



**Title:** The Bear and the Piano

**Author/ Illustrator:** David Litchfield

**Age Range:** 5-9

**Topic/Themes:** friendship, talent, practice, fame

**Vocabulary:** clearing, standing ovation, admiration, grace, passion

**See video of this book read aloud here:** [The Bear and the Piano](#)

## I. INTRODUCTION (PREP QUESTIONS)

- What do you see on the cover?
- Do you know how to play an instrument?
- Do you think this story is going to be fiction or non-fiction? Why?
- Why do you think there are curtains on the front cover of the book? What do you think the bear is doing? - performing?

## II. INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES

### During Reading:

- If bear goes to the city, what do you think will happen?
- What do you think the bear sees that makes “his fur stand on end”?

### Post Reading:

- Conduct a picture walk with the students, reviewing the story.
- Where did the story take place?
- Was the story fiction or non-fiction?
- What do you think “PLONK!” means? Why is it written differently than the other words?
- Why did the bear leave after he heard the “awful sound”?
- Why did the bear keep coming back? What was he doing?
- How did things change from the beginning of the story to the end? Were the sounds the bear was making with the piano still “awful”?
- What did the little girl and her father want the bear to do?
- Do you think the bear should have gone to the city? Why did the bear not want to go?
- Show students and read signs in the city about bear. What are those called? - advertisements/ reviews
- What do you think “admiration” means? Use the picture above it to help students figure out the meaning.
- Why did everyone love the bear’s music so much?
- Do you think the bear was sad? What did he miss? Why?
- Was the bear surprised to find the clearing empty when he returned? How do you think that made him feel?
- Why did the gray bear run away from him?
- How did bear feel when he saw what the other bears did for him? How would you feel?
- Did you think the bears were going to be mad at him?

- What did the author want us to think about? Why did he create this story?