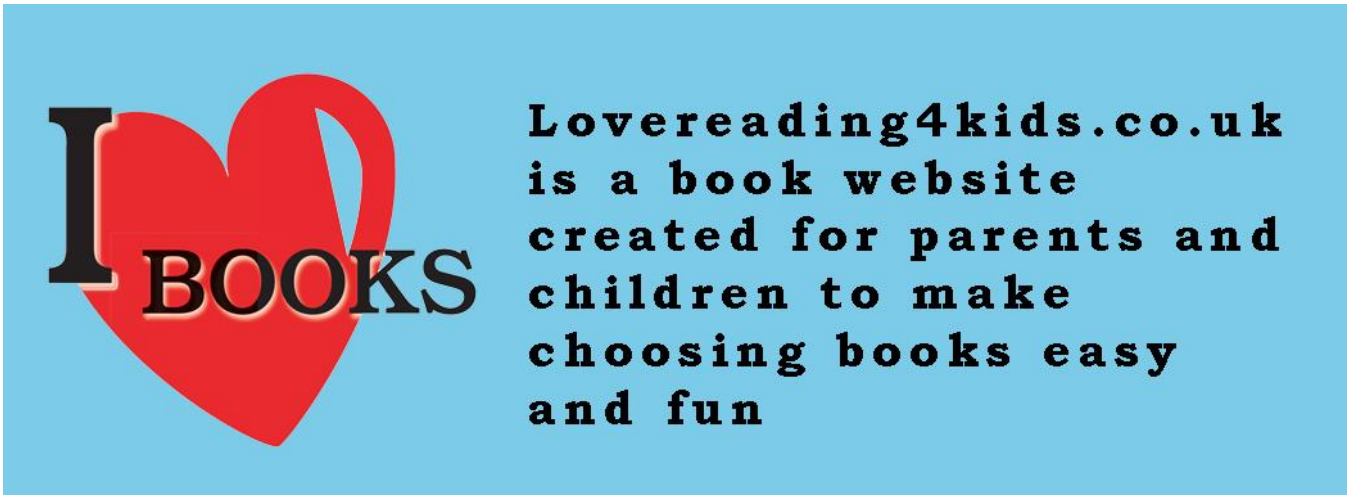


extracts from

Old Bear's Bedtime Stories

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MR AND MRS BROWN were teddy bears and they lived in a little cupboard in the playroom. They had furnished the cupboard home themselves with things that Mr Brown had found while out walking. He'd brought back acorns for them to use as cups, and soft feathers that he'd found near the duck pond to stuff cushions with. He'd made mirrors from silver paper and a broom from twigs that he'd collected. All their tables were made from little boxes.

In fact their cupboard was cluttered with the bits and pieces that he'd collected and one day Mrs Brown decided that it was full enough.

'If you go out today,' she said to Mr Brown, 'please don't bring anything back. Our house is just too full!'

Mr Brown hugged her as usual and set off out of the cupboard, across the room, down the stairs and out into the garden.

It was a lovely autumn day and a carpet of leaves covered the lawn. Mr Brown thought it was great fun crunching through the leaves.





When everyone had left the room, Peter peeped out from behind his paws.

'What can I do?' he said. 'With that thing there frightening everyone, nobody will come over to talk to me.' He crept over to blow out the candle, but thought the children would be cross with him if he did that.

And then he saw the other, unused pumpkin and an idea came to him. Using the spoon the children had used,





'Of course they do,' said Old Bear, kindly.

While everyone was busy clapping the fallen paper chain, in jumped Rabbit. He was covered in white cotton wool and had a carrot over his nose.

'Oh look,' cried Little Bear, 'a white rabbit.'

'I'm not a white rabbit,' said Rabbit, crossly, 'that wouldn't be Christmassy. I'm a snowman.'

'Well, a snow *rabbit* then,' said Little Bear.

'You've left your ears sticking out. Snowmen don't have long ears.'

'This one does,' said Old Bear.

