

Benji and The Bottom Burping Bear By Benji Bastos (Age 9)

One day, deep in the heart of a dense forest a boy named Benji walked down a leafy path filled with birds tweeting and bizarre sounds. All of a sudden he saw a deep dark cave and daylight in the distance. Benji was an adventurous thing, always wanting to explore the wilderness that surrounded his home. The boy decided to walk down the obscure and gloomy walk way although feeling excited also scared and apprehensive. Unexpectedly he heard footsteps in the cold remoteness and the boy stopped like the red traffic lights. The boy contemplated and gazed ahead and saw something big, brown, furry that had sharp spikey teeth and extended claws. At freezing point the boy could not move and felt paralysed from head to toe. Taking one step forwards the floor fell through and the boy tumbled hitting rocks and down to the floor, SPLAT !

The small child looked lifeless however his eyes began to flicker and slowly the boy sat up and held his head in despair. Unaware of the time and how long he had been sleeping or unconscious the boy looked around terrified and panicked. Leaping up to standing he heard a deep carnivorous roar and could imagine the flesh eating monster grabbing his arm. Fortunately a tree was located approximately ten meters north of the boy and so he crept down onto his hands and feet and quietly bear crawled towards the leafy luscious swaying tree. Curiosity piqued, why the tree was moving since there was no wind or draft ? As he reached the tree he noticed a pair of glowing eyes staring back at him breathing on the tree creating the movement. His heart raced with both fear and excitement and instead of running away Benji remembered the stories his VoVo (Grandfather in Portugal) had told him about the special bond between animals and humans. With a deep breath like his Mama had taught him he reached his hand out to the bear. The other hand was holding onto the tree ready to scurry up if the first meeting didn't go to plan. To his surprise the bear did not growl or attack , instead he sniffed and nuzzled against him. At this point Benji and the bear began the most unlikely friendship nobody would ever believe.

The next day they spent exploring the forest together , the bear guiding Benji through with its strong smell and sharp instincts. They learnt valuable lessons from one another as well as who could make the funniest noises from parts of their body commonly known as ; Bottom burps, Trumps, Fluffys, farties . They both collapsed on the forest floor laughing out loud like a pair of jolly jesters. The darkness came in and Benji knew he had to get back for tea otherwise his parents would worry. Walking ahead of the bear he heard a cry, looked behind him and bit his lip to suppress the fits of hysterics . The bear was head down bottom up stuck in a tree well. With a combination of grunts and giggles Benji held onto the bears legs and HEAVED and HEAVED and HEEEEEEEEAVED. The furry beast popped out like a jack in the box covered in dirt, wiggly worms and ants with wings. Both watched the ants take off into the quiet mysterious air. Benji remembered his dad saying flying ants taste like peanut butter! Having skipped lunch he grabbed hold of two and gave one to his friend. Without hesitating he popped the other in his mouth before he could change his mind as the bear looked at disgust. ‘Yummy’ Benji crunched the nutty ant and the pair sat in silence caching more of the tiny flying insects. Benji looked at the bear, he suddenly realised he didn’t know the bears name. Proudly Benji said ‘ I will call you Boo Boo the bottom burping bear! the bear looked delighted with his new name.

The End

By Benji