bear looked at Lone Crusty Fox, and they both laughed, for they knew Wise Lawyer Owl had not known it at all.

Lone Crusty Fox asked a lot of questions, for it had been a long time since he had seen the old bear. Wise Lawyer Owl asked just as many, for he had not seen the old bear for even a longer time.

Old Roly had to tell of Peter Fox, of Teddy Bear the Toymaker, of Mr. Rusty Fox, and all the other friends. After which, it was time to go to bed, for he was very tired. Only Wise Lawyer Owl refused to follow him, he slept but little at night.

OLD ROLY BEAR ARRIVES HOME

Neither he nor Lone Crusty Fox were very happy when they heard that Old Roly Bear would stop for the night only, and would be on his way before breakfast.

"Why did you come at all?" grumbled Lone Crusty. "Not even to pay us a visit for a day. Not even for half a day. Not even for breakfast."

But he arose even earlier than Old Roly Bear, the next morning, and had a very nice breakfast ready for his friend. It was so early, that even Wise Lawyer Owl could join them and enjoy it all.

Lone Crusty Fox traveled with the old Bear the first five miles, then he returned home. Old Roly Bear now made good time, he was on familiar ground. He was very anxious to get back, anxious to see Peter Fox and all the others.

He reached his home, without any further adventures, stopping for but a minute to greet

OLD ROLY BEAR ARRIVES HOME



Teddy Bear the Toymaker, and Mr. Rusty Fox, both of whom lived on the way to Shady Brook.

He would have surprised Peter Fox who did not expect him, but for Tommy Crow, who spied him long before.

OLD ROLY BEAR ARRIVES HOME

Peter Fox ran almost three miles to meet him.

Shady Brook looked as nice as Old Roly Bear thought it would, but Peter Fox had kept their home so nice and clean, that Old Roly Bear was surprised.

“There’s no place like home,” Old Roly Bear sighed in great contentment as he sat himself down in great comfort.

Peter Fox said, “Home isn’t home without you, Old Roly Bear. I’m glad you’re back.”

THE END



