



## Arthur's Honey Bear

*Lillian Hoban*

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Arthur and his sister Violet are selling their old toys- even Arthur's favorite Honey Bear. When his little sister buys his bear, Arthur misses him terribly.

But Arthur realizes that even though he's growing up, he can still have a special relationship with an old friend. Young children will delight in the adventures of Arthur and Violet and this very special story about friendship.

## Arthur's Honey Bear Details

Date : Published September 29th 1982 by HarperCollins (first published 1974)

ISBN : 9780064440332

Author : Lillian Hoban

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## From Reader Review Arthur's Honey Bear for online ebook

### Syndi Flores says

This book is about Arthur and him trying to sell his old toys or in his words, sell his "old junk." He explains to his sister what he is going to do and lets her help. They sit outside waiting for people to come buy his things but those who come don't buy anything. There is always something that the buyer does not like or is missing. The characters are monkeys but a child can still relate to what is happening to Arthur who is having trouble selling his Honey Bear. The most common colors in this story are pink and yellow which the yellow kind of shows the love and support of family. The pictures do not take up most of the page but they do show what the words are saying so that the reader knows what is going on. The words in this story are big and easy to read. This story is a bit longer than other picture books and can be found under the Beginning Reader section. This book is a good read for children of any age.

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### Maren Woodruff says

I loved this book as a child. When I got the chicken pox, my parents gave me a teddy bear, which I promptly named Honey Bear.

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### Josiah says

Lillian Hoban's Arthur the Chimpanzee books are among the most beloved easy readers of the 1970s, '80s, and '90s. The dialogue among the kids is fresh and witty without being unduly sophisticated, and Lillian Hoban's illustrations perfectly show what's going on in the narrative, the facial expressions of the characters telling much of the story. Speaking of story, few easy readers are more deeply felt yet intrinsically simple than Arthur the Chimpanzee, beginning with *Arthur's Honey Bear* in 1974, a book which reminds us that growing up never means outgrowing those who've supported and cared for us to get where we are today. We're never too old for the ones we love.

On spring-cleaning day, Arthur's little sister Violet sorts her toys into two categories: some to put away in storage, and others to keep out for daily play. This gives Arthur the idea to sort his own toys and have a tag sale for the ones he no longer uses. So he brings an armful of rocks, stuffed animals, knickknacks, and toys to the stairs in front of his house and prices the items. He charges between three and twelve cents for most of his unwanted playthings, but thinks twice when Violet asks what he plans to charge for his Honey Bear, a stuffed animal his father gave him when he had chicken pox. Honey Bear stayed by Arthur's side every day of his quarantine, the only one who could risk being near him. If Arthur's going to sell Honey Bear, it'll be for a lot more money than his other discarded toys, but he's not sure yet he wants to part with his old friend. Honey Bear has lost an eye and taken on a bedraggled appearance over the years, but that wear and tear makes him more precious to Arthur because of what it represents.

One or two young chimps browse Arthur's sale, but aren't impressed by a couple of rocks, a bent Hula-Hoop, and some finger paintings. Then Wilma comes by and spots Honey Bear tucked behind another stuffed animal. He would make a nice gift for her sister's birthday. Arthur sets the price outlandishly high, yet Wilma still wants to make the purchase. Arthur doesn't really want to relinquish his cozy companion,

however, and Wilma departs without Honey Bear. But someone else has her eye on Arthur's cherished old toy, and is ready to incrementally increase her offer until he gives in and sells it. In his heart of hearts Arthur didn't want to sell the bear, but what could he do when offered a bonanza in return? He did want to clear out his old toys, after all. Arthur feels he's made a mistake immediately after handing over Honey Bear. Now everything reminds him of his lost friend, from the fortune in his box of Cracker Jack, to the picture he colors in his new coloring book of a happy boy hugging his teddy bear. Arthur has sold the one toy he needs as much as he ever did, even if he didn't take Honey Bear to bed anymore. What can he do to set things right?

We're often tempted to distance ourselves from our past by leaving behind tangible remnants of it, but we're not as free from yesterday as we believe. Memory is everything we are; the person we're becoming is the result of memories built one upon the next like a tower since the day we were born, and ripping out memories from the middle and tossing them away makes the tower less secure. We need our foundational memories in order to stand whole and strong in the knowledge of who we are. The Honey Bears we adored yesterday may seem vestigial now, a needed comfort in our younger days that we've grown tough enough to get along without, but are we ever tough enough to dismiss someone who loves us unconditionally, who didn't mind if we hugged them close when we were at our most toxic? A friend willing to risk harm from proximity to us is a friend we can't afford to let go. The relationship is bound to change as we grow older and develop new friends and interests, but that doesn't mean the friendship is over. We have room for our Honey Bears at any age and stage of life, a reminder that someone loved us all along and would have been there if we called for them in spite of any dread disease we contracted. The relationship *will* change, and adapting to it is just one in the endless series of challenges that make up a life well lived. But that change is okay, as Arthur finds out. It might lead to an exciting new chapter in an old relationship, sharing the affection we still feel for our dear friend with someone else just now ready to love them the way we once did.

*Arthur's Honey Bear* is a wonder. How does a book this short express such vivid emotion and timeless wisdom? But that is what the best easy readers do, creating unpolluted reservoirs of literary value that are as accessible for emerging readers as they are for kids who learned to read years ago. Lillian Hoban taps into this reservoir as reliably as any author of easy readers I've encountered, so it's understandable why her Arthur the Chimpanzee series is lauded as one of the best. I love *Arthur's Honey Bear* for its simple, sweet characters and reassuring message that loved ones are indispensable at any age. They're worth too much to let go for any price, and the consolation they offer is never obsolete. If you're looking for a book to help kids master the mechanics of reading while imparting lessons they can treasure for a lifetime, by all means try *Arthur's Honey Bear* and the Arthur the Chimpanzee series. You couldn't make a finer choice.

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### **Sweet's Family Bookshelves says**

We really enjoy reading about Arthur and his sister Violet. In this story he is having a tag sale, in it is his bear Honey Bear. He doesn't really want to sell his bear but his sister talks him into selling it to her. His solution is really smart and cute.

Very much enjoyed the story.

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### **Brett Axel says**

the first book over 40 pages that my 6 yr old read to me, holding his interest from cover to cover.

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### **David says**

David is really getting into these Arthur books. I went out to get the laundry, and came back to find him curled up on the couch, impervious to my suggestion that he help fold the laundry when I came back. He didn't look up until it was over.

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### **Kristen Mohr says**

I was left feeling strangely sad at the end.

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### **Jamie Winslow says**

Arthur and his sister Violet decided to have a tag sale one afternoon. They gathered their old toys and made price tags and signs to attract people. When Norman came to the sale he said that there wasn't anything good there to buy. He wanted to buy one of the cupcakes that Arthur and Violet were eating but they weren't for sale. The next customer that came along was Wilma. She was looking for a gift for her sister's birthday. She saw a stuffed bear sitting behind baby King Kong and she wanted to buy him. Arthur told her it would be lots of money and she agreed. She paid \$0.50 for the stuffed bear but when she asked if they gift wrapped Arthur told her no. She didn't want the bear anymore and said that the toy store would gift wrap something for her. Arthur was relieved because this bear was Honey Bear and he was special to Arthur. He had had him for a very long time. His father had given him to him when he had the chicken pox. Violet decided she wanted to buy Honey Bear from Arthur. She offered him lots of stuff that he finally settled on. Violet began playing with Honey Bear and Arthur felt lonely. He wanted Honey Bear back but Violet wouldn't allow it. Then Arthur realized that technically he was Honey Bear's uncle now and that meant that they could still play together. Arthur, Violet, and Honey Bear all went to go get an ice cream treat.

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### **Wendy says**

Reading this book to my kids just about slayed me, as a lot of Hoban's books will. The ending is one of the best I've read in the picture book category - the character comes up with his own solution and it fits in beautifully with the story.

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### **Emily Togstad says**

Emily Togstad  
Good reads  
4/24/15  
Children's book

## Arthur's Honey Bear

I recently read "Arthur's Honey Bear," to my cousin Jolby. He is 6 years old. The book was written by Lillian Hoban. Jolby loves monkeys so he picked out this book. He thought that the boy monkey was too old to have a stuffed bear. I thought the book was very cute, however, the theme was hard for a child to understand.

The story is about two monkeys named Arthur and Violet. Arthur saw Violet cleaning out her toy chest. He decided to clean his out too. Together they had a tag sale. They tried to sell their old toys that they didn't want anymore. Arthur set out his stuffed honey bear at the tag sale. He didn't really want to sell it, but he put it in the tag sale anyways. Only a few people stopped at their sale. Nobody bought anything though. After a long day and nothing was sold, Violet offered to buy Arthur's bear. Arthur was very hesitant at first, but he sold it to Violet anyway. After selling the bear to her, he missed the bear terribly. At the end he realized that he can still see the bear all the time and still be its friend. After he realized this Arthur and Violet went out to ice cream with honey bear.

The main characters in this book were Arthur and Violet. Arthur is Violet's older brother. You can tell in the book that he really loves his sister and would do anything for her. Violet is much younger than Arthur. She loves stuffed animals and all of her toys. Violet has a friend named Wilma. Wilma is only a minor character. She stops at the garage sale for a short amount of time.

The setting of the book was in a small neighborhood. The time was never said. I would assume the time of the story took place when Cracker Jacks were a big thing, which would be around 1900. Violet traded Arthur a box of Cracker Jacks for his honey bear.

I feel like this book has a couple themes. The book shows children that it's good to get rid of old things that you don't want anymore. I think the book also shows that it's not good to be mad at your sister. At the end of the book Arthur took Violet out for ice cream. He realized that being mad at her was pointless. The book shows that even though you're growing up, you can still keep old toys.

I enjoyed reading this book to Jolby. I would recommend this book to any age or gender. The whole purpose for the book was great. I thought it was so sweet when Arthur was really nice to sister and helped her have a tag sale. I am giving this book a four star rating.

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## Nicola Mansfield says

Reason for Reading: Ds read aloud to me as his reader.

Arthur and his sister Violet are cleaning out their toys and decide to sell some of them in a tag sale but Arthur has a hard time deciding whether to sell his Honey Bear or not. I was never fond of this series as a child myself. Can't really say why, just that Arthur never appealed to me. But since we had this one on the shelf we used it as a reader. The reading level was just on par with ds's abilities but the story was on the immature side and I can't say he was much interested in it either. Not a bad story but certainly recommended for the youngest ages, 5/6 or so.

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### **Melinda Christensen says**

I love all of Arthur's books! I think they are wonderful for children!

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### **Rosa Cline says**

This is a level 2 I Can Read book. About two little monkeys a big brother and little sister. Arthur cleans out his toy box and decides to have a garage sale. He includes a favorite teddy bear that he feels he's outgrown , but has he? He has a hard time putting a dollar amount on him. The bear is very special to him. In the end his sister buys him and he realizes that he's the Teddy Bears UNCLE! And so he can still hold him and love him.

This was a book I had forgotten about reading to my children until I found it in our collection. And I'm so glad I did! I had forgotten how much I enjoyed it, and my 2 year old granddaughter enjoyed it too! Also it is a special book that teaches sibling interaction.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Arthur has decided it is time to get rid of some of his toys including his Honey Bear that Dad gave him when he had the chicken pox. He is going to have a tag sale. He puts a tag on everything but the Honey Bear. Nobody buys anything from his tag sale until his sister said she would buy Honey Bear. Arthur doesn't want to sell the bear but eventually agrees to it. Arthur is having a hard time with his sister playing with Honey Bear until he realizes that he is now Honey Bear's Uncle. Uncles play with their nephews and take them for treats. Arthur is happy to be able to play with Honey Bear.

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### **Jacqilynn Castleton says**

This book is a perfect book for readers because it is sort of a chapter book but there are a lot of pictures to relate the words too unlike chapter books that usually don't provide pictures. When I see a huge chapter book and there aren't any pictures, I feel that I am going to get really bored and become uninterested. This book was also an easy read with the vocabulary used. Another reason I loved this book was because it is about two siblings and the relationship they share. The older brother plays his role and the younger sibling plays her role. A lot of children can read this book and relate their own lives to it. I really enjoyed the story line and relation the two siblings had throughout the whole book.

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