

The Mother Bear

**By Nora Thompson Dean
recorded by David Oestreicher**

There's an old Lenape story and my parents used to tell the story. A boy got lost in the deep forest one time. It was way back there and this little kid finally met a mother bear and I guess he kind of went irrational, sort of lost his mind. He thought this bear was his mother the way she looked to him. She had an apron on, like the old Delaware women used to wear, and she had some little cubs with her and he thought they were children. And this mother bear took him in the den with her and licked him and nursed him like his mother. He ate honey and he said he talked with her.

In the story that was told that there were some hunters who came into the woods and killed her and that boy really grieved over her because he thought she was his mother. He really grieved when these hunters killed her. He grieved a long time for her because that's the only mother he ever knew.