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# Ice Drift

Laura Wadley

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Taylor, Theodore. *Ice Drift*. Harcourt, 2005. ISBN 0152050817. \$16.00. 224 pp.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Adventure stories; Historical fiction;

Subject: Inuit--Juvenile Fiction; Arctic regions--Juvenile Fiction; Survival skills--Juvenile Fiction; Books--Reviews;

In 1868, two Inuit boys are hunting seal on an ice floe attached to the Arctic island where they live when the floe is detached from the land by a drifting iceberg. Alika and his younger brother Sulu must learn to survive blizzards, polar bears, hunger, and the gradual dissolution of the ice on which they live as the floe drifts southward through the Arctic night.

*Ice Drift* as a whole is better than the sum of its parts. The book is so packed with Arctic lore that the storyline is sometimes buried, some transitional elements are almost nonexistent in their abruptness, and some aspects of the boys' lives on the ice floe simply don't make sense (why would seals come up through holes in the ice to breathe when the boys are so near to the open water at the edge of the floe?). However, the whole story is so atmospheric, so cold, so filled with the dangers of Inuit life that it stays in the mind long after one finishes the book. Taylor expertly shifts back and forth from the boys in peril to their parents' anxiety and futile attempts to save them, and one comes to care very much for all the characters in this gripping account.