



## A Circus Life for Ben

Written by Jenna Borman  
Illustrated by Stefan Korzak



### Phonics Skill

*Unaccented syllables/Word parts*

around  
tickets

circus  
breakfast

family  
afraid

item  
juggled

seven  
moment





Long ago a family of bears lived in Berry Woods. There was Mama Bear, Papa Bear, and little Harry Benjamin Bear. It was a big name for a tiny bear. But Ben, as everybody called him, had big dreams.

Life was quiet in Berry Woods. It was way too quiet, if you asked Ben!





Ben wanted to travel around the world. He dreamed about sailing the seven seas. He would zip over bright blue water and see huge whales spout. He dreamed of climbing Earth's tallest mountain. He would plant his family's flag on it. He dreamed of exploring the darkest jungle. All wild animals would be afraid of him.






Then one day, Ben saw a poster. "A circus!" cried Ben. The Flying Bear Circus was coming to Berry Woods!

Ben liked everything about circuses. Now he dreamed about being a high-wire performer or a trapeze artist. He also dreamed about being a famous clown. A circus life was the life for Ben.






 Ben thought, "I must join the circus!"

Ben packed his lucky marble and some honey. He tiptoed out of his house so Mama and Papa Bear would not wake up. He walked until he was tired. After a little rest, he reached the circus.

"We have been waiting for you," said the Circus Master.






 Ben was a hit at the circus. He balanced on his head and juggled balls with his feet.

He swung gracefully on a trapeze. He let go, and the crowd gasped. At just the right moment, he grabbed his swing. Ben was safe!

He climbed into a tiny truck with a clown, and they drove around, honking the horn. Everybody cheered wildly. "Hurray for Ben!"





 Ben traveled everywhere with the circus. Its train chugged over mountains and into valleys. The circus went around the world. Ben was a hot item! Tickets sold out in Paris and Rome and Calcutta.

But Ben missed Mama and Papa Bear. He felt sad. "I must go home," he cried. And that is what he did.





Mama and Papa were happy to see Ben. While they fixed breakfast, he told them all about life in the circus. Mama and Papa smiled happily and didn't seem surprised at all.

"Now will you stay home with us, Ben?" they asked.

"Yes," said Ben. "Home is the place for me!"

