

Bernie the bear opened his big, brown eyes

Then he stretched and yawned and started to rise

It had been a lengthy winter's snooze

And eating was what he wanted to do

You see he'd been sleeping for five long months

And before hibernating he'd snacked a bunch

Gorging himself on fresh berries and fish

That was a black bear's most delicious dish!

He had waddled into the cave last fall

So big and fat Bernie looked like a ball!

Now he was thin and so ready for spring

And all the adventures summer would bring

He poked his black nose out into the light
Compared to the dark cave it seemed quite bright!
Bernie squinted in the gold morning sun
And he smiled ready to have some fun

Sand Creek was running and the snow was gone
The leaves would be budding before too long
Soon the meadow grass would be green and tall
With a carpet of flowers wall to wall

Bernie's body was a little bit stiff
So he sauntered slowly and gave a sniff
The air was sweet like a comb of honey
And there was a rumble from his tummy

He found an old log and rolled it over
And stuck his tongue through a patch of clover
Bernie had juicy grubs and ants for brunch
They tasted terrific but when was lunch?

Then Bernie heard a high-pitched humming sound
He searched all around but it couldn't be found
So he looked up and to his great delight
A beehive on a pine branch met his sight!

It had been many months since he had climbed
He was rusty but he'd give it a try
So Bernie stuck a sharp claw in the bark
And on an upward journey he embarked

At first Bernie struggled to get a grip
And up he would go then down he would slip
But the thought of sweet honey drove him on
His mouth watered for the prize just beyond!

Finally Bernie reached the lofty nest
And the honey bees were very upset!
Then he stuck his big paw into their hive
And scooped and scooped 'til he was satisfied

He slid down the tree trunk really quite stuffed
For Bernie had devoured more than enough
Honey to last him an hour or three
So he rolled on his back and grinned with glee

When Bernie awoke the fine day had changed
A storm was brewing o'er the Western range
He curled up in a ball under a tree
And the west wind HOWLED as loud as can be!

Suddenly there was a thundering CRACK!
And the pine beside him fell near his back!
Bernie jumped up and ran straight for his den
And another giant tree CRASHED just then!

But just as fast as the BIG blow had come
The air was still in the afternoon sun
He heard the red robins start their sweet song
And out he came and then ambled along

Bernie had a hankerin' for roots to chew
So he knew just exactly what to do
He dug at the base of a willow tree
And stuck his snout down as far as can be

He couldn't quite reach one fat root so sweet
So he pushed his noodle ever so deep
But then Bernie had some terrible luck
When he went to stand up his skull was stuck!

He grunted and groaned and he pushed and shoved
But try as he might he just couldn't budge
Finally his powerful paws gave a RIP!
And out Bernie POPPED with a big back flip!

Bernie rolled and rolled like a wagon wheel
Queasy and dizzy he started to feel
Suddenly he came to a startling STOP!
Against a gigantic gray granite rock

Bernie had a big bump on his melon
And was seeing stars and felt like YELLIN'!
So he GROWLED and he ROARED loud and long
It was not a lovely meadowlark song!

Believe it or not he felt underfed
And he saw a strange looking thing ahead
It had four wheels and was silver and green
Bernie smelled berries! with his nose so keen

This was a bush of the craziest kind
He climbed in the back and what did he find
A mouth-watering blueberry gold mine!
With six big white buckets all in a line

Bernie gobbled and gorged and munched and BURPED!!
He ate so much his swollen tummy hurt
Then his eyes grew heavy and he flopped down
And all you could hear was a snoring sound

Bernie was scratching his back on some bark
When he jarred awake with a sudden start!
He was bouncing in the back of a truck
Too scared to jump out this poor bear was stuck!

Bernie was beginning to feel sea sick
And knew he had to escape really quick
Gathering his courage he made a great leap
Landing in the ditch in a dusty heap!

Bernie was bruised but didn't care a lot
He bounded up and was off like a shot!
He finally ran right into the creek
And cooled off in a pool—wide, still and deep

He floated along and did the back crawl
Carefree and calm with no worries at all
Bernie was bathing and having a ball
And didn't notice the coming waterfall!

When he finally heard the ROAR up ahead
'Twas too late to leave his big waterbed!
Bernie did a colossal cannonball
You've never seen a KERSPLASH quite so tall!

Bernie coughed, sputtered and paddled to shore
Today's swimming lesson was done for sure!
He shook his fur coat and sat on the bank
Glad to be out of that darn diving tank

Then a glimmering glint caught his eye
And a flash of silver wriggled right by
His ponderous paw lashed out lightning quick
And Bernie's clever claw caught a fine fish!

After ten fat trout lay at Bernie's feet
He somehow managed yet again to eat!
This was a truly incredible feat
That no other bear could ever repeat!

Bernie had had a busy, busy day
And there hadn't been a minute to play
Tomorrow he planned on laying around
Unless his stomach made that rumbling sound!

As the sun went down and the moon arose
He curled right up from his head to his toes
And slowly, happily drifted away
Dreaming of fresh salmon in Salty Bay