

Dear ......

Have you ever wondered how Teddy Icebear traveled all the way from his home in the Arctic to join us at Ela Excellence Everland?

It's time to share this secret with you. The book you're holding tells the tale of our little polar bear and his magical journey from north to south. Are you ready to join Teddy on an adventure full of mystery and friendship?

Get ready for lots of fun and giggles!



## TEDDY ICEBEAR

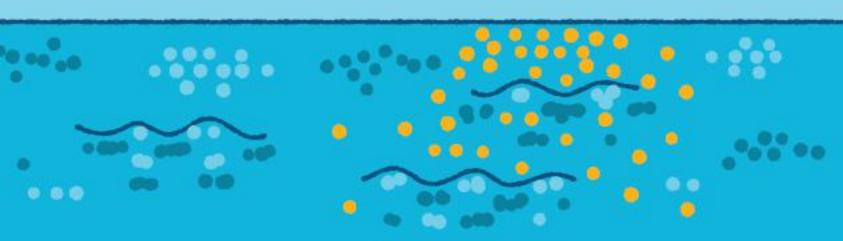
## BACK TO THE NORTH POLE





Teddy Icebear yawned long and hard. He half-opened his eyes and batted his lashes. The sun was shining brightly. One could say brighter than ever. The little polar bear spread out his arms and stretched out his paws.

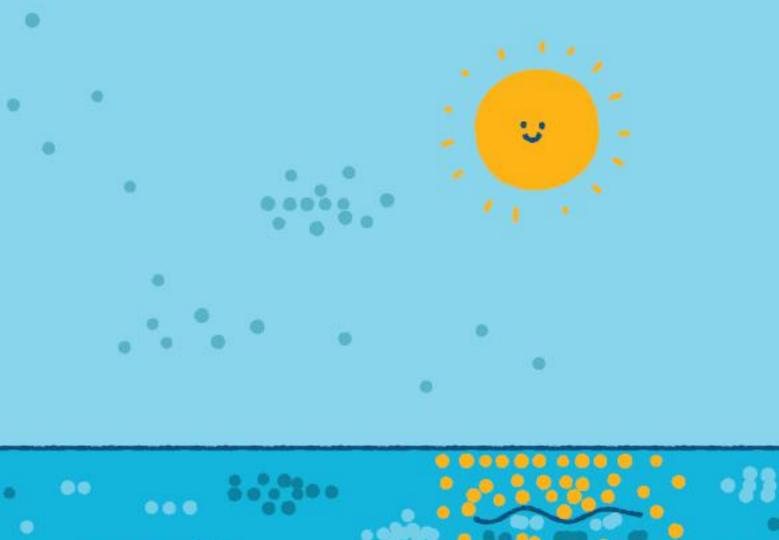




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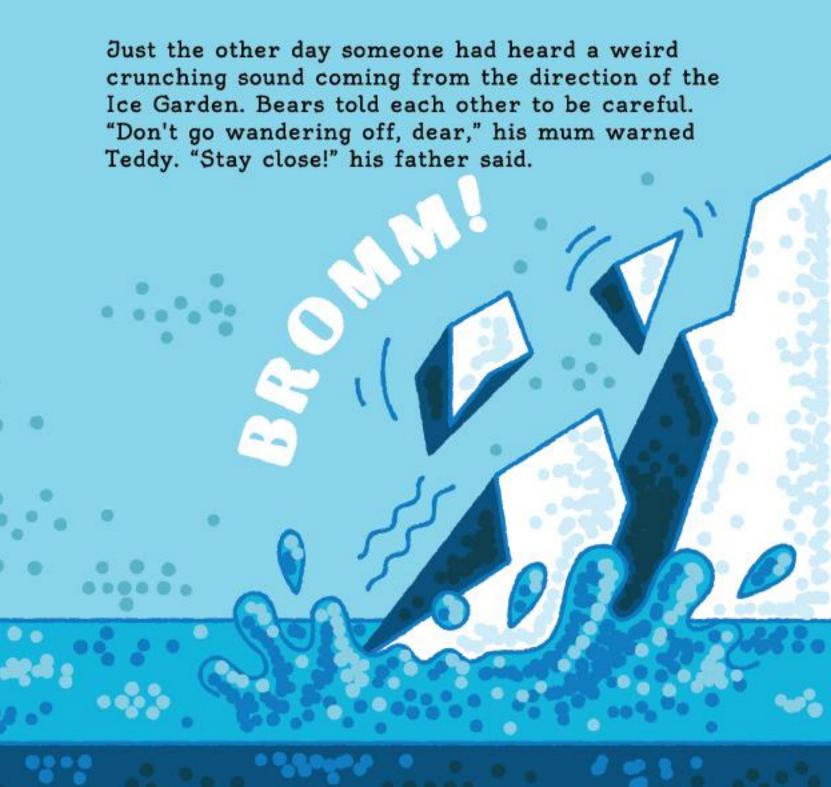


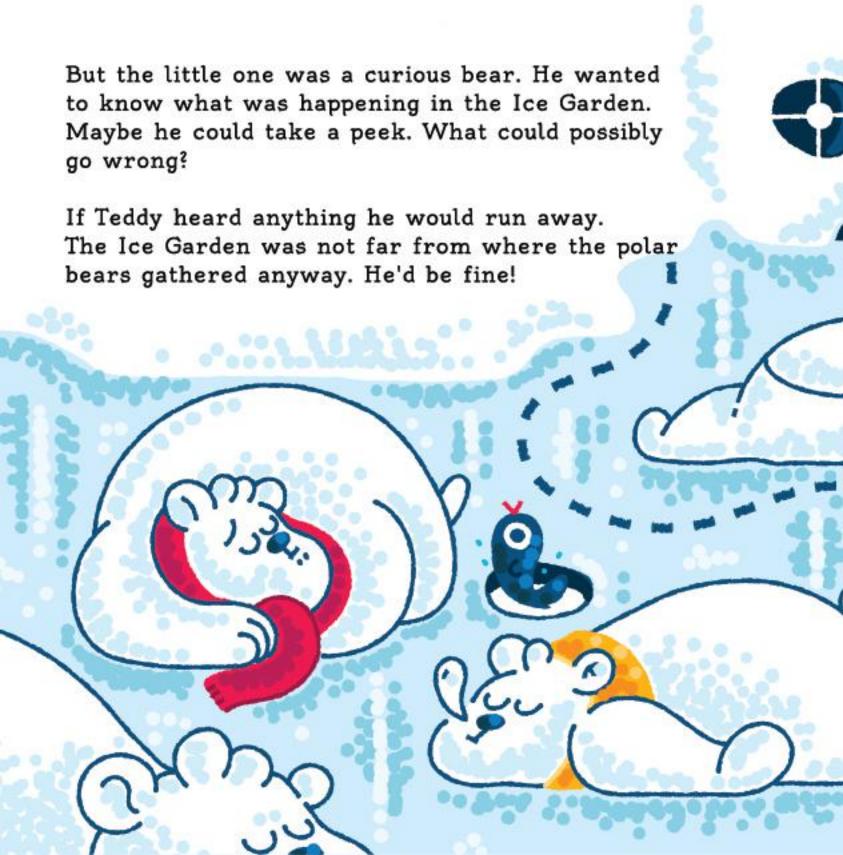
Uh-oh... Teddy Icebear's arms were in the water and so were his legs. Teddy was floating!

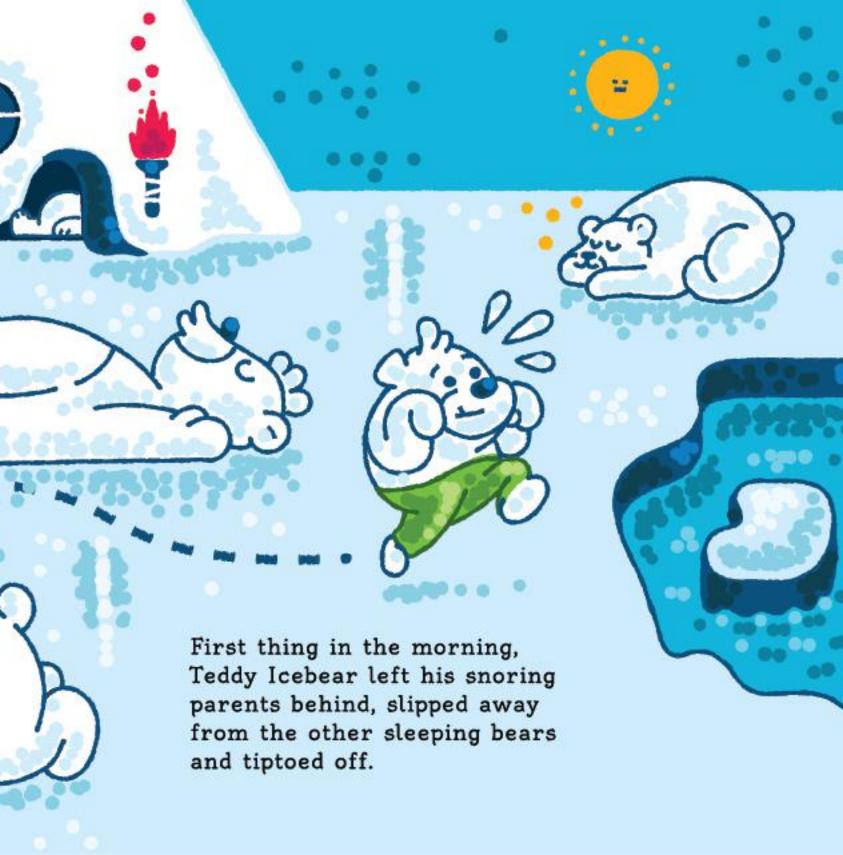


Something had been amiss at the North Pole for quite some time. According to the elders, the Arctic region was slowly melting into the ocean. Chunks of ice that had split from glaciers were swept away towards the horizon. Never to return...











When he reached the fence of the Ice Garden, he stopped to listen.

"Well? I don't hear anything?"

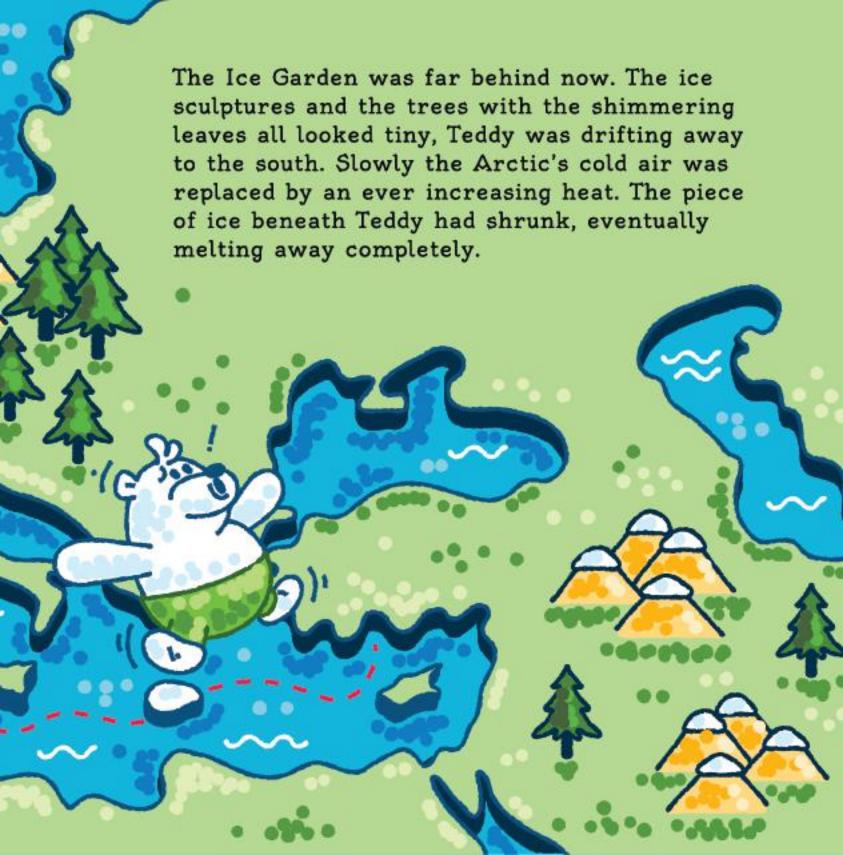
There was no crunching sound coming from the ground, the sky, the sea... The Ice Garden was peaceful, cool and calm, luring Teddy to lie down under its magnificent ice trees.



The little bear was tired, he had woken up early. Surely it couldn't hurt to take a teeny-weeny nap before going back?

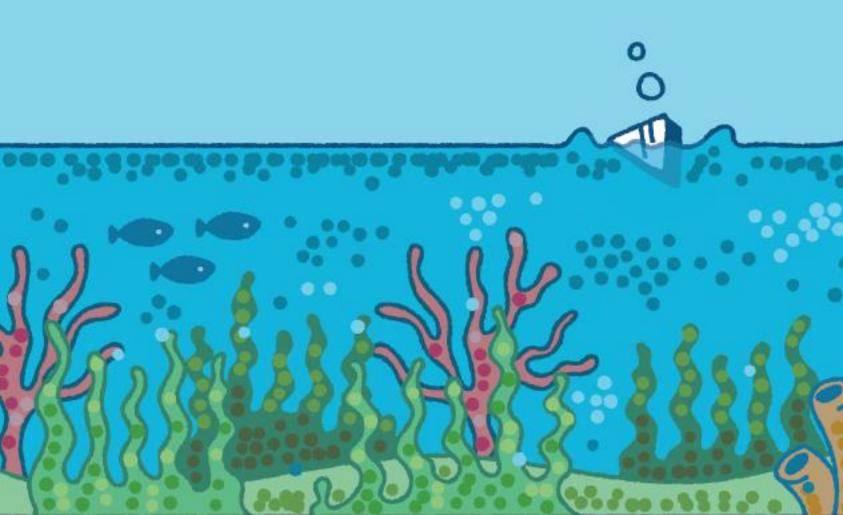
Teddy Icebear settled below a tree. He fell asleep looking at the leaves shimmering above, and didn't hear the "snap, snap, crunch!" of the frozen ground. The ice he was sleeping on had broken away.





Teddy found himself in a sea that was unusually warm and very salty. He looked under the water - where were the whales? There were none, and there were no walruses around. He couldn't see anyone familiar above the water either.

"Where am I?"



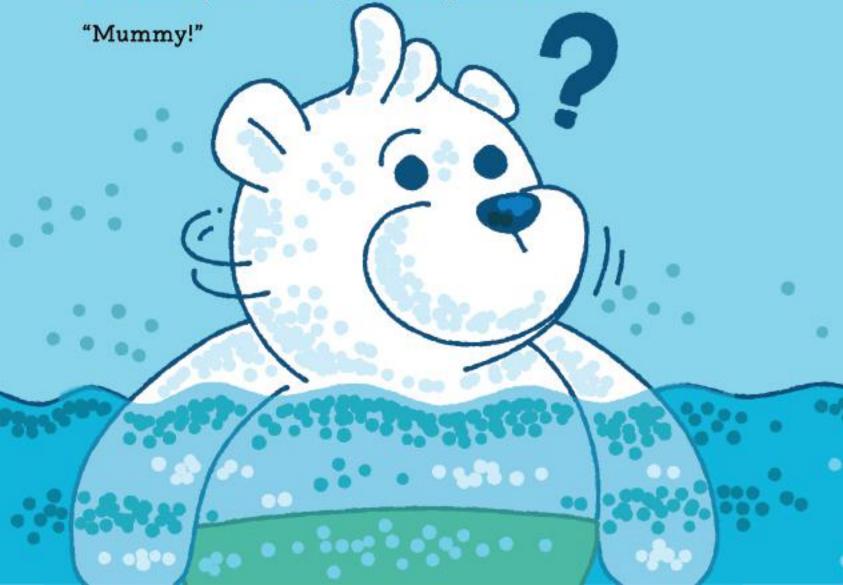


He turned towards the east, then towards the west...

Maybe he could call out to his parents! But before he could shout, "I'm here, mummy!" he heard another voice from across the water.

Oddly enough, "Mummy!" said the voice.

The little polar bear perked up his ears.

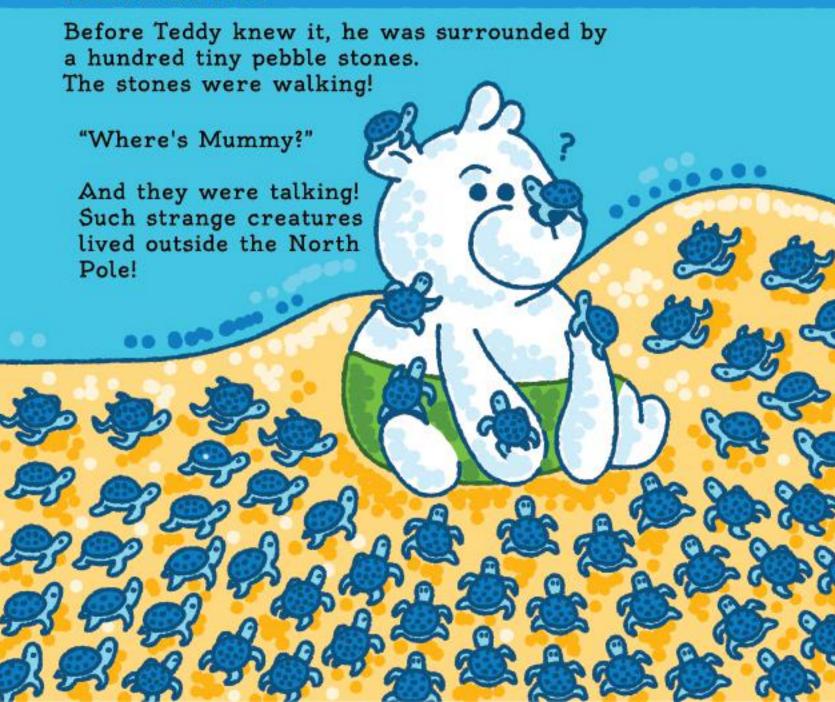


The voice was small, like chirping. No, no, it wasn't just one voice, he heard many little ones, and they were all saying "Mummy!", "MUMMY!"

Confused, Teddy Icebear started swimming in the direction of the curious voices. He could now see a long sandy beach where the sea ended.



When Teddy reached the land there was no one there, but he could still hear the chirping sounds, slightly muffled, as if someone was shouting from the sand beneath his feet.



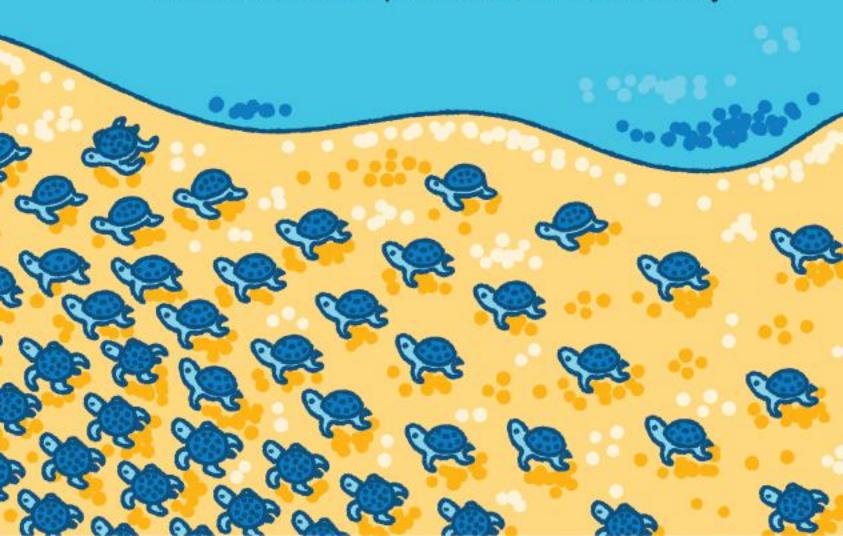
The little bear bent down and looked closely.

"Have you seen Mummy?" said a pebble climbing onto Teddy's nose.

"Why do you have so much hair?" said another.

"Where's your shell?" asked the one crawling on Teddy's shoulder, looking over at his fluffy back.

No, these weren't pebbles. So, what were they?



"I'm here, children, leave our guest alone," said a sea turtle.

They jumped off Teddy Icebear and ran to their mum.

"Mummy, who is that?" asked one.

"He looks like a baby polar bear." Mother sea turtle craned her neck, "What's your name, baby polar bear?"

"My name is Teddy Icebear, and who are you, please?"



"I am Carettina, and these are my hatchlings. We are Caretta caretta turtles." Carettina watched as her hatchlings waddled to the sea in a single file.

"They will soon learn to swim." She turned her attention to the little bear, "You are so far from home, Teddy, how did you get here?"



Teddy remembered how his parents had cheered him when he first started swimming.

"Glaciers," he said, "glaciers are melting. Mine melted while I was sleeping."

Teddy Icebear told the sea turtle about how he drifted further away from the North Pole. "The next thing I knew, I was on this beach."

Carettina listened, thought, paced back and forth on the wet sand. "Teddy," she said, "we have to get you home, but we're going to need help."





"What is this place?" Teddy Icebear looked around with wide eyes. There were little people everywhere.

"This is Everland, the world of children." said Carettina. "The children of Everland always help us. They are our..."



Before Carettina could finish her sentence, a girl in a lab coat emerged from the building before them.

Carettina waved at the girl, "...best friends."

"Don't tell me!" the girl came running, "You and Skull! Did you crash into each other again?!"

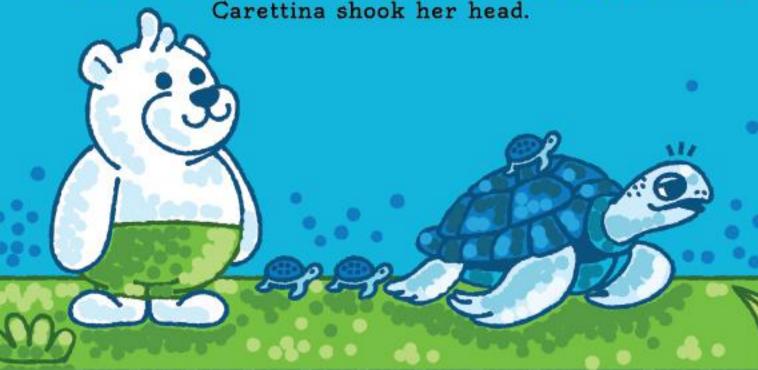
"Not this time," smiled the sea turtle, "thankfully."

Skull was a strange name.

"Who is Skull?" asked Teddy Icebear.

"A pirate looking for treasure." explained the girl.

"But he can't find the treasure he is looking for, and the more he can't find it, the more he destroys our beach."









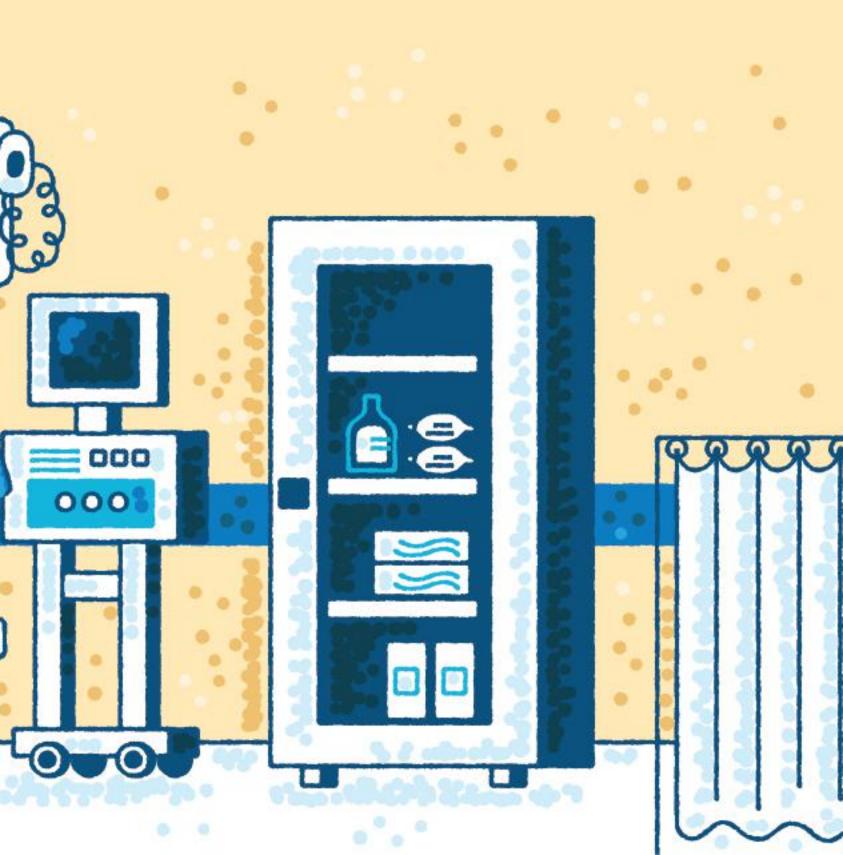
Oh, and when Skull was on his water scooter, all the turtles in the sea went to hide.

The rowdy bunch never looked where they were going: The pirates almost always crashed into Caretta carettas, which were swimming in the water, cracking their shells.





"Luckily we have a hospital in Everland." said Carettina.



Teddy Icebear stood up on his hind paws, uncurled his claws and roared in his little polar bear voice.

"Roarrr! If Mum and Dad were here, Skull couldn't bother anyone!" He sat down puffing, "But they are up north and I am here..."



The girl looked concerned, "Which north?"

"The far north." said Carettina. "That's why I brought Teddy to Everland, we have to send him back to the North Pole."



The girl examined Teddy Icebear after hearing his story. Fortunately Teddy had survived the journey without a scratch.



The girl's whistle echoed throughout Everland. Little heads appeared everywhere, in windows, doors, trucks, trees.





This was an emergency meeting to help the lost polar bear. The children of Everland were searching for ways to get him back to the North Pole.



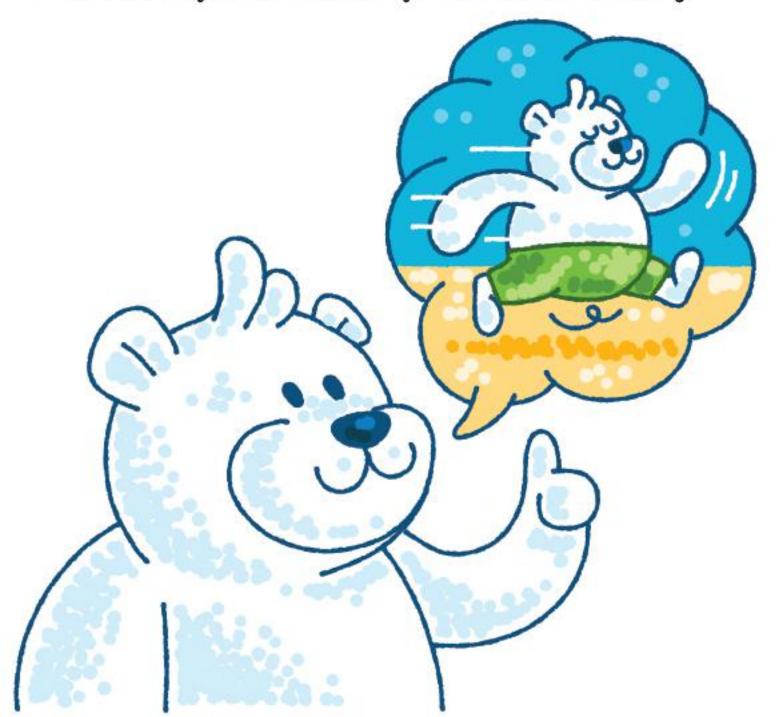
"Can you swim, Teddy?" they asked.

"Of course, I'm a polar bear." said Teddy Icebear proudly. "But the North Pole is too far away, even big bears can't swim that far."



"Can you run?" interrupted one of Carettina's hatchlings.

"I can run very fast." said Teddy. "But not for too long."



One of the children was measuring distances on a map. He shook his head in despair, "We need an airplane."

"Or a ship." said Carettina.

The girl slumped into a chair, "We don't have either."

The children whispered among themselves, the hatchlings looked at their mother. What now? Was Teddy not going back to his home?

"You don't have either, but..." Teddy Icebear was smiling.

Carettina craned her neck to see why the little bear was so happy. The children of Everland quit whispering amongst themselves and everyone stopped to hear what Teddy had to say.



"We know someone with a ship." said Teddy. "Skull!"



Carettina suddenly pulled her stretched neck back, "Teddy, he is a pirate! All Skull cares about is his treasure, he will never help us!"

Could pirates be trusted? Not according to Carettina.

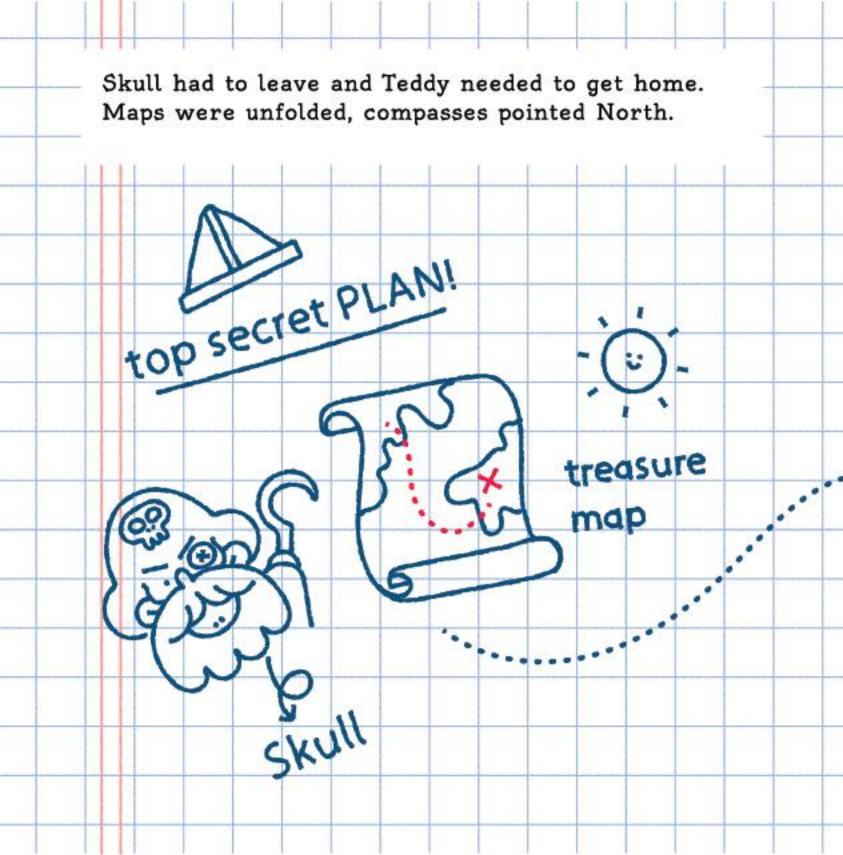


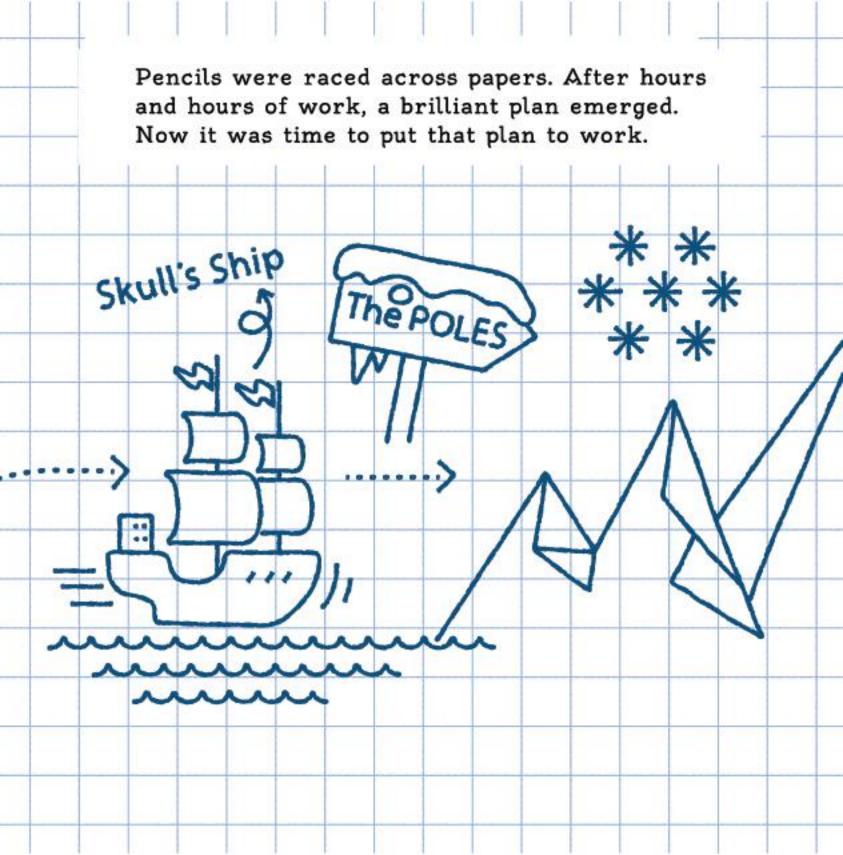
"Actually..." The girl seemed to cheer up, "Teddy is right! There," she pointed out to sea, "is a pirate ship. A ship big enough to take Teddy to the North Pole. And we want Skull to leave our beaches. Don't we?"

"WE DO!"

Everyone at the meeting was now excited, even Carettina.







Skull had dug all over the beach again, and was furious when none of the holes turned up anything useful. "Why can't I find a treasure chest? Like a pirate should? What am I doing wrong?!"





"Maybe we're looking in the wrong place," said one of the pirates, leaning on his shovel, "I mean, if we had a treasure map..."

"I'm following the scent of gold!" said Skull, "I don't need a map!"



Skull's crew was exhausted. Twenty days had passed since they had anchored in this bay and for twenty days they had searched for a treasure that did not exist. All because their captain believed he could smell gold. Did gold really smell? Maybe Skull's nose couldn't smell it.



"This time I've got it!" Skull sniffed the air and started walking towards the trees ahead, "Follow me!"

The crew grumbled, nobody was in the mood to dig another hole.





"It is time." said one of the Everland agents. He put down his binoculars, "The pirates are fed up with Skull."



"Are you sure?" Carettina asked Teddy.

The little bear put his paper hat on, "I'm sure! Teddy the pirate is ready for adventure!"



"Goodbye little polar bear, your family will be so happy to see you." said Carettina as she hugged him. "I thank you, on behalf of all sea turtles. Our eggs will be safe and so will we."

"Thank you," said Teddy Icebear, "for taking me to Everland's children. I couldn't go home without your help..."





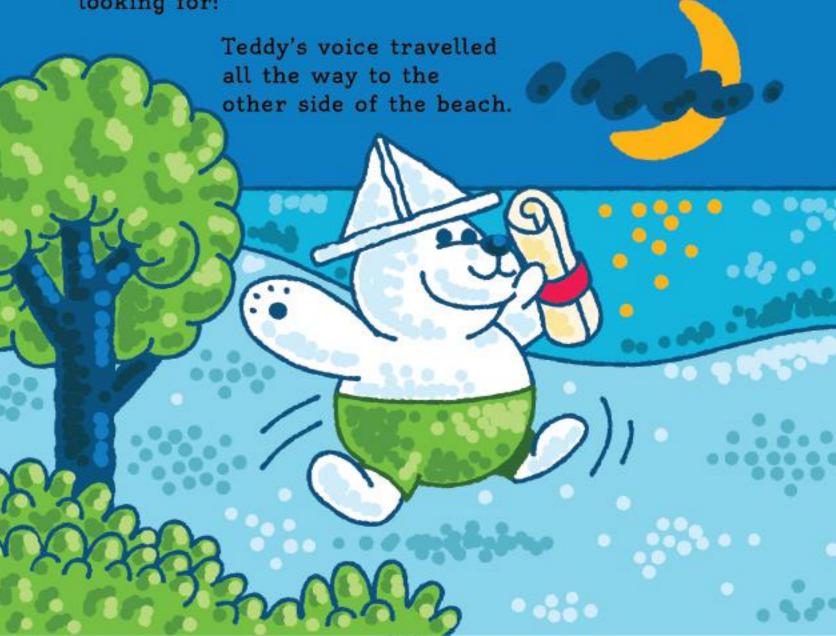
"We didn't do anything, Teddy, it was you who came up with the idea." the girl chimed in. "You are a brilliant little polar bear. Don't you forget us, okay?"

How could he?

"Never," promised Teddy, "ever!"



Teddy Icebear leaped like an arrow from the tree where he and his friends were hiding. He ran fast, like polar bears do. When he reached the seashore, he shouted, holding the hand-drawn map from Everland. "Here's the treasure I've been looking for!"



"Stop!" Skull ordered the pirates. "Did someone say treasure?"

"There!" said one of the pirates spotting Teddy.

"He looks like a pirate... And he looks like a bear he looks like a pirate bear!"

Skull sniffed the air proudly, "I told you I could smell gold, march on!"



The pirates, now suddenly full of energy, quickly caught up with Teddy on the shore.

"Wait a minute," Skull demanded, "I got here first! That treasure is mine!"

Teddy waved the map he held in his paws, "This treasure? But it's not here." he said confidently.



"What do you mean it's not here?" Skull was bending and twisting, trying to get a glimpse of the map.



"This is a map of the Arctic. The treasure is in the North Pole." Teddy handed the map to Skull. "Look for yourself."

The crew tried to take a peek at the map from over their captain's shoulder. There were eight lines written on the paper.





There was a joyous spirit among the pirates.

The treasure they were looking for was in an ice garden at the North Pole.

And the treasure was too big to fit in one chest.



The map did not say how to get to the ice garden, but a little white bear was to show the pirates the way to the treasure.



As luck would have it, the pirates had just met a white bear, and he was little, just like the map said.

"The biggest treasure I know of is at the North Pole." smiled Teddy Icebear. "Will you take me there?"



Skull was aware he could not find the treasure without the little bear's help. The bear didn't have a ship to go to the North Pole. So it might make sense to cooperate. At worst, they could share the treasure. After all, a treasure that big would last them all a lifetime.



Teddy Icebear was getting closer to home. The journey by ship was much faster than bobbing up and down on a piece of ice. The air grew colder as they neared the north.



The pirates' teeth chattered, their mustaches froze, their beards turned white with snow. If it weren't for the prospect of glittering coins, diamond-studded rings, pearl earrings and gold chain necklaces, Skull's ship would have turned back long ago.

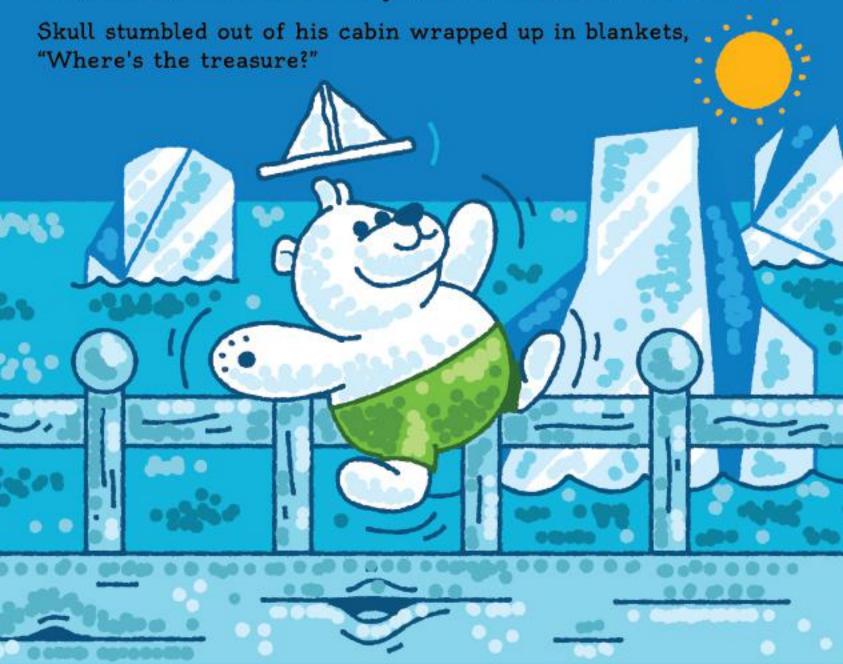


While the pirates were warming themselves with dreams of treasure, guess who the cold wasn't affecting? The little polar bear, of course. Teddy stood on the prow of the ship, shielding his eyes with a paw against the blinding sun. He was waiting for the glaciers to appear. After a while a small piece of ice floated by the ship, then another and another. Just ahead a seal poked its head out of the water.



She looked at Teddy, who was scanning the horizon in his paper pirate hat. Then the pieces of floating ice grew bigger and bigger...

"We're here!" exclaimed Teddy Icebear. "This is the North Pole!"



"Let's turn right by that glacier." Teddy said, laughing.

The pirate at the helm steered the ship to the right.

"Between the two floating mountains on the left."

This time the helmsman turned the ship left. They passed a narwhal and sailed straight ahead beyond the hill where the puffins nested. The pirates were getting impatient, had they come all this way for nothing? They had followed the instructions on the map, taking a small white bear with them. But there was no ice garden and no treasure to be seen.

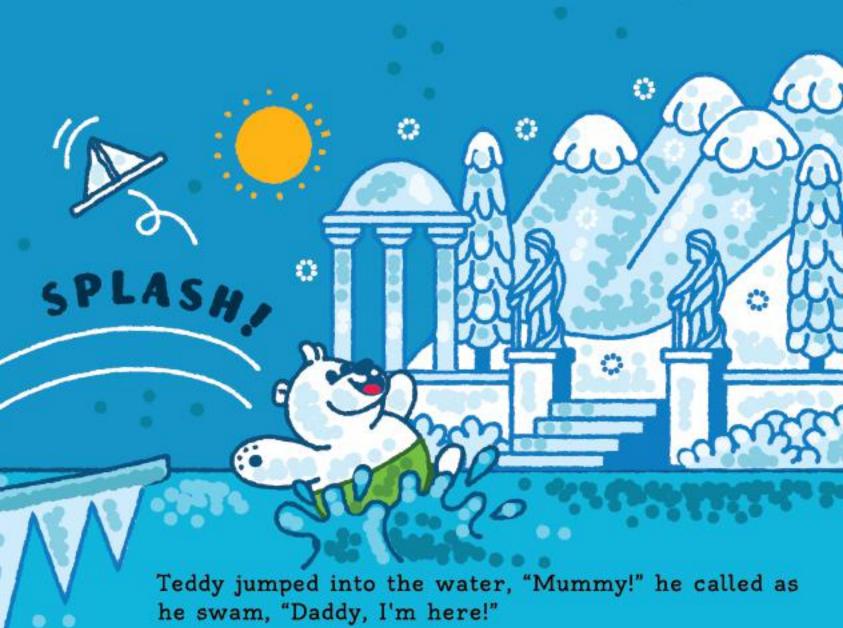




"Are you tricking us, little white bear?" asked a freezing Skull. "Where is this treasure?"

"Look!" Teddy pointed to the ice trees now visible beyond the hill. They sparkled like diamonds on the water. The sun reflected off the ice sculptures in the garden and hundreds of colours, big and small, dotted the sky. Skull and his crew were mesmerized.





Skull shook himself awake, "Mummy? What mum? Whose father?"

The pirates were stumped. Wasn't the little bear looking for treasure? Why was he suddenly looking for his parents? As if things weren't strange enough, two of the ice sculptures in the garden moved.



The statues started running towards the little bear. Skull rubbed his eyes, no, they weren't statues, they were two giant white bears.



"Teddy!" roared the mother polar bear.

"My son!" roared the father polar bear, who followed close behind.

Teddy jumped into his father's arms, and from there into his mother's.



"I wouldn't have been able to get back to you if it weren't for Skull's ship." said Teddy. Thanks to the pirates, he once again had the world's greatest treasure - his family.

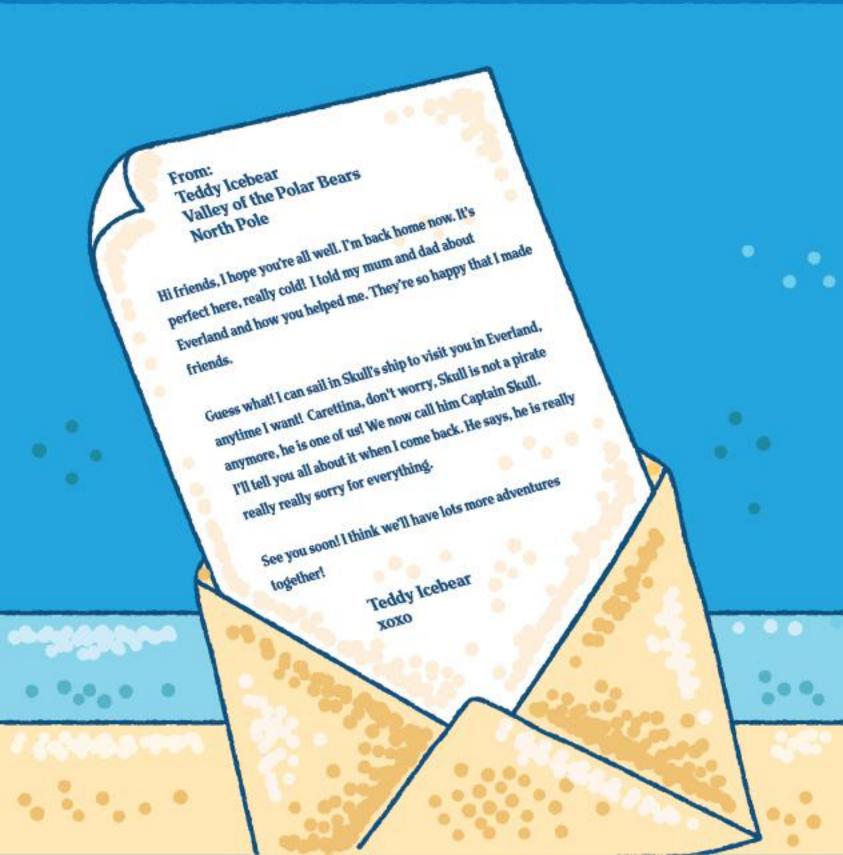




"A chest can't hold the treasure you'll find Very rich you'll be, keep that in mind

- I understand now." said Skull, sniffling. Then he took a photo out from inside his shirt. He had kept a picture of his parents close to his heart ever since he left home.















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