



How Man Became Master of Fire

Don't forget to *look after* the fire

■ American folktale retold by Dr. Mike Lockett, *The Normal Storyteller*; edited by Linda Ludwig
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Bear once was the most powerful creature in the world. Bear was smart. Bear was strong and *mighty*. Bear was the master of FIRE.

Bear was the only creature that knew how to light a fire and keep it alive so it would not go out. Bear always kept his fire burning. Fire kept his cave bright and dry. Fire kept other creatures away. They all feared Fire.

One day, Bear put his nose in the air. He sniffed once. He sniffed twice. He sniffed a third time. Then he walked to the opening of his cave. Bear smelled something fragrant. It was *raspberries*. He liked raspberries, so he left his cave to hunt for them. He left Fire burning inside a circle of rocks. But Bear forgot to add wood to it so that it would not die.

Bear walked into the forest and began to eat berries. The berries were so good that Bear *completely* forgot about Fire.

Usage Tip

But Bear forgot to add wood to it so that it would not die. (p. 32, line 16)

動詞 die 也可以用來表達熄滅、黯淡、凋零或消失。

- We sat on the beach and watched the sunset die.

Your turn

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"I need food," called Fire. "Feed me!" Fire needed sticks or straw or anything that burned to stay alive. "Please come back and feed me, Bear, or I will die."

But, Bear could not hear Fire. Bear was far away filling his **belly** with raspberries.

"Please feed me," called Fire one more time. Only a few burning cinders remained. Fire was almost dead.

Man walked by and heard Fire crying. "I need food, or I will die." Man pulled a **handful** of dry grass from the ground and placed it onto the hot cinders. Man bent down and gently blew on the cinders. He had seen how the blowing wind caused fires to burn brighter. The grass began to burn. Man picked up dead **pine cones** and sticks and added them. Then he added some dead branches and **twigs** from trees.

Fire grew stronger and stronger. ▶

Talk About It

- What do you think the meaning of this story is?
- I think the meaning of this story is ...
- When are you like Bear?
- I am like Bear when ...

Usage Tip

Bear was far away filling his belly with raspberries.
(p. 33, line 5)

片語 fill one's belly 也有人說 fill one's stomach，而 fill one's belly with something 表「用某物填飽某人的肚子」。

- The little boys filled their stomachs with ice cream after the ball game.

Your turn





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Fire allowed Man to cook his dinner over its **flames**. Then Fire promised to remain friends with Man and live with him. Fire would light his home at night. Fire would keep Man warm and dry. Man left to find a container to carry Fire home with him.

In the evening Bear returned home. His belly was full. But now Bear was cold, and his cave seemed dark. Bear entered his cave and moved toward Fire. Fire **turned away** and would not make Bear warm. When Bear tried again to come close to Fire, it became hot and burned the **whiskers** on Bear's face. Bear pulled away in pain and ran into the forest. He did not try to go near Fire again.

Man soon returned with a clay **jar** to carry Fire home with him. Man learned to light Fire and how to keep Fire burning. He also learned how to use Fire in daily life. Ever since that time, all fire has belonged to Man. 🐻

Word Bank

look after (phr v) [lʊk][ˈæftə] 照看，照顧

I have to **look after** Jan's kids this afternoon.

mighty (adj) [ˈmaɪti] 強有力的

That boy might be little, but he is **mighty** in strength.

raspberry (n) [ˈræz,beri] 覆盆子，野莓

I love to pick and eat **raspberries** in the summer.

completely (adv) [kəmˈplɪtli] 完全地，徹底地

Bob is **completely** changed after his first year of college.

belly (n) [ˈbeli] 肚子；腹部

Bob's big **belly** shook when he laughed.

handful (n) [ˈhænd,ful] 一把（之量）；少數

Philip took a **handful** of peanuts out of the dish to eat with his drink.

pine cone (n) [paɪn][kɒn] 松果，松球

As we walked through the forest, we picked up **pine cones** from under the trees.

twig (n) [twɪɡ] 細枝，嫩枝

Birds use **twigs** to make their nests.

flame (n) [fleɪm] 火舌；火焰

The **flames** started to die down after the firemen poured water on them.

turn away (phr v) [tɜːn][əˈweɪ] 轉過臉去；轉身離開

Johnny **turned away** from his mother after she told him he couldn't go fishing.

whisker (n) [ˈwɪskə] (貓、鼠等動物的) 鬚；鬍鬚

My cat's **whiskers** are really long.

jar (n) [dʒɑːr] 罐；(廣口) 瓶

Could you please buy me a **jar** of jam when you go to the store?

More Information

sniff (v) [snɪf] 嗅，聞

cinder (n) [ˈsɪndə] 煤渣

Word Bank Focus

flame (v) [fleɪm] 使...燃燒

The strong wind **flamed** the fire.

flame (n) [fleɪm] 戀人

Helen is an old **flame** of Bob's.

go up in flames (idiom) [ɡoʊ][ʌp][ɪn][fleɪmz] 付之一炬

All of Mary's plans for the future **went up in flames** because she failed her exams.

Usage Tip

*Bear **pulled away** in pain and ran into the forest.*
(p. 34, line 12)

動詞片語 pull away 相當於 move away 或 withdraw，表「離開、撤退」。

- When I tried to wipe Billy's face clean, he pulled away and wouldn't let me.

Your turn