

Name: _____

Bear and Hare Warm Up

by Neal Levin

One cold frosty morning, Bear woke up from the middle of his long winter sleep. He wandered outside his den and noticed that the lake had frozen over.

"Good thing I'm not made of water," he said, "or I'd turn to ice."

"But you are made of water," said Hare, who was tumbling around in a snow bank beside him. "Over half your body is water."

"You must be fooling," said Bear. He looked at his body. His arms didn't look like water. His legs didn't look like water. His paws didn't look like water.



"Think of all your blood," said Hare. "Your blood's made of water. In fact, all your parts are made of cells, and cells are made of water."

Bear rubbed his paws together and blew on them to keep them warm. "I don't want to freeze like the lake," he said.

"Don't worry," Hare giggled. "We're warm-blooded animals. That means our body temperature stays the same, even when it's cold outside. Besides, our body water isn't pure water. It contains organic molecules like sodium and potassium that make its freezing point lower than regular water. We can only freeze in very extreme conditions."

"Brrrrrr." Bear shivered.

"See, when you shake like that, your body's using energy to make more heat and warm you up."

"I know a better way to warm up," said Bear. "Let's go inside."

They stomped into Hare's house. Bear relaxed by the fireplace. A few minutes later, the snow on his fur melted and dripped into puddles on the floor.

A teapot whistled on the stove. Bear looked at the teapot and saw a thick stream of steam shooting into the air.

"How are you feeling now?" Hare asked as he brought Bear a cup of chamomile tea.

"I'm still afraid," Bear said as he cuddled the steaming teacup in his paws.

"Don't be silly," Hare told him. "Even though you're made of water, you know you aren't going to turn to ice."

"I know," Bear said. "But now I'm afraid I'll evaporate."

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1. In the story, "Bear and Hare Warm Up," why does Bear have a hard time believing his body is made up of mostly water?
 - a. Bear doesn't hear any water sloshing around inside of him.
 - b. Bear looks at himself and doesn't see any water.
 - c. Bear hasn't had any water to drink recently.
 - d. Bear hasn't gone swimming in the lake since the beginning of winter.

2. According to Bear and Hare's conversation in the story, how is the water in the animals' blood different from the frozen water of the lake?
 - a. The water in their blood is thinner than the water in the lake.
 - b. The water in their blood is less salty than the water in the lake.
 - c. The water in their blood has organic molecules in it that make it more difficult to freeze.
 - d. The water in their blood is pure water, whereas the water in the lake is not.

3. Even though Hare explains to Bear why he won't freeze over like the lake, why is Bear still afraid at the end of the story? What did Bear see that may have given him this thought?

4. Hare points out one way Bear's body helps him stay warm automatically. What is it?
 - a. Bear sneezes.
 - b. Bear coughs.
 - c. Bear shivers.
 - d. Bear tumbles through the snow.

5. Which word best describes Bear's personality, based on what you read in the story?
 - a. fretful
 - b. easy-going
 - c. grumpy
 - d. whimsical

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The words below are scrambled words from "Bear and Hare Warm Up," by Neal Levin. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Check back in the story to make sure each word is spelled correctly.

1.

e	n	e	a
d	d	w	r

Clue: walked or moved casually or leisurely

2.

n	o	g	c
a	i	r	

Clue: relating to living matter

3.

o	c	e	a	m
i	l	h	m	

Clue: a type of plant used to make herbal tea

4.

s	e	r	d
v	i	h	e

Clue: shook because of cold or fear

5.

p	e	t	a	e
r	v	a	o	

Clue: turn from liquid to gas

6.

b	n	i	m
l	t	u	g

Clue: toppling over

ANSWER KEY

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- In the story, "Bear and Hare Warm Up," why does Bear have a hard time believing his body is made up of mostly water? **b**
 - Bear doesn't hear any water sloshing around inside of him.
 - Bear looks at himself and doesn't see any water.**
 - Bear hasn't had any water to drink recently.
 - Bear hasn't gone swimming in the lake since the beginning of winter.
- According to Bear and Hare's conversation in the story, how is the water in the animals' blood different from the frozen water of the lake? **c**
 - The water in their blood is thinner than the water in the lake.
 - The water in their blood is less salty than the water in the lake.
 - The water in their blood has organic molecules in it that make it more difficult to freeze.**
 - The water in their blood is pure water, whereas the water in the lake is not.
- Even though Hare explains to Bear why he won't freeze over like the lake, why is Bear still afraid at the end of the story? What did Bear see that may have given him this thought?

Bear is afraid that he will evaporate. Bear saw the steam coming out of the teapot, which may have given him this thought.
- Hare points out one way Bear's body helps him stay warm automatically. What is it? **c**
 - Bear sneezes.
 - Bear coughs.
 - Bear shivers.**
 - Bear tumbles through the snow.
- Which word best describes Bear's personality, based on what you read in the story? **a**
 - fretful**
 - easy-going
 - grumpy
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Clue: relating to living matter

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chamomile

Clue: a type of plant used to make herbal tea

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shivered

Clue: shook because of cold or fear

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evaporate

Clue: turn from liquid to gas

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tumbling

Clue: toppling over