

## The Stubborn Young Bear

There was once a stubborn young bear that vowed he would never sleep. To him, rest was just a waste of time when you could be out enjoying yourself. After all, what did anyone ever accomplish while they were asleep? But when winter came, Bear naturally grew more and more tired. He would start to nod off and then force himself to wake up.

“Come to rest,” the older bears said. “If you don’t, you won’t be able to wake in the Spring.” Despite these warnings, Bear forced himself to stay awake and he kept himself alert. Before long he was the only bear with his eyes still open, and he was feeling very lonely. Bear’s eyes grew heavy with sleep, and as he drifted off, he realized it was actually quite pleasant. Bear fell into a calm, deep slumber. As he slept, the leaves on the trees turned green, flowers budded, the snow melted and all the other bears woke up. One by one, they went out into the Spring without the sleeping bear. When they came back to their caves at night, they were happy, with honey on their faces. When Bear finally awoke from his long slumber, there was no honey left for him, and he only wished he had gone to bed when the older bears had told him to.



Listen carefully to what your elders have to say.

