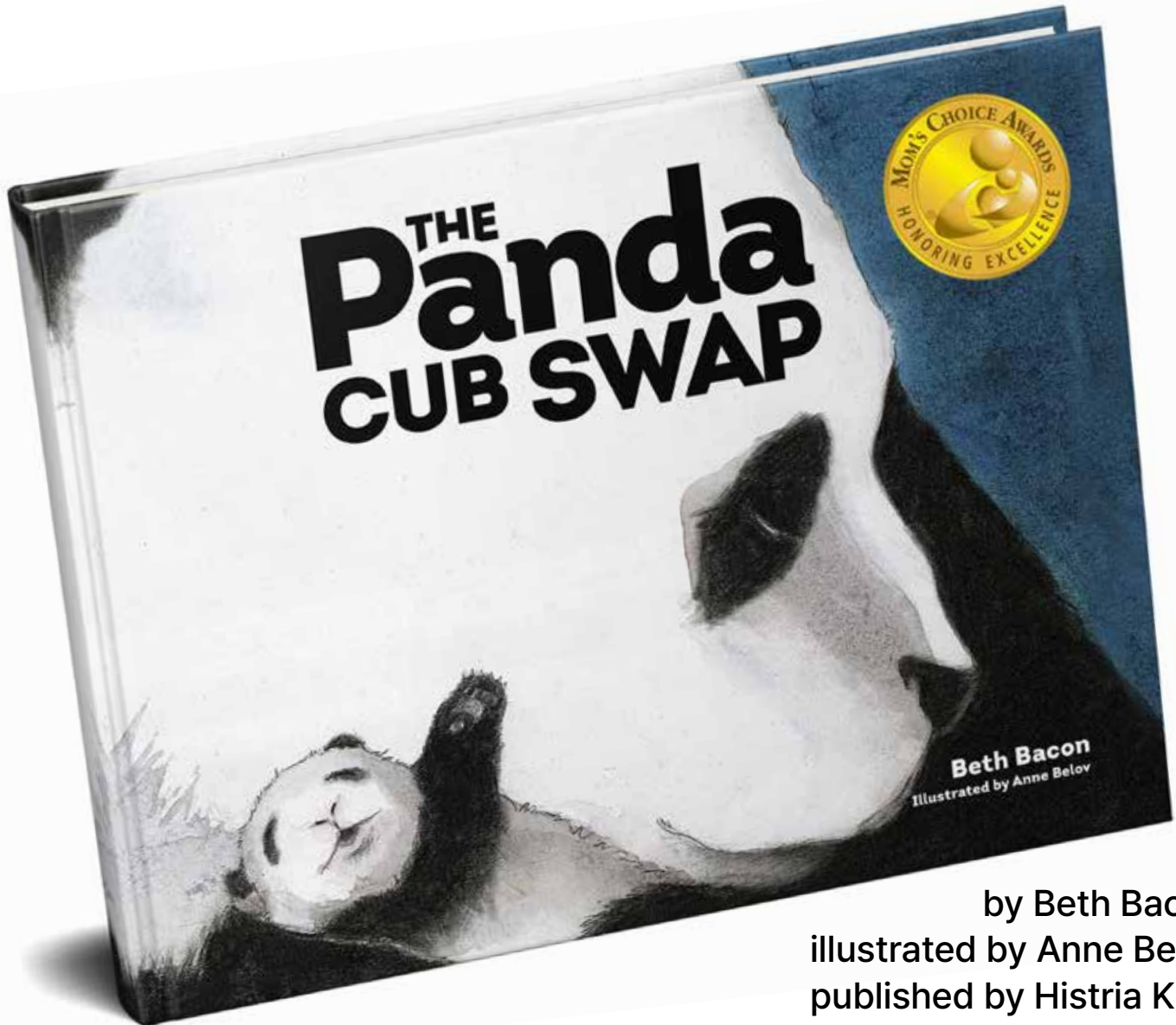


TEACHING GUIDE FOR THE PANDA CUB SWAP



by Beth Bacon
illustrated by Anne Belov
published by Histroria Kids

Includes:

- **Book Discussion Questions**
- **Writing to a Theme**

Book Discussion Questions

First, read the book.

Enjoy the story, the rhythm of the words, and the pictures.

Next, find the repeating phrase.

Read the book a second time, looking for the phrase, “motherhood comes naturally” (or “motherhood came naturally.”

How many times did you find that phrase? What does the phrase mean to you?

Who in this story can be considered a mother?

Can you find examples of natural mothering tasks?

How does technology help with mothering tasks in this story?

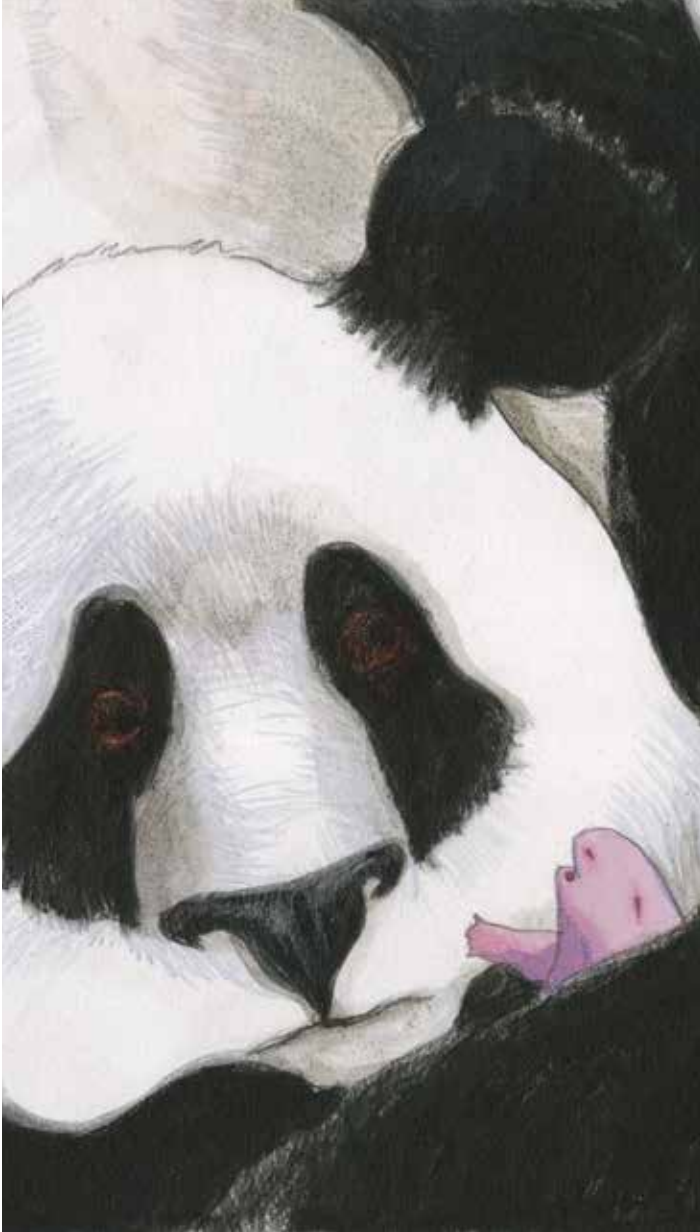
Now, think more about this phrase.

This phrase describes a big idea that can be found in the story, *The Panda Cub Swap*. The idea is that Lun Lun knew how to take good care of her cubs—motherhood was natural for her. A phrase that describes a story’s big idea is called a theme. Motherhood is one theme in this story.



“Motherhood comes naturally.”

Writing to a Theme



Get ready to write!

Now it's your turn to write an animal story.

Think about an animal in your life. This could be a pet, an animal you have seen somewhere, or an animal from a book or other media source.

Brainstorm 3-5 ideas that are true about this animal, but can apply to others as well. Here are some examples:

- If the animal you are thinking about is your pet dog, your theme phrases might be: "Belly rubs make everything better," and "Where there is trust, there is loyalty," and "Even those with good hearts sometimes do bad things."
- If the animals you are thinking about wild geese you saw in the sky flying in formation, your themes might be: "Teamwork makes the dream work," or "Anyone can be a good leader if their followers stay in line," or "Beauty is all around us, you just have to look up."

Choose one of the phrases you've written. Write a short story repeating that phrase in the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story.

After a set time, gather together and share about the writing experience. Which parts were easy? Which parts were difficult?

Learn more about pandas!

Lun Lun and her cubs are real pandas!
Lun Lun still lives at Zoo Atlanta.

Watch the Zoo Atlanta Panda Cam

<https://zooatlanta.org/panda-cam/>

Read the Zoo Atlanta Panda Blog

<https://zooatlanta.org/category/pandas/>



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