

Here is the link to listen to the story The Bears Picnic.
<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/brian/s-Tdy7BXbHz4i>

Brian Bear's Picnic!

In the middle of Friary Wood, there lived a large, stripy bear called Brian. He was a happy and generous bear who loved seeing his friends and playing games with them.

One warm, summer morning, Brian decided to invite his bear friends to a picnic. So, he sent an invitation to Curtis, Bertha and Gertie which he wrote in his very best handwriting:

Curtis, Bertha and Gertie were excited and quickly prepared their favourite food to take to the picnic. Curtis baked a scrumptious banana cake, Bertha made some delicious, honey sandwiches and Gertie picked succulent strawberries from her garden. Dressed in their best 'going-on-a-picnic' clothes, they set off to Friary Wood.



First, they had to cross a narrow bridge over the river. Just as they reached the other side, a swarm of bees flew towards them. "Duck down!" shouted Bertha but the bees stopped in front of them.

"We need some honey. Can you help us?" asked the largest bee.

Bertha looked at Curtis and Gertie and thought a very long thought. Slowly, very slowly, she unwrapped the honey sandwiches and the bees devoured the honey gratefully.

Next, they came to a narrow lane with tall trees on both sides. Swinging through the trees, a troop of monkeys rushed towards them. "Keep out of their way!" yelled Curtis but the monkeys stopped in front of them.

"We've lost all our bananas, all our banana cakes and banana milkshakes. Can you help us?" asked the leader of the troop.

Curtis looked at Bertha and Gertie and thought a very long thought. Slowly, very slowly, he unwrapped the banana cake and the monkeys gobbled it all up gratefully.

After that, they reached an old barn which was tumbling down. Standing right in front of them was a family of very skinny, frightened mice. "Stop!" whispered Gertie but the mice didn't run away, they stood right in front of the bears.

"We're starving, there's no food left in the barn. Can you help us?" squeaked the biggest mouse.

Gertie looked at Bertha and Curtis and thought a very long thought. Slowly, very slowly, she took out the strawberries and the mice nibbled them all up gratefully.

Finally, they reached Friary Wood. "Hello, my friends. Welcome!" boomed Brian. "Spread out your food and we can tuck in."

Curtis, Bertha and Gertie looked at each other. "Um, um, we gave it all away," said Bertha quietly and the bears told Brian what had happened.

"Never mind, I have plenty for everyone," Brian said cheerfully. So, the four bears sat down to a scrumptious picnic and chatted and laughed as friendly bears do.

Activity 1:

Share the story of 'Picnic Time!' with a grown-up and talk together about the story. Then fill in the sticky notes.



1. What did you like best about the story?

2. Do you think Curtis, Bertha and Gertie should have given away their picnic food?




3. Which *two* words would you use to describe Brian at the end of the story?

Activity 2:

Who said what?

Read the story together again.

Draw a line to match the speaker with the correct image.

<p>"Keep out of their way!"</p>	<p>Bertha</p>
<p>"We're starving. There's no food left in the barn."</p>	
<p>"Spread out your food and we can tuck in."</p>	<p>Curtis</p>
<p>"Um, um, we gave it all away."</p>	
<p>"We need some honey."</p>	

Activity 3:

Quiz time

★ The special challenge is to see if you can answer in sentences.

1. What did Brian like doing? Can you name two things?
2. What sort of writing did Brian use for the invitation?
3. Where was the picnic held?
4. How did the bears feel when they received Brian's invitation?
5. What were the monkeys doing as they came towards the bears?
6. What type of clothes did Curtis, Bertha and Gertie wear to the picnic?
7. What food do you think Brian brought for the picnic?

