

# BOOKRAPT™

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## ***The Three Bears (sort of) – Yvonne Morrison*** illustrated by Donovan Bixley

**Publisher: Scholastic New Zealand**

**RRP \$19.50**

A young child, listening to the age-old "Once Upon a Time there were three bears ...", challenges the adult reader with questions to which the adult has never given any serious thought. For example: What kind of bears?

The illustrations switch between those that were used sparingly in children's books of old, to photographs cut from modern magazines such as National Geographic to diagrams (fig, 1-5), framed photographs, and the drawings by both the young child and the adult reader.

The language varies from the well-considered adult replies (doing a great job of concealing any irritation at the interruptions that keep coming!) to the young child's slang (Yeah right! and pongy) to the rather too well-educated but delightful "Did they not notice ...?"

For the improving young reader, (4 - 8 years old) this book should delight those who are of that age when telling jokes (understood or not) become important. The combination of Yvonne Morrison's fun sense of humour has been picked up well in Donovan Bixley's illustrations, for example: "What? Are you saying this chair could support the weight of a baby grizzly bear - probably about 60 kilos - but not the weight of a 30-kilo girl? Come on!" and fig 4 which shows a set of scales with baby bear far outweighing Goldilocks.

I can envisage children reading this together with one being the patient adult and one the questioning youngster. I know my grandchildren (now 9 & 7) would be rolling on the floor shrieking with laughter and demanding a turn at the other part!

This is another in the Scholastic series of re-told tales which should find a place in homes and classrooms. The Three Bears *Sort Of* will become a much-loved book, able to stand many re-readings.

**Reviewed for Bookrapt by Chris Wright**

