

# A Special Bear

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Elliot watched Grandma as she slid her hat into place and buttoned her coat.

"Where are we going, Grandma?" he asked.

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Slowly, he nodded. "I trust you."

"Good!" said Grandma.

Together, they laced up their boots and headed outside. Grandma and Elliot lived outside the city, but they didn't live on a mountain or in an area with lots of bears. Where did Grandma think they would catch a bear?

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Grandma led Elliot into the small area of trees beside her house.

"First we have to find animal tracks," Grandma explained. She pointed out a few sets of paw prints and explained what kinds of animals they belonged to.

"It's also good to look for signs of activity in the area," she said. "Do you see

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"But Grandma," he said, "I haven't seen any evidence of bears."

Grandma winked again. "Just wait."

They walked a bit farther. Grandma showed Elliot scat, or animal droppings, which was further proof of the creatures that lived in the trees.

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Finally, they came to the other side of the trees. Disappointment swept through Elliot.

"Grandma," he said, "why did you say we were going on a bear hunt?"

Elliot spun around, his heart beating fast. Instead of a bear, though, he found a

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1) What did Elliot and Grandma set out to do in the story?

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2) How did Elliot initially feel about going on a bear hunt with Grandma?

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5) What did Elliot find at the end of his and Grandma's adventure in the woods, and why did Grandma call it "their bear"?

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- 6) Explain how Elliot's feelings changed at the end of the story. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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- 8) Why do you think Grandma used the idea of a bear hunt to surprise Elliot with the stuffed bear at the end? What effect did it have on Elliot?

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- 9) What do you think the smell of pine trees on the stuffed bear symbolizes in the story?

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10)

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