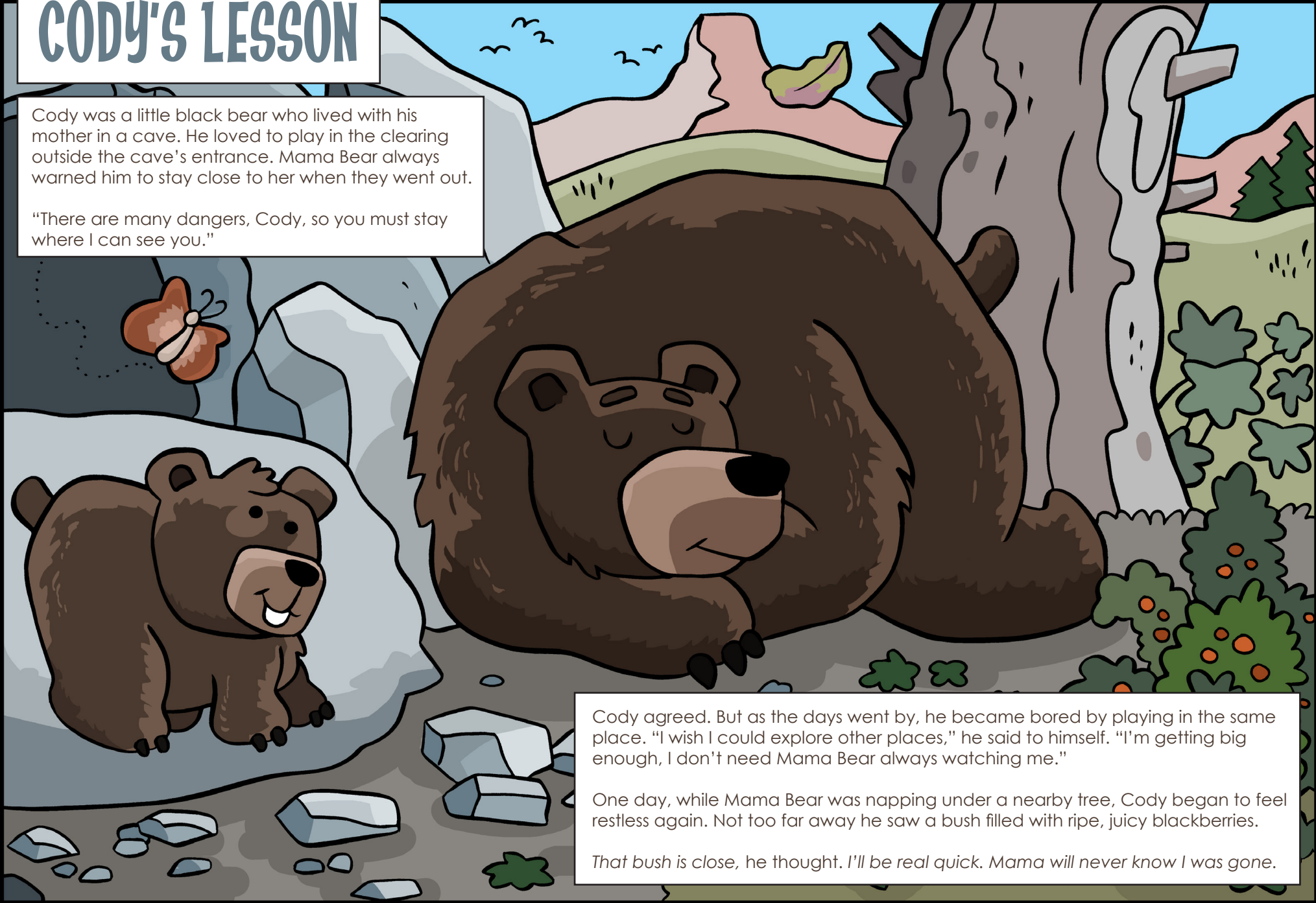


CODY'S LESSON

Cody was a little black bear who lived with his mother in a cave. He loved to play in the clearing outside the cave's entrance. Mama Bear always warned him to stay close to her when they went out.

"There are many dangers, Cody, so you must stay where I can see you."



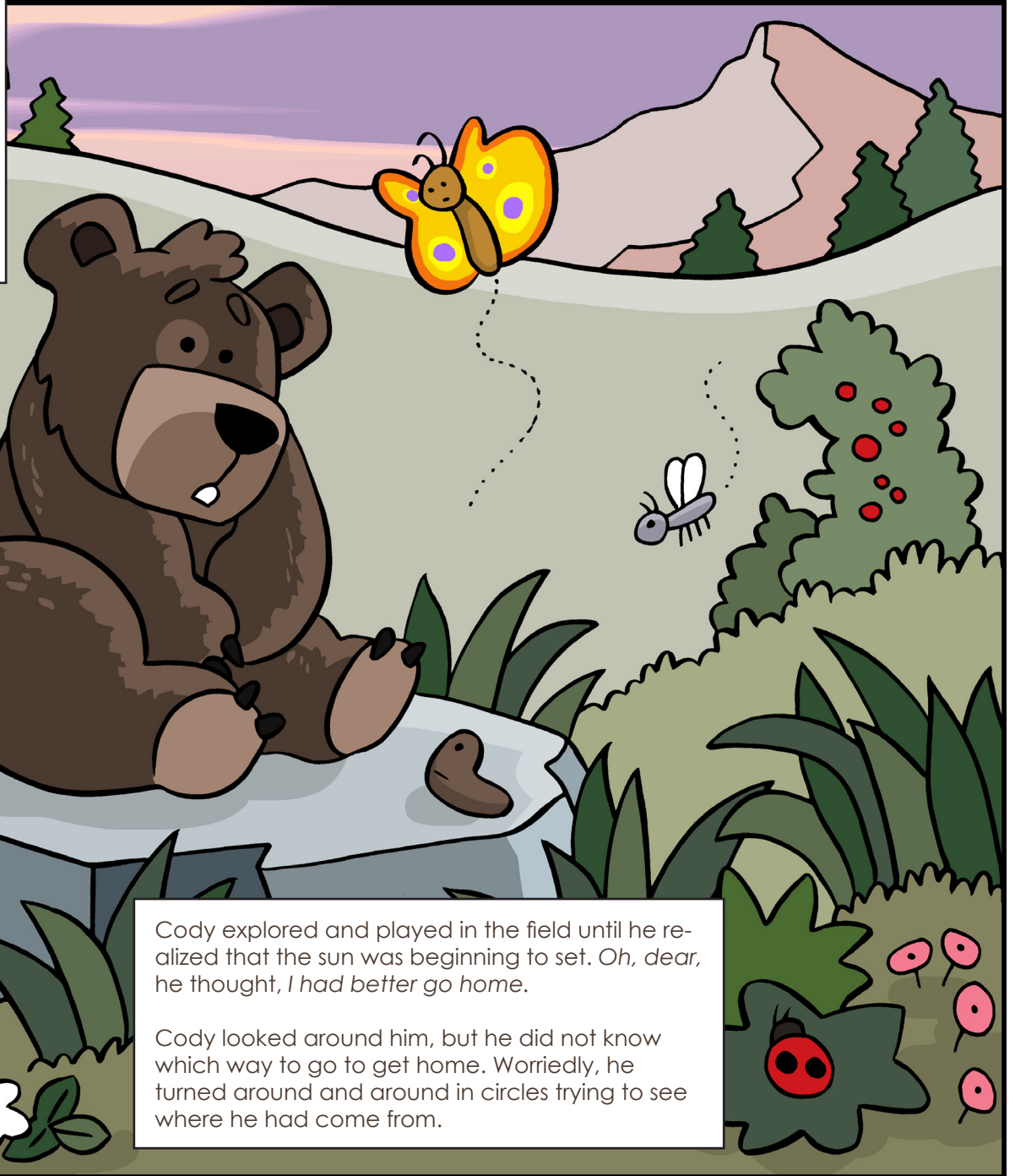
Cody agreed. But as the days went by, he became bored by playing in the same place. "I wish I could explore other places," he said to himself. "I'm getting big enough, I don't need Mama Bear always watching me."

One day, while Mama Bear was napping under a nearby tree, Cody began to feel restless again. Not too far away he saw a bush filled with ripe, juicy blackberries.

That bush is close, he thought. I'll be real quick. Mama will never know I was gone.

While Cody was picking and eating berries, a rabbit ran out from the bush. Cody excitedly chased the rabbit, but he was not fast enough to catch it, and soon the rabbit had hidden in a burrow.

When Cody stopped running, he found himself in a field he had never been in before. The field was filled with tall grass, flowers, butterflies, and many different kinds of bugs. Cody was so excited to find somewhere new to explore that he forgot what his mother had told him about staying close to her.



Cody explored and played in the field until he realized that the sun was beginning to set. *Oh, dear,* he thought, *I had better go home.*

Cody looked around him, but he did not know which way to go to get home. Worriedly, he turned around and around in circles trying to see where he had come from.

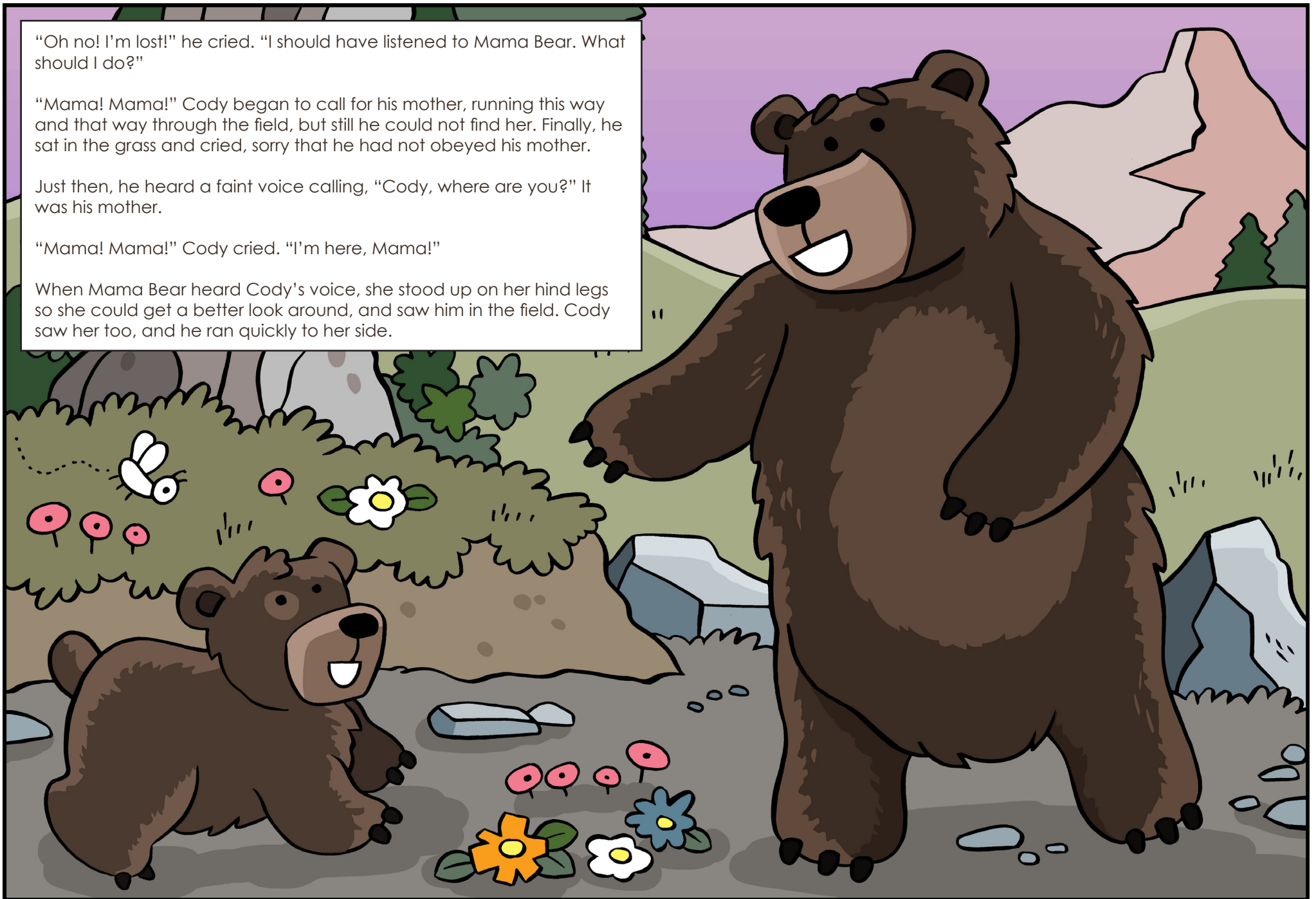
"Oh no! I'm lost!" he cried. "I should have listened to Mama Bear. What should I do?"

"Mama! Mama!" Cody began to call for his mother, running this way and that way through the field, but still he could not find her. Finally, he sat in the grass and cried, sorry that he had not obeyed his mother.

Just then, he heard a faint voice calling, "Cody, where are you?" It was his mother.

"Mama! Mama!" Cody cried. "I'm here, Mama!"

When Mama Bear heard Cody's voice, she stood up on her hind legs so she could get a better look around, and saw him in the field. Cody saw her too, and he ran quickly to her side.



"Cody, I am glad I found you," said Mama Bear. "I have been very worried and looking all over for you. You are very far from home."

"I'm sorry, Mama," Cody said. "I started playing and forgot to stay close."

Mama Bear hugged him close. "Let's go home," she said. "I hope you will remember, Cody, that when I give you instructions, it's for a good reason. It's better to obey!"



"Yes, Mama," Cody said.

Back at the cave, Mama Bear cuddled her cub as he drifted off to sleep, both of them grateful that he was safe once again.