CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Winnie-the-Pooh

A. A. Milne · *1926* · *original English text*

Edward Bear comes downstairs, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. The chapters that follow are the Forest stories of Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Owl, Rabbit, Kanga, and Roo. The hosted text is A. A. Milne's original English, 1926, Project Gutenberg #67098, complete. It is a book for the youngest students, and it is written with exact care.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of world is the Forest, and what should a young reader watch for in a bear of very little brain who is still a good friend?

"Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin."
Chapter I, opening

The book begins with a bear being dragged downstairs, and with the only way he knows of coming down. The chapters are hunts for honey, floods, a birthday, an expotition, and the kindness of friends. Teach Milne's own words, not later film speeches. "Oh, Bear! How I do love you!" is in this book, and so is "So do I," said Pooh. The work is original English, 1926, now in the public domain in the United States.

KEY CHARACTERS

Winnie-the-Pooh (Edward Bear)
The bear of very little brain, who comes downstairs bump, bump, bump, and is a good friend

Christopher Robin
The boy who loves the bear, and to whom the stories are told

Piglet
The small friend, often afraid and often brave

Eeyore
The old grey donkey, gloomy and loyal

Owl and Rabbit
The learned and the organizing friends of the Forest

Kanga and Roo
The later arrivals of this first book

A BUMP ON THE STAIRS, AND A LOVE SPOKEN PLAINLY

> *"Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin."*
> Chapter I

> *"Oh, Bear!" said Christopher Robin. "How I do love you!" // "So do I," said Pooh."*
> **Christopher Robin and Pooh** · On the way to breakfast

Grades K–2
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Edward Bear, Coming Downstairs

CHAPTER I, OPENING

The book opens with the bear on the stairs, bump, bump, bump, behind Christopher Robin, who is bringing him down.

- The first sentence is exact, including the name Edward Bear and the three bumps
- It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, though he feels there may be another way if he could stop bumping for a moment
- Christopher Robin is the child of the book, and the friend to whom the stories are told
- This is Milne's 1926 English, PG #67098, complete

> *"Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin."*
> Chapter I

02

Honey, and a Bear of Very Little Brain

THE EARLY CHAPTERS

Pooh goes after honey, gets into difficulty, and is already, as he says, a Bear of Very Little Brain. The Forest begins to gather its company.

- Piglet, Eeyore, Owl, and Rabbit belong to these first adventures
- The heffalump, the bees, and the balloon are Milne's inventions in this book; keep his wording
- "A Bear of Very Little Brain" is the book's own phrase, not a later summary only
- The comedy is gentle; the friendships are already real

03

How I Do Love You

THE CLOSE OF THE CHAPTER BEFORE EEYORE'S BIRTHDAY

After a hard morning, Christopher Robin and Pooh go home to breakfast together, and the boy says he loves the bear.

- The words are exact: "Oh, Bear!" said Christopher Robin. "How I do love you!" "So do I," said Pooh.
- Do not add later film lines (about being braver than you believe, or other speeches) that are not in this book
- The love is simple, and it is enough; teach it as written
- The next chapter is Eeyore's birthday, and two presents

> *"Oh, Bear!" said Christopher Robin. "How I do love you!" // "So do I," said Pooh."*
> **Christopher Robin and Pooh** · After the headache, on the way to breakfast

04

Birthdays, Floods, and an Expotition

THE LATER CHAPTERS

Eeyore has a birthday; Kanga and Roo arrive; there is a flood; there is an expotition to the North Pole, as the book spells it.

- Keep Milne's spellings (expotition, Heffalump, Woozle) as printed
- Kanga and Roo, and Tigger later in the second book, should not be confused: Tigger is not in this first book
- The flood chapter, and the rescue, are among the book's pictures of friendship
- Eeyore's gloom is comic and is also to be treated kindly

05

The 1926 Book, Complete

THE HOSTED FILE

Project Gutenberg #67098, Winnie-the-Pooh, original English, public domain in the United States. The House at Pooh Corner is a separate work.

- This map is of the first book only
- The grade band is K–2; the map should help a parent or teacher read aloud with the words straight
- Do not import speeches from recordings, films, or later sequels
- The Forest is a made place of friendship, not a lesson-book in disguise, and it still has a moral grain: kindness, patience, and keeping one another

Friendship · Kindness · Home in the Forest · A Little Brain, and a Good Heart · Play and Invention · Comfort

What to watch for as you read

GRADES K–2

1. The opening is exact: "Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin."
2. "Oh, Bear!" said Christopher Robin. "How I do love you!" "So do I," said Pooh. That exchange is in this book. Do not add later film speeches that are not here.
3. The hosted text is the complete 1926 Winnie-the-Pooh, PG #67098, original English, public domain in the United States. The House at Pooh Corner is a separate work, and Tigger is not in this first book.
4. Keep Milne's spellings (expotition, Heffalump). Quote this text only.
5. The grade band is K–2. The map is for reading aloud with the words straight, and for noticing kindness, patience, and friendship.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #67098, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/winnie-the-pooh/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.