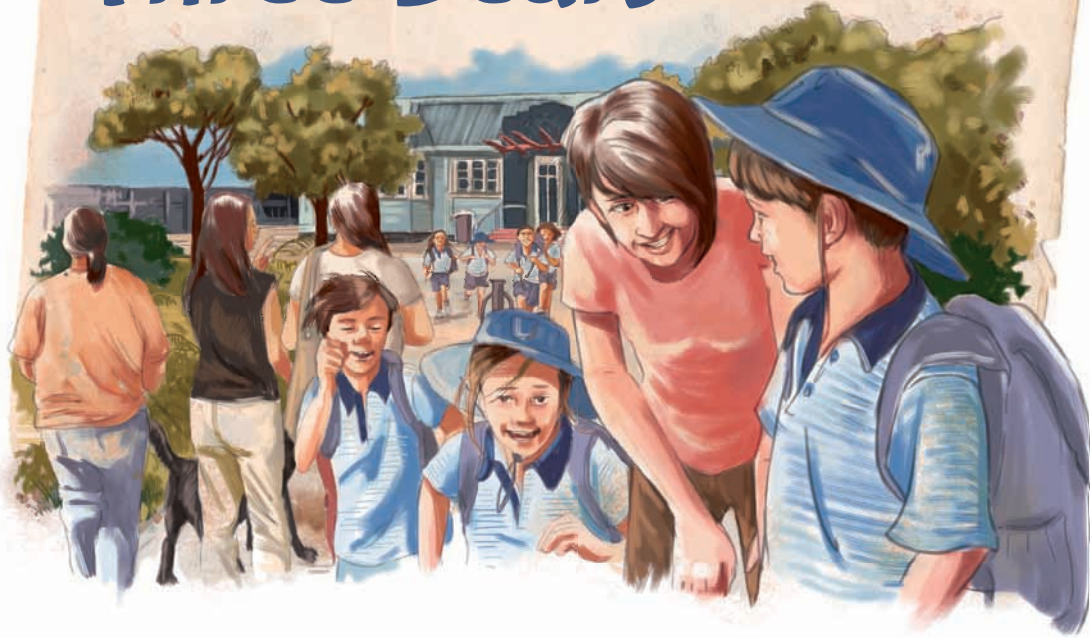


Three Bears

by Diana Noonan



"Awesome!" said Ms Meadowcroft after Lochie's group had put on their play. "That was so good I want you to perform it at special assembly."

"Cool!" said Lochie. Lots of parents came to special assembly.

When Mum came to collect Lochie, the play was the first thing he told her about. "We rewrote Goldilocks and the Three Bears," he said. "We've made it funny. I'm the little bear. I've got the most words to say, and I have to sing a special porridge song. I'm going to call Dad when we get home and ..."

Suddenly, Lochie stopped.

"What's up?" asked Mum.

"Nothing," said Lochie, and he ran on ahead.

That evening, at five o'clock, Dad tooted the horn outside the house.

"Have a fun weekend," said Mum as Lochie picked up his Friday-night bag. All that was in it was his soccer gear. Everything else was already at Dad's – farm clothes, toothbrush, pyjamas, and a spare inhaler in the drawer beside his bed.

"Had a good week at school?" asked Dad as Lochie hopped into the ute.

"Yep," said Lochie. He didn't feel like talking. He didn't even feel like laughing when Dad told him the jokes he'd been saving up.

"Everything OK?" asked Dad when he tucked Lochie into bed that night.

"Yep," said Lochie.

But when Dad turned off the light, Lochie couldn't go to sleep. He kept thinking about the play. He wished Mum and Dad could *both* come to watch it.



Now that Lochie and Mum lived in town, Mum and Dad took turns going to things. Dad watched Lochie play soccer on Saturday mornings, and Mum watched his Thursday night gym class. Dad came to school barbecues, and Mum came to special assemblies. The three of them didn't do *anything* together any more. Lochie turned over. He wished his stomach would stop hurting.

In the morning, Lochie didn't feel like eating the special muesli Dad had made him for breakfast. He didn't even feel like feeding the calves.

At teatime, Dad asked Lochie again what was up. Lochie shrugged. He twirled his spaghetti round and round in his bowl. He didn't say anything for ages. But then he heard himself telling Dad about the play.

"It's for special assembly," he said. "On Thursday afternoon."

"Great," said Dad.

Lochie speared a piece of spaghetti with his fork. "Ms Meadowcroft said to ask our parents to come," he said.

Dad looked up from the slice of bread he was buttering. "Oh, OK," he said.

Lochie didn't say anything else about the play but, that night, when he got out of bed to go to the toilet, he heard Dad talking on the phone. He was saying something about school. Lochie was pretty sure he was talking to Mum.

The next week was really busy. There were bear hats to make and old fur coats to try on – and lots of rehearsals in the hall. Lochie's stomach didn't hurt any more, but he still wished Mum and Dad were both coming to see him in the play.

Which was why, on special assembly day, when the curtains opened and Lochie looked down from the stage, he got such a huge surprise. There, right in the very front row, were Mum *and* Dad. They were sitting side by side, smiling up at him!

The play went really well. Everyone remembered their lines, and the audience laughed in all the right places. They even gave a special clap after Lochie had sung his porridge song.



"You were great!" Dad told Lochie in the car park afterwards. He went to unlock the door of his ute.

"Hold on ..." said Mum. "Before you go, why don't we all get an ice cream and eat them in the park?"

Dad looked a bit surprised. He glanced at his watch.

"Just for half an hour," she said. "We can walk."

Dad looked at Lochie. "OK," he said. "Let's do that."

Lochie looked up at his parents. "We're the three bears," he said as they went out of the car park and headed towards the dairy at the end of the street.

"Well, I hope we're not having porridge," laughed Dad, "because I'd much rather have ice cream!"

illustrations by Adele Jackson



Three Bears

by Diana Noonan

illustrations by Adele Jackson

Text and illustrations copyright © Crown 2015

For copyright information about how you can use this material, go to: <http://www.tki.org.nz/Copyright-in-Schools/Terms-of-use>

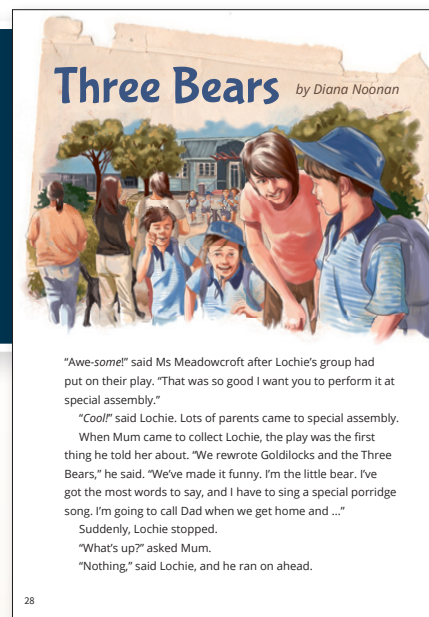
Published 2015 by the Ministry of Education
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
www.education.govt.nz
All rights reserved.
Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

ISBN 978 0 478 44657 9 (online)

Publishing services: Lift Education E tū
Series Editor: David Chadwick
Designer: Jodi Wicksteed
Literacy Consultant: Melanie Winthrop
Consulting Editors: Hōne Apanui and Emeli Sione



[New Zealand Government](http://www.govt.nz)



"Awe-some!" said Ms Meadowcroft after Lochie's group had put on their play. "That was so good I want you to perform it at special assembly."
"Cool!" said Lochie. Lots of parents came to special assembly. When Mum came to collect Lochie, the play was the first thing he told her about. "We rewrote Goldilocks and the Three Bears," he said. "We've made it funny. I'm the little bear. I've got the most words to say, and I have to sing a special porridge song. I'm going to call Dad when we get home and ..."
Suddenly, Lochie stopped.
"What's up?" asked Mum.
"Nothing," said Lochie, and he ran on ahead.

28



SCHOOL JOURNAL LEVEL 2, MAY 2015

Curriculum learning area	English Health and Physical Education Social Sciences
Reading year level	Year 4
Keywords	families, parents, separation