

Goldilocks on Trial

by Bryon Cahill • illustrated by Chiara Fedele

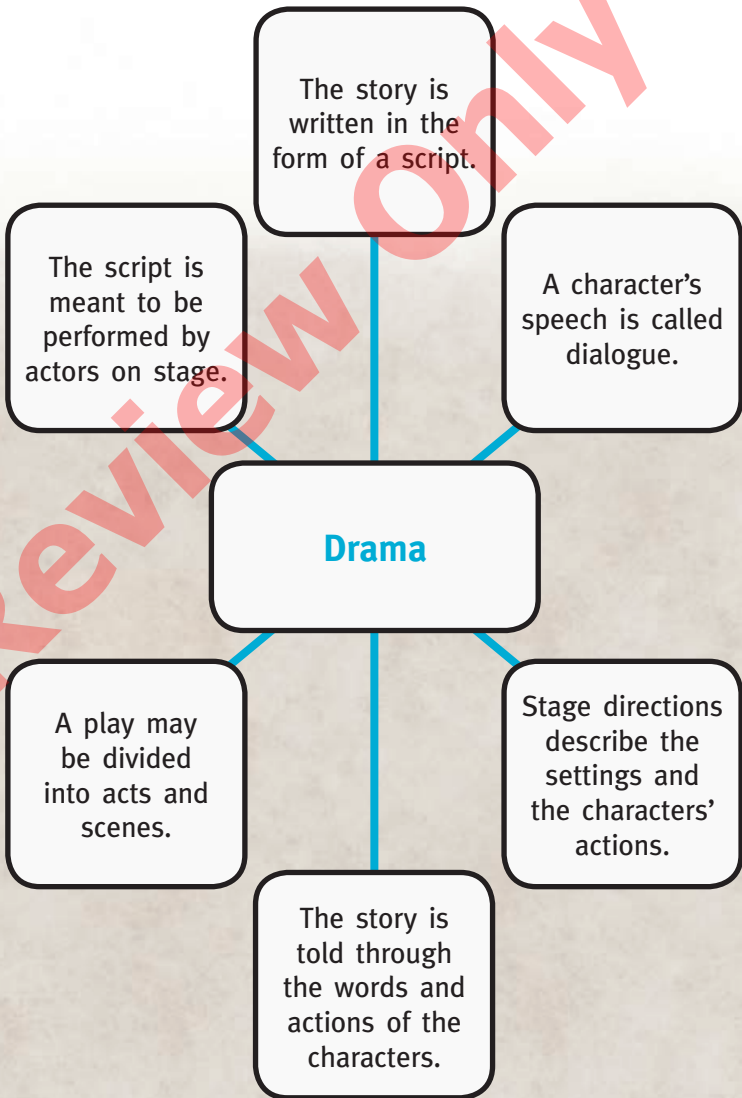


DRAMA
LITERATURE

Level	O/34
Lexile®	NP

Drama

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



© Benchmark Education Company, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Printed in Guangzhou, China. XXXX-XX-XXXX

LEXILE® is a trademark of MetaMetrics, Inc., and is registered in the United States and abroad. E-books and additional digital resources available at benchmarkuniverse.com.

ISBN: 978-1-5322-5652-3
 Toll-Free 1-877-236-2465
www.benchmarkeducation.com
www.benchmarkuniverse.com

BENCHMARK EDUCATION COMPANY
 145 Huguenot Street • New Rochelle, NY • 10801

CAST OF CHARACTERS

in order of appearance

Judge

Mr. Beansley

The Bear family's lawyer

Goldilocks

Ms. Holloway

Goldilocks's lawyer

Mama Bear

Papa Bear

Baby Bear

Bear 1

Bear 2

Mr. Greenway

Goldilocks's teacher

Piper

Goldilocks's friend

Goldilocks's mother

Head juror

SETTING

Woodland Creatures Court and Bear family home

Act One

(Lights up on Woodland Creatures Court. JUDGE is at his bench. HEAD JUROR and the rest of the jury sit off to the side. GOLDSLOCKS and MS. HOLLOWAY are on the opposite side of the courtroom from MR. BEANSLEY. MAMA BEAR, PAPA BEAR, BABY BEAR, MR. GREENWAY, PIPER, GOLDSLOCKS'S MOTHER, BEAR 1, and BEAR 2 are in the gallery.)

Judge: Good morning, everyone. We're in court today to hear the case of the *Bear family v. Goldilocks*. Mr. Beansley, you are representing the Bear family. You may begin with your opening statement.



Mr. Beansley: Good morning, Your Honor, and members of the jury. Goldilocks may look like an innocent little girl, but the evidence will show that she is a heartless criminal! She broke into the home of the Bear family, ate their porridge, damaged their property, slept in their beds, and greatly upset them. Finally, when discovered by the Bears, she ran from the scene of her many crimes! It's up to you to bring Goldilocks to justice! Thank you.

Goldilocks: (*standing*) But, but ... I was lost and I—

Judge: Order in the court! Goldilocks, please be seated. Your lawyer will speak for you. Ms. Holloway, you may give your statement.

Ms. Holloway: Please forgive my client. Goldilocks is not familiar with the rules of Woodland Creatures Court. She is young! When she entered the Bears' house, she was lost, ill, and very hungry. I will prove to you that the only thing Goldilocks is guilty of is being desperate and afraid.

Baby Bear: I'm hungry. And sleepy, too. Can we go home?

Mama Bear: Our home will never be the same. Not after what she did to us.



Baby Bear: (yawning) I'm gonna take a nap.
Wake me up when it's over.

Papa Bear: You will have all winter to hibernate, Baby Bear. Pay attention. Justice is about to be served.

Goldilocks: (nervously) The whole jury is staring at me. Look, that juror is shaking his head!
They already think I'm guilty.

Ms. Holloway: Don't worry about it. I'll do everything within my power to prove you're innocent.



Judge: *(banging a gavel)* Order! Order! Mr. Beansley, please bring up your first witness.

Mr. Beansley: Thank you, Your Honor. I'd like to call Mama Bear to the stand.

(MAMA BEAR walks up to the witness stand and takes a seat. MR. BEANSLEY stands in front.)

Mr. Beansley: Mrs. Bear, thank you for being here today. I know this is difficult for you. Can you tell us in your own words what happened last Tuesday?

Mama Bear: We had just gotten back home from our daily trip to the lake. Papa Bear noticed that the front door was open. We went inside and ... oh, we had such a shock! Oh ...

Mr. Beansley: There, there, Mama Bear. (*pauses as he gives her a tissue*) Just go on if you can.

Mama Bear: Well, we noticed right away that something was wrong. We'd left out three bowls of porridge. Mine and Papa Bear's looked as if someone had taken a spoonful. And Baby Bear's was all gone!

Bear 1: That's awful! Terrible!

Bear 2: A growing bear needs a nutritious breakfast.

Mama Bear: Then we saw that someone had been sitting in our chairs! And Baby Bear's chair was broken!

Bear 1: More awfulness! More terribleness!

Mama Bear: (*near tears*) And then we went upstairs into the bedroom and found Goldilocks sleeping in Baby Bear's bed! Oh ... I'm going to faint!

Mr. Beansley: You are brave, Mama Bear.

Judge: Ms. Holloway, you may question this witness.

Ms. Holloway: Mrs. Bear, isn't it true that Goldilocks was lost in the woods?

Mama Bear: I wouldn't know. She didn't talk to us.



Ms. Holloway: And isn't it also true that Goldilocks was scared and looking for someone to help her?

Mama Bear: I don't know ... she just ran away ...

Ms. Holloway: Is it possible that she was hungry and tired and looking for shelter?

Mama Bear: I guess ... it is possible ...

Ms. Holloway: You know Goldilocks didn't mean any harm, don't you? Look at her. She's a sweet, innocent child. You're a bear! It was *you* who terrified her when you found her napping! I have no more questions for this witness.

(Lights out quickly.)

Act Two

(Lights up on the courtroom a few minutes later.

MR. BEANSLEY is in front of the JUDGE.)

Mr. Beansley: Next, I call Mr. Greenway to the stand. *(MR. GREENWAY walks to the witness stand and sits down.)* Mr. Greenway, you're Goldilocks's teacher, correct?

Mr. Greenway: Yes, that's right.

Mr. Beansley: Last Tuesday, was Goldilocks absent from school?

Mr. Greenway: Yes, her mother called that morning and said Goldilocks had a bad case of allergies and would be staying home.

Mr. Beansley: *(to the jury)* So if the little girl was sick, why was she out in the woods? What was a sick girl doing in the Bear family home when she should have been in her own home eating soup and resting? It sounds to me like she wanted to cause trouble! Maybe she wasn't even sick at all!