

Teddy's Bear

Are you sitting comfortably? Then close your eyes tightly and I'll begin...

Once upon a time in a land far, far away, there lived a strong and powerful ruler. His name was Theodore Roosevelt (his friends called him 'Teddy' for short) and he was the 26th President of the United States of America.

One cold November morning, the president was out on a hunting trip in a place called Mississippi. All day long he looked and he looked for a bear he could shoot but, alas, he could not find one.

He was just about to give up when one of his men beckoned to him to step closer. There, before him, was a little baby bear, tired, exhausted and very, very frightened.

So sad was this sight that the president could not bring himself to shoot the poor creature. He put down his gun and turned his back upon the fluffy black bear.

News of this story soon spread and the very next morning people all over America read about it over breakfast.

A cartoonist named Clifford Berryman even drew a picture to go with the story. He called it 'Drawing the Line in Mississippi'.

A hop, skip and a jump away, in New York City, sat a shopkeeper, Morris Mitchtom. When he read the story he liked it very much and asked his wife to make two small bears to place inside his shop window.

Everybody immediately fell in love with the two small bears and Morris asked the president if he could call them after him? Teddy said 'Yes!'

And so the teddy bear was born and little children everywhere could sleep happily... ever... after.

The End.

