

# Bear's Diet

Story by Annette Smith

Illustrations by Richard Holt



## Bear's Diet

**Level** 21

**Running Words** 654 **Text Type** Narrative

**Curriculum Area** English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences); Humanities (Civics and Citizenship)

### Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the story in their own words.  
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

### Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

#### Literal

- 1 Why were Mum and Matthew worried about Bear?
- 2 What two things did Dr Kelly say Bear needed to do?
- 3 Why did Bear continue to put on weight?

#### Inferential

- 4 Why hadn't Dr Kelly seen Bear for a long time?
- 5 How did Dr Kelly know that Bear was in good health?
- 6 Why do you think Matthew was surprised when Dr Kelly suggested that Bear eat vegetables?
- 7 Why did Bear scratch at the shop door and bark loudly?
- 8 Why do you think Bear kept wandering away from home?

#### Applied Knowledge

- 9 How is a vet's job similar to the job of a doctor?
- 10 Instead of feeding Bear, what could the butcher have done when Bear arrived at his shop?

### Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

- |          |           |                         |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Level 21 | Narrative | <i>The Clubhouse</i>    |
| Level 21 | Narrative | <i>Fish Rescue</i>      |
| Level 22 | Narrative | <i>Darcy's Dog Wash</i> |

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For Review Only

After school, Matthew sat down on the steps with Mum. He stroked his dog, Bear.

“Bear didn’t come to meet me at the back gate today,” said Matthew.



“No,” said Mum. “I’m a bit worried about him. I know he’s getting old, but he just seems to sit around these days. I think he’s overweight, too.”

“Maybe there’s something wrong with him,” said Matthew.

“We could take him to the vet.”

“That’s a good idea,” said Mum.

“I’ll make an appointment for Bear to see Dr Kelly.”



Matthew and Mum walked through the door of the clinic. Bear woofed a friendly greeting to Dr Kelly, the vet.

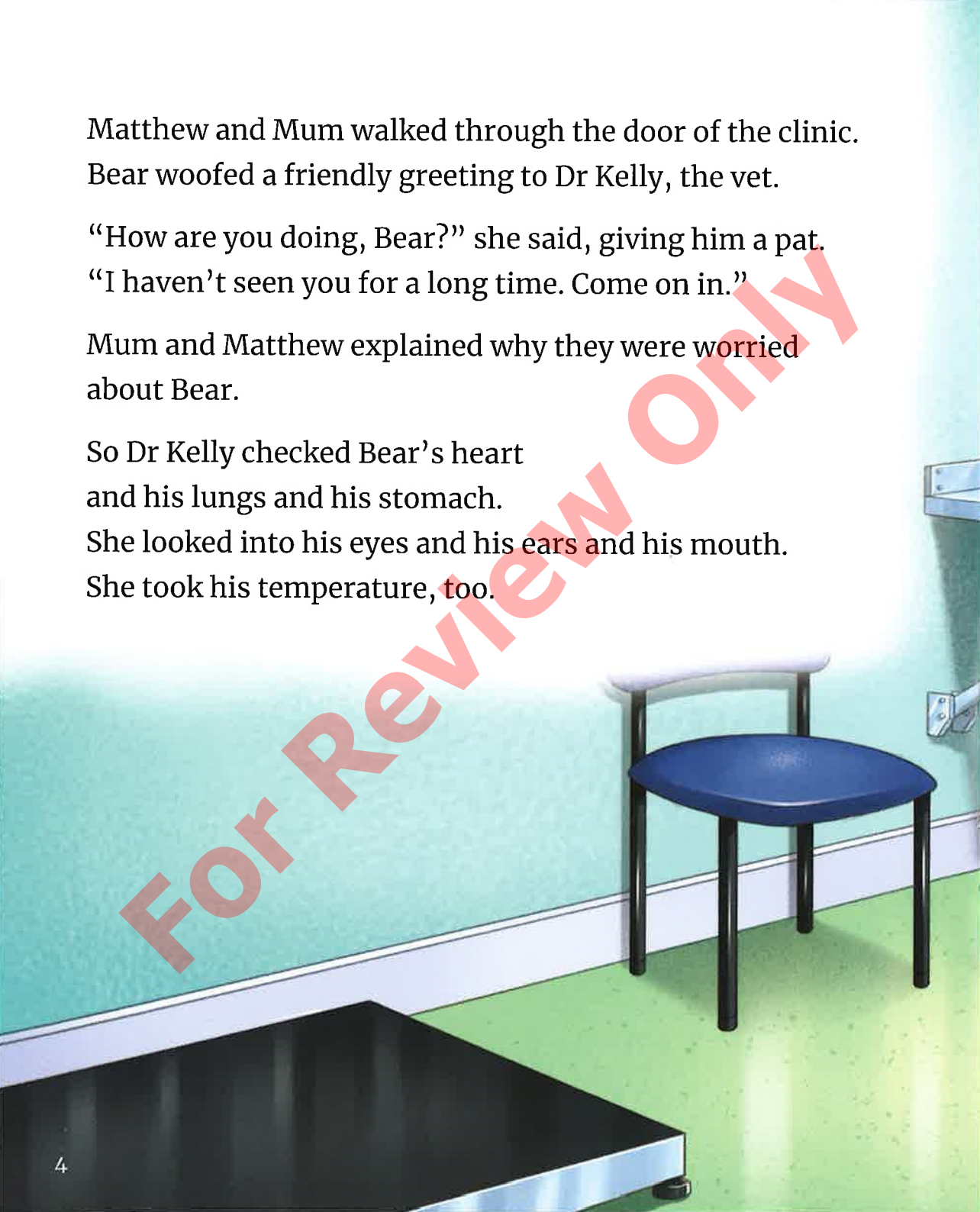
“How are you doing, Bear?” she said, giving him a pat. “I haven’t seen you for a long time. Come on in.”

Mum and Matthew explained why they were worried about Bear.

So Dr Kelly checked Bear’s heart and his lungs and his stomach.

She looked into his eyes and his ears and his mouth.

She took his temperature, too.





“Well,” said Dr Kelly, running her hands over Bear’s coat.  
“He seems to be in good health, but I do agree he is a bit fat.  
Let’s see how heavy he is.”

Matthew helped Dr Kelly put Bear on the scales  
to weigh him.

“You’re right,” said Dr Kelly.

“He does need to go on a diet and do some more exercise.  
Take him for a long walk each day.

Here’s a list of food that he should be eating.

Remember to give him plenty of vegetables, too,”  
said Dr Kelly.

“Vegetables!” said Matthew.





“Yes,” laughed Dr Kelly, winking at Matthew.

“The same ones that you have.

Bring Bear back in six weeks if he still hasn’t lost weight.

Then I’ll have some other tests done.”

