

# Black Bear and Little Deer



By Jade

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**Preface:** The main tribe in this story is Cherokee. This story took place in the Great Plains. The Cherokee used to live in the southeastern woodlands around current day Georgia and Florida. Around 1840 the Cherokee people were forced to move west by the U.S. Government on a journey now called the Trail of Tears. Then the Cherokee were forced to live on the Great Plains.

## The Story Begins

One day Black Bear and his sister Little Deer were running across the prairie when Black Bear heard little deer scream in pain. He ran to her side and realized she had been bit by a rattlesnake. Black Bear knew they were far from the village and that Little Deer would not make it that long. But just as Black Bear stood up he realized that another tribe was headed their way. When he got closer he could hear them speaking and realized they were another Cherokee tribe and he was glad that he could communicate with them.

He knew that they were probably moving because they were forced out of their homes by the white men. At first Black Bear was scared because he didn't think the tribe would be friendly to a young boy. But he realized that if he didn't get help right away that his sister would die. So Black Bear stood up carrying Little Deer in both arms and ran toward the tribe.

He asked where the tribes' medicine man was and old woman pointed to a middle aged looking man. Black Bear eminently rushed

toward the man the man realized Black Bear carrying Little Deer and walked over to him. The medicine man realized she was hurt badly and needed help right away so he set his bag down and started looking for something and then told Black Bear that he must leave so that he could heal Little Deer.

Black Bear left and came back an hour later to find Little Deer awake and healthy again. Black Bear insisted on paying the man for saving little basket but the only thing he had was a necklace that his father had given him before his father went to war and was killed. The man refused to take it and Black Bear was kind of glad because that was the only memory he had left of his father.

The medicine man insisted that they rest for the night and continue their journey in the morning. Black Bear and Little Deer lay asleep in the field while the tribe walked off in the moon light. In the morning Black Bear and Little Deer continued their journey home. Their mother was so glad to see them and know that Little Deer was alive. That night Black Bear Told the whole tribe the story and they were amazed that Little Deer was alive. From then on little deer always thought of Black Bear as a hero.