

A Beary Unusual Pet

A Readers' Theater Script by Ella Kennen and Tim Weibel

This readers' theater skit features three children whose parents will allow them to select a pet. The parents are a little surprised by their children's choice.

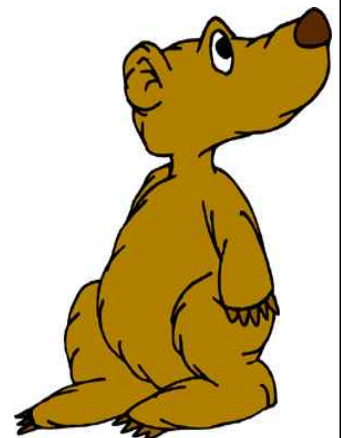
6 Characters (in order of appearance)

Narrator	Robin
Mrs. Baker	Chris
Mr. Baker	Sam



- Narrator:** The Baker children have wanted a pet for a very long time. Whenever they ask their parents, the answer is always the same.
- Robin:** Can we buy a kitten?
- Mrs. Baker:** No. Your brother is allergic to cat hair.
- Chris:** Can we buy an aquarium with fish?
- Mr. Baker:** No. Cleaning fish tanks is too much work.
- Sam:** I caught this snake in the front yard. Can we keep it?
- Mrs. Baker:** Certainly not!
- Narrator:** One day, Mr. and Mrs. Baker must have been in a very good mood. They called their three children into the living room and asked them to sit down.

- Mrs. Baker:** Your father and I have been talking...
- Mr. Baker:** ...and we think that you are old enough and mature enough...
- Mrs. Baker:** To get a pet.
- Mr. Baker:** You can choose the pet, but you children must take full responsibility for it.
- All kids:** Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you!
- Mr. Baker:** Why don't you kids talk about what type of pet you'd like, then let us know?
- Narrator:** Mr. and Mrs. Baker knew their children would have trouble deciding on the perfect pet. After only ten minutes, the kids came back into the living room.
- Sam:** We've thought about it.
- Robin:** And we know what pet we want.
- Chris:** We want to get....
- All kids:** A bear.
- Mrs. Baker:** A teddy bear, you mean?
- Sam:** Nope. A real bear. Think about it. It's the perfect pet. First, it's special. I don't know any other kid who has a bear. Do you?
- Robin:** Bears are easy to feed. They love things like berries and honey and fish.
- Chris:** And they sleep in the winter, so we can go on trips during the holidays.
- Robin:** It would also be the perfect guard pet, don't you think? Burglars would stay far away from our house if we had a pet bear.



- Narrator:** The children didn't notice their parents turning pale.
- Sam:** Of course, we'll need a bigger bedroom, so the bear can fit. But other than that, I think we're all set. What do you think?
- Narrator:** There was silence. The children looked at their parents' faces for the first time since they had started talking.
- Robin:** We're not getting a bear, are we?
- Narrator:** Mr. and Mrs. Baker looked at each other thoughtfully. They were surprised that their children wanted a bear. The children were even more surprised at their parents' answer.
- Mrs. Baker:** Of course you can have a bear!
- Mr. Baker:** Your mom and I think it's a wonderful idea!
- All kids:** You do?
- Mrs. Baker:** Now, if we get a bear, you children will need to be responsible for feeding it. Let's see, how much would a bear eat?
- Mr. Baker:** Hmm... I'd say a bear could eat about 20 pounds of berries each day and five or six large fish.
- Mrs. Baker:** That's too much for me to carry home from the store. The kids will have to walk to the supermarket to pick these things up every day.
- Mr. Baker:** Yes, it will be hard on the kids in the winter. They'll have to walk a mile to the supermarket in the snow.
- Mrs. Baker:** They'll also have to walk a mile back, carrying all of the bear food.
- Sam:** Walk a whole mile?
- Robin:** Every day?



Chris: Even in the winter?

Mr. Baker: And, of course, bear food is expensive too. We certainly couldn't afford to buy bear food at the supermarket each week.

Mrs. Baker: You're right, Honey. I guess the kids will need to buy all the fish and berries with their own money.

All kids: Our own money!?

Mr. Baker: Oh, yes. But don't worry. It shouldn't cost more than \$500 a week.

Chris: But we don't have \$500 a week.

Robin: We only get \$6 a week for an allowance.

Mrs. Baker: Oh, that's right. I didn't even think of that.

Mr. Baker: No problem! We'll give you extra chores to earn money.

Mrs. Baker: What a great idea! For \$500 a week, the kids will be doing work around here all day long.

Robin: But Dad...

Mrs. Baker: They could do laundry and cook dinner every night.

Sam: Mom, no!

Mr. Baker: And clean the garage, and mow the lawn, and iron clothes.

All kids: Stop! Stop! Stop!

Narrator: The Baker children couldn't take it any more! They didn't want to walk to the supermarket every day. They didn't want to spend their allowance money on bear food. And they certainly did not want more chores!



- Robin:** We'd like to change our minds.
- Chris:** Perhaps a bear is not the right pet for us.
- Sam:** Our second choice is much more sensible.
- Mrs. Baker:** Oh? What is your second choice? Is it an elephant? A horse?
- Mr. Baker:** Is it a rhinoceros? Maybe a dinosaur?
- All kids:** No!
- Robin:** We'd love to get a puppy!
- Sam:** We want a furry puppy!
- Chris:** We want a puppy that will play fetch and roll over!
- Mr. Baker:** Now THAT is a sensible decision.
- Narrator:** Two days later, Chris, Sam, and Robin walked through their front door with a new puppy.
- Mr. Baker:** Why don't you name your new puppy Domino?
- Sam:** No. That name is not quite right.
- Mrs. Baker:** Why don't you name your new puppy Buster?
- Robin:** No. Buster doesn't sound right either.
- Mr. Baker:** Then what will you name him?
- All kids:** Bear!



Name: _____

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1. List 3 reasons the children thought a bear would make a good pet.

2. What did Mr. and Mrs. Baker say when their children decided they wanted a bear.

- a. They said they could not have a bear in the house.
- b. They told their children that a bear was too much work.
- c. They laughed at the idea of getting a bear.
- d. They told their children that a pet bear was a wonderful idea.

3. Name 3 reasons the children decided they did not want a bear for a pet.

4. Mr. Baker thinks a bear would eat about \$500 worth of food per week. How much would it cost to feed a bear for a month?

- a. About \$1,000
- b. about \$2,000
- c. about \$5,000
- d. about \$10,000

5. Near the end of the story, the children's parents ask if their second choice is an elephant, a horse, a rhinoceros, or a dinosaur. When they say this, what is their tone of voice?

- a. scared
- b. excited
- c. sarcastic
- d. confused

ANSWER KEY

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1. List 3 reasons the children thought a bear would make a good pet.

They said bears are easy to feed. They sleep in the winter, so the family can have time to travel. They are also perfect guard pets to keep burglars away.

2. What did Mr. and Mrs. Baker say when their children decided they wanted a bear. **d**
- a. They said they could not have a bear in the house.
 - b. They told their children that a bear was too much work.
 - c. They laughed at the idea of getting a bear.
 - d. They told their children that a pet bear was a wonderful idea.

3. Name 3 reasons the children decided they did not want a bear for a pet.

They did not want to walk a mile to the supermarket every day. They did not want to spend their money to buy bear food. They did not want more chores.

4. Mr. Baker thinks a bear would eat about \$500 worth of food per week. How much would it cost to feed a bear for a month? **b**
- a. About \$1,000
 - b. about \$2,000
 - c. about \$5,000
 - d. about \$10,000

5. Near the end of the story, the children's parents ask if their second choice is an elephant, a horse, a rhinoceros, or a dinosaur. When they say this, what is their tone of voice? **c**
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