



2020

The Pencil

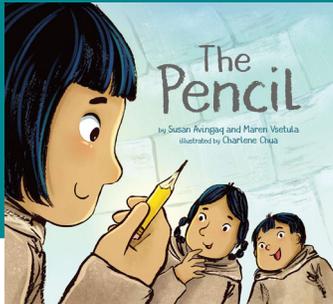
Amanda Morgan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Morgan, Amanda (2020) "The Pencil," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 7, Article 21.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss7/21>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

The Pencil

Author

Susan Avingaq and
Maren Vsetula

Illustrator

Charlene Chua

Reviewer

Amanda Morgan

.....

Rating

Significant Shortcomings

Level

Primary

.....

Pages

33

Year

2018

ISBN

9781772272161

Publisher

Inhabit Media Inc

Susan lives in an iglu with her Anaana, Ataata, sister, and brother. One day when their mother is out, Susan and her siblings get bored. They draw on the ice and play with dolls until they get tired of their old games. Then Ataata suggests they use Anaana's pencil. Excited because they have never used a pencil before, they each carefully take a turn drawing and writing on paper. Every so often Ataata sharpens the pencil with his knife until it is just a stump. Proud of their drawings, the children learn the importance of enjoying and conserving the things they have.

This unique book highlights Inuit culture, providing a much needed view into life in the arctic. However, the storyline is uninteresting and there is hardly any plot. It is unclear whether Anaana is upset that they used the pencil, because she praises their drawings but appears irritated in the illustrations. Additionally, even while suggesting that the children did wrong in using the pencil, the final illustration shows the family hugging, indicating that the act may not have been all bad. The moral might be interpreted as sparing and economic, but it is also confused when the book mentions taking care of belongings. While the book may prove tedious for some children, the attractive illustrations and original content may catch another reader's fancy.