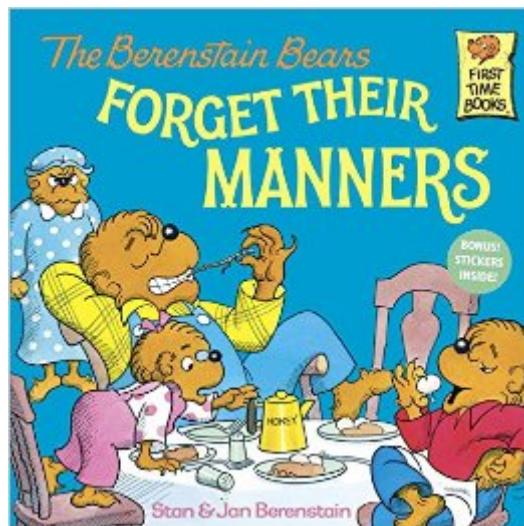


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# The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners



## **Synopsis**

"When Mama Bear's efforts to improve her family's manners are unsuccessful, she devises a Politeness Plan--a chart listing a chore as a penalty for each act of rudeness. Basic etiquette is presented in a practical way. Berenstain illustrations add humor and understanding."--School Library Journal.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 620L (What's this?)

Series: First Time Books(R)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; 7/18/85 edition (August 17, 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394873335

ISBN-13: 978-0394873336

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (117 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,889 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Manners #25 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills #36 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bears

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

The world lost a real gem of a writer when Stan Berenstain passed on November 29. Together, Berenstain and his wife, Jan, and eventually their two sons, created books featuring lovable but flawed characters who tackle just about every real issue that faces families. This book is a great example. Almost all parents are familiar with the difficulty that kids have in learning and practicing good manners, and often have a tough time in teaching kids how to be polite. One of the best things about this book is that it's not just the kids who are the naughty ones, Papa Bear has some rudeness problems, and even Mama Bear succumbs to an issue at one point. It's great for kids to learn that manners are a lifelong skill that will always take a little bit of practice. This book is a wonderful place to start.

My 4-year-old son LOVED The Berenstain Bears' New Baby and it was a big help in preparing for the arrival of his baby sister. So when we were struggling with remembering manners, I bought this book, certain that it would help. However, I ended up disagreeing with the approach to correcting bad or forgotten manners and rude behavior. This book outlined specific chores as punishments for various offenses. As parents, we have learned that allowing children to help around the house with things like sweeping, taking out the garbage, and helping Mommy empty the dishwasher (the plastic stuff!) is very empowering and makes kids feel like they can contribute to the household and they enjoy being part of the "family team" (hopefully this will continue into their teens since we've started them as toddlers!). Also, I learned that I should probably read through any new book by myself at least once before sitting down to read it to my children (parents can learn too!). Just a thought.

The story "The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners" by Stan and Jan Berenstain is a very educating book. There are two specific reasons for why it is educating. It teaches children a lesson and it helps parents. The first reason for why this story is an educating book is because it teaches children a lesson. It teaches them that if you don't follow the rules or do what's polite, there are consequences. In the story brother and sister bear learn to be polite after getting a certain punishment every time they said or did something rude and discourteous. The other reason is that the story helps parents. Parents can not only read this to their children to entertain them but can at the same time get ideas on how to teach their children about remembering their manners and being polite. They can take what they've read from the book and apply it to their own home life. In conclusion, this story is very educational. It should be read to all young children.

I read the Berenstain Bears as a kid and liked them, so I bought a few for my son. However, many of them (including this one) have the same theme: Dad and the kids are doing something wrong. Mom (the only good one) tries to make them change. The kids do great, but Dad's a selfish idiot with no self-control who needs to be constantly corrected by the rest of the family. Why has the meme from sitcoms reached into children's books? It wouldn't be offensive if it wasn't repeated in multiple books with completely different stories (junk food, manners, etc.).

This book was an excellent influence on my child's rude behavior. My son, (being a huge fan of this line of books) has gone from a barnyard animal to a Prince Charles wanna-be. He now thinks twice before belching in public, he asks to excuse himself from the kitchen table, the list goes on and on.

Thank you Jan Berenstain!

I like the way this book showed how bad manners affect our lives negatively and good manners affect our positively and specifically named manners that were good and bad . However, I found Mama's list of chores as punishment for bad manners strange. For one thing, chores at our house are done because they need to be done not a punishment. (Don't kids dread work enough without using it as punishment?) Papa is not a strong, male character in this book. He stays in trouble a lot. I have no problem with showing adult's faults but having Papa reward or punish himself might have been better (though, honestly, how many men or women will really do that, even to be a good example to their children?) Manners are hard to teach in real life so maybe the authors did the best they could with a difficult-to-teach topic. With my daughter, I mainly used this book as a springboard for discussion about differentiating good manners from bad manners and the much larger issue of how we treat other people with our manners.

This book presents a nice format in a positive way to share a decent and strong set of values with young children. We have over 20 Berenstain Bears books in our house. The kids love them as their night time stories and they all hold positive values in them. It is a story with a clear cut moral and ethical issue that a child in grade school can see. Plus our 9 year old can read the stories to our 3 year old. We have read them enough times that she can impart the moral of the story to her younger sister and the language used in the books is not beyond her comprehension level.

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