

I Want My Hat Back

Recommended for Grades K-3

Book Summary: I Want My Hat Back

A bear finds his hat missing and goes in search of it. One by one, he asks each of the animals whether they have seen it. A rabbit he encounters wears a red pointy hat, but the bear goes on and keeps searching for his hat. Later, when bear misses his hat, he realizes that he has seen his hat after all.

[Spoiler]

The bear runs back to the rabbit whom he accuses of stealing his hat. At the end of the story, the rabbit is gone and the bear is back to wearing his hat. When a squirrel asks him whether he has seen a rabbit wearing a hat, the bear says he has not.

Author Biography: Jon Klassen

Jon Klassen was born November 29, 1981 in Winnipeg, Canada. He graduated from Sheridan College in 2005 with a focus on animation. He then went on to work in animation in short and feature length movies including *Coraline* and *Kung Fu Panda*, and then as an art director for an animated music video in 2009.

In 2010, he began illustrating children's books, beginning with *Cats' Night Out*, for which he won the Governor General's Award. In 2011, he published his own book, *I Want My Hat Back*, which received wide recognition and encouraged him to write a second book which won the Caldecott Medal in 2013.

He currently lives in Los Angeles.



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Discussion Questions: I Want My Hat Back

1. The bear finds his hat missing and goes in search of it. Have you ever lost anything special? If so, what?
2. Bear's search strategy is to ask each of the animals he sees if they have seen his hat. What would be your search strategy for finding something?
3. To distinguish each character's dialogue, the author uses different text colors. Did this help to tell the story? Why or why not? What are some other ways the author could have used to let the reader know which animal was speaking which line?
4. Bear comes to the rabbit and finds him with the hat, but doesn't notice. Why does the rabbit tell a lie about having not seen Bear's hat? What would you do if you were rabbit? What would you do if you were Bear?
5. How does Bear finally find his hat?
6. Bear finds rabbit again and takes his hat back. How do you think Bear felt about rabbit having stolen his hat and lied about it? Do you think lying is a wrong thing to do? Why or why not?
7. What do you think happens to rabbit at the end of the story? What evidence supports this?
8. At the end of the book, why do you think Bear told the squirrel that he hadn't seen a rabbit? How else could he have responded?
9. The author has worked as an illustrator for animated movies. How do the pictures in this story work like a movie? Are there any other parts of this book that make it feel like watching a movie?
10. This book has won a number of awards and honors. What do you think makes this book so exceptional? What would you change about the story to make it better?



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