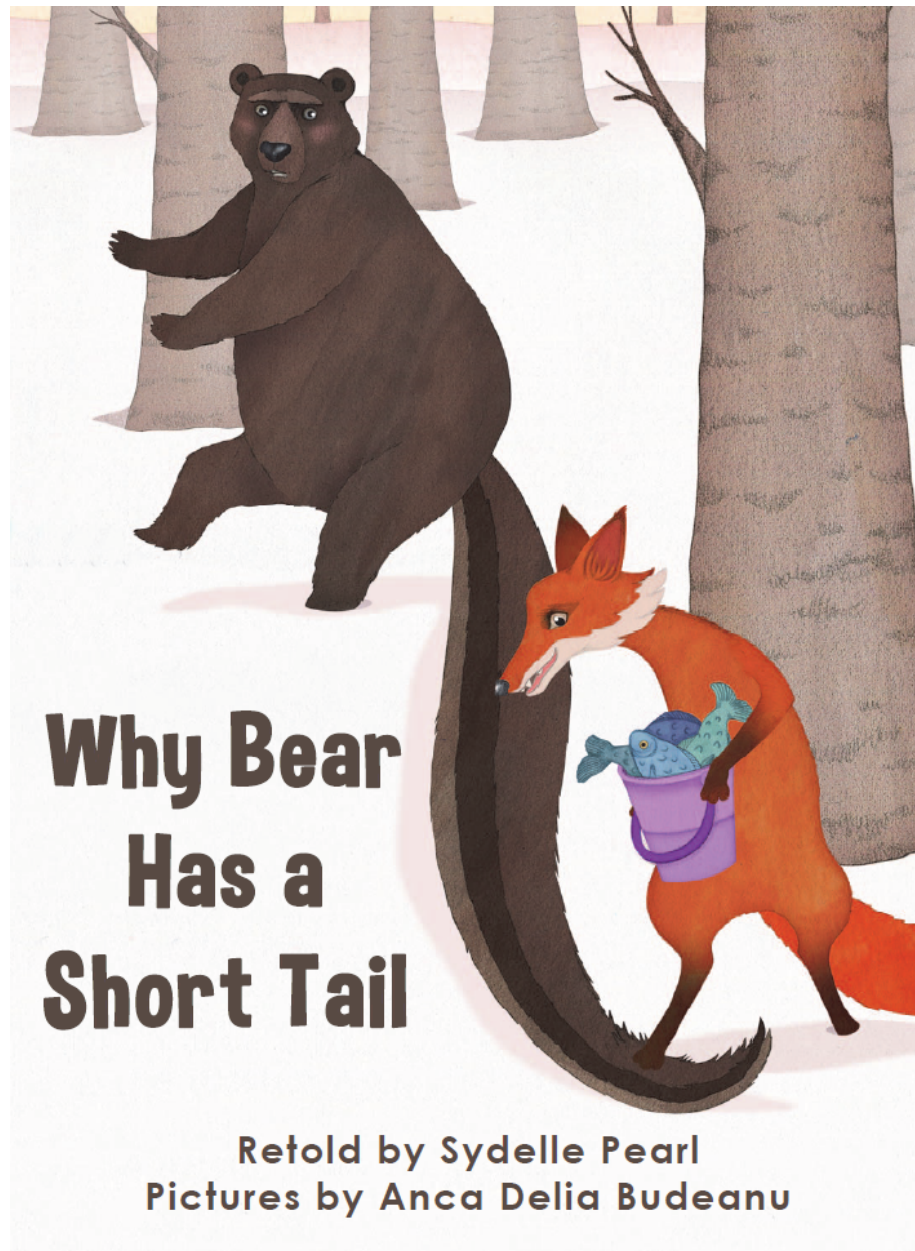


**WHY BEAR HAS A SHORT TAIL, A SHORT PLAY**, © 2015 by Sydelle Pearl, based on the book **WHY BEAR HAS A SHORT TAIL**, illustrated by Anca Delia Budeanu and published by Reading Reading Books, LLC, 2015.



Here is a play created from the story that you can perform. You can use paper bags to make puppets and/or construction paper to make masks for the characters. Your teacher can send a photo of the puppets to [info@storypearls.com](mailto:info@storypearls.com) so that they can be posted to storypearls.com!

**Cast of Characters for WHY BEAR HAS A SHORT TAIL, A SHORT PLAY by Sydelle Pearl:**

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Dancing Trees covered with snow

Fox

River

Bear

Sun

Roses

Sunflowers

Birds

Dancing Trees with green leaves

NARRATOR 1:

The name of this story is WHY BEAR HAS A SHORT TAIL. It is a folktale from Norway.

NARRATOR 2:

One cold day, Bear was walking in the forest.

(BEAR walks across the stage, then speaks to the audience.)

BEAR:

Hello! Just look! The trees are covered with snow. **Everything** is covered with snow.

DANCING TREES: (singing)

We love to dance and we love to sing

Our words are carried by the wind and snow.

NARRATOR 1

Fox was standing behind one of the trees with a pail of fishes as Bear was passing by. Bear did not see Fox.

FOX

There goes Bear with his long, beautiful tail! I wish I had a tail like that. It's not fair that Bear's tail is so beautiful! You know what? I feel like playing a trick on Bear! Shhh!

BEAR

(stopping, turning around, and sniffing)

Hmmm. I smell fish...

(FOX suddenly comes out from behind the tree and steps on BEAR'S tail!)

BEAR

Fox! Why did you step on my tail!

FOX

Your tail is too long, Bear, that's why! It's always in the way.

BEAR

(holding his tail and patting it, soothing it)

I can't help it, Fox....

Fox, you are carrying a pail of fish! I *knew* I smelled fish!

Could you please teach me how to go fishing?

FOX

(speaking to the audience)

I have an idea!

(to BEAR)

FOX, continued

OK! Let's walk to the River.

NARRATOR 2:

So Fox and Bear walked to the frozen River.

RIVER:

Bear, are you **sure** you want to listen to Fox?

FOX

Bear, take a stick and make a hole in the ice.

RIVER

Bear, are you **certain** you want to listen to Fox?

BEAR

But Fox, the water will be very cold!

FOX

This is the way to go fishing! Now take a stick and make a hole. Sit down and slip your tail in the hole.

RIVER

Bear, wait! Are you **positive** you want to listen to Fox?

BEAR

Let me ask the children...

Children, raise your hand if you think I should listen to Fox. Thank you. OK...Some of you think I should listen to Fox.

(BEAR sits down on the icy river and shivers)

BEAR

Brrr!!! It is freezing!

FOX

Keep your tail in the icy water. You will feel it singing. After a while, you can pull up your tail with all the fish on it!

BEAR

Thank you, Fox!

(FOX runs off into the forest, laughing at the trick he has played on BEAR.)

BEAR

(with his tail in the icy river)

I will close my eyes and use my imagination to think of a hot, sunny day! I will think of butterflies, beautiful roses and sunflowers, and trees with shiny, green leaves. I will think of a bird's song—a lullaby—to put me to sleep.

(SUN spreads her rays, ROSES and SUNFLOWERS grow, TREES rustle their shiny, green leaves, BIRDS fly—all in BEAR's Dream)

DANCING TREES

We love to dance and we love to sing

Our words are carried by the wind and sun.

BEAR

(yawning and stretching)

Oh, I feel so cold! I have been dreaming of a beautiful sunny day....

Maybe I caught ten fishes by now! Maybe I caught twenty fishes! Maybe I caught thirty or forty!

Maybe I caught fifty fishes by now!

Oh, I think I must have caught one hundred fishes by now!

BEAR, continued

Oh! I wonder why I cannot feel my tail at all! I will reach down into the icy water to find my tail...Oh no! I pulled off my tail! It came off in the icy water!

NARRATOR 1 and 2:

And to this day, *that's* why BEAR has a short tail!

(All the characters stand and bow.)

THE END