


I don't have to share, but...

By: Elle Staples







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Mama bear always taught me I don't have to share,
I have what I have; it doesn't need to be theirs.

But she didn't stop there...







Asleep as a cub in my bamboo bedroom,
I dreamed of my birthday filled with friends coming soon.
In the morning my dream really bothered my mind.
I didn't have friends; I was not very kind.



Each time a cub came over to play,
I would keep my things for myself,
they wouldn't want to stay.

After all, Mama bear said I don't have to share,
I have what I have; it doesn't need to be theirs.

But, she didn't stop there.

Mama bear saw the worry all over my face,
When I told her my birthday party would be an empty place.


It was my dream to have a room full of cubs,
To play and have fun and eat loads of tasty grubs.





Looking back, I could see that my mama was wise,
When she suggested I share my birthday surprise.
With map in paw and a lantern so bright,

Mama sent me on a journey, oh, what a sight!
To spread joy and laughter, and birthday cheer,
Handing out invites from far and near.

A cartoon panda with a red backpack is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path in a lush, sunlit forest. The path is illuminated by a bright light source from the right, creating a warm, golden glow. The forest is filled with various plants, including purple flowers, green foliage, and trees with orange and yellow leaves. A large tree trunk is visible on the left side of the path. A speech bubble is positioned above the panda, containing text.

"I'll be just a moment.
I can't see a thing!"

Just then,
crashed out a
terrible ring!



It was then that I remembered the lantern in my pack.
I flipped on the beam and ran straight to the back.
Because of the dark, he'd had a big fall,
I helped cousin Dave get up and stand tall.


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I have what I have; it doesn't need to be theirs.

But, she didn't stop there...

But this was a time where Dave needed it more,
So, I gave him the lantern to walk safely to his door.
To thank me, he gave me his new fishing pole!
His gift filled my heart where there was a big hole.







I left cousin Dave's with a new feeling inside.
It felt warm, it felt wholesome; I quickened my stride.
With a quick check of my map, I was off to the lake,
To meet with my other cub cousin Jake.



"I'm embarrassed for you to see me like this. If only I could catch a great big fat fish!"



It was then that I remembered the fishing pole on my back,
We fished until sunset and till Jake's belly was fat.
Mama bear always taught me I don't have to share,
I have what I have; it doesn't need to be theirs.

But, she didn't stop there...

But this was a time where Jake had to have fish,
So, I gave him the pole so he would have his great wish!
To thank me, he gave me a beautiful sweater,
His gift filled my heart and made me want to be better.



I'd never met Fern, she was next up the trail,
Even though I was tired I didn't want to fail.

The air became cooler the more North that I traveled,
The path became white, and the curves had unraveled.

Where hills had become like a frozen ice wall,
A polar cub shivered; she looked chilly and small.

Fern shook off the snow and started to speak,

"I can't believe it, I am frosty way up to my cheeks,

I am a bear that's meant to withstand the cold.

At least, when I was young, that's what I was told."





I remembered the sweater my new friend had shared,
It seemed only natural to show Fern that I cared.

Mama bear always taught me I don't have to share,
I have what I have; it doesn't need to be theirs.

But, she didn't stop there...

Seeing Fern struggle to stay warm was real tough,
But giving her my sweater felt like enough.





To thank me, she gave me a beautiful necklace,
And I knew exactly what I would do with this gift.

Her gift, somehow changed me, forever it seemed,
To share had more meaning. My soul surely beamed.



Mama bear always taught me

I don't have to share,

I have what I have;

it doesn't need to be theirs."

BUT, it was AFTER I learned how to give things away,
that I understood the rest of what mama tried to say.

Mama, would continue to say...

...



"Sharing has a power
that's not easy to see.
When you give what you
have, you might get
what you need!"







Special Thanks:

Without help from my artistic, creative daughter this book wouldn't have been possible. Her help with the character design was essential towards making the character's come alive! Thank you Payton for your help!

Matthew 25:35-37

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"In this heartwarming rhyming children's tale, join Cubby, the spirited panda cub, as his mama shares an important lesson about the magic of sharing. Ignoring the second half of the lesson, Cubby's decision not to share leads to a lonely realization. Embark on an enchanting journey with whimsical illustrations as he discovers the joy of sharing and the warmth it brings to friendships. This adorable story captures the essence of kindness and serves as a playful guide, showing kids the importance of sharing and being a good friend.

