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The Orphan and the Polar Bear

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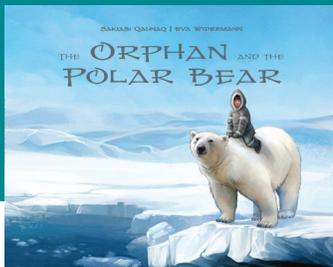
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Book Review

The Orphan and the Polar Bear



Author

Sakiasi Qaunao

Illustrator

Eva Widemann

Reviewer

Maryn Wheeler

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

.....

Pages

29

Year

2011

ISBN

9781772272291

Publisher

Inhabit Media Inc.

A long time ago, an orphan boy was mistreated by the men in his village each time they went hunting. After a while, a watchful polar bear offers to teach him. He takes him back to his camp and trains him to hunt seals with a harpoon. Soon some of the polar bears also mistreat the orphan, but he earns respect when the elder polar bear advises him to stand up for himself. After teaching him all that he can, the polar bear returns the orphan - now changed into a strong man - back to his village.

The Orphan and the Polar Bear is a beautiful Inuit coming-of-age story by Sakiasi Qaunao, a traditional Nunavummiut storyteller. The story reminds us that our experiences can strengthen us, and that we can learn from many sources. The beautiful full-page illustrations are filled with detail, expression, and movement, and support the text in showing a clear place and time in the setting. Qaunao retells this tale to preserve the rich culture for future generations. The foreword explaining the storytelling tradition of the Canadian North and an additional author biography make this book an excellent source for learning about Inuit storytelling.