



# Way Back Then

## About the Book

Kudlu's children will not go to sleep until he tells them a story of long ago. Before they will shut their eyes, they want to hear about a time long before Kudlu was born, a time when the world was magic. Before they can sleep, they want to hear about giants, animals disguised as humans, little people the size of lemmings, and all the other wonderful things that existed way back then.

## About the Author

Neil Christopher is an educator, author, and filmmaker. He first moved to the North many years ago to help start a high school program in Resolute Bay, Nunavut. It was those students who first introduced Neil to the mythical inhabitants from Inuit traditional stories. The time spent in Resolute Bay changed the course of Neil's life. Since that first experience in the Arctic, Nunavut has been the only place he has been able to call home. Neil has worked with many community members to record and preserve traditional Inuit stories. Together with his colleague, Louise Flaherty, and his brother, Danny Christopher, Neil started a small publishing company in Nunavut called Inhabit Media Inc., and has since been working to promote Northern stories and authors.

## About the Illustrator

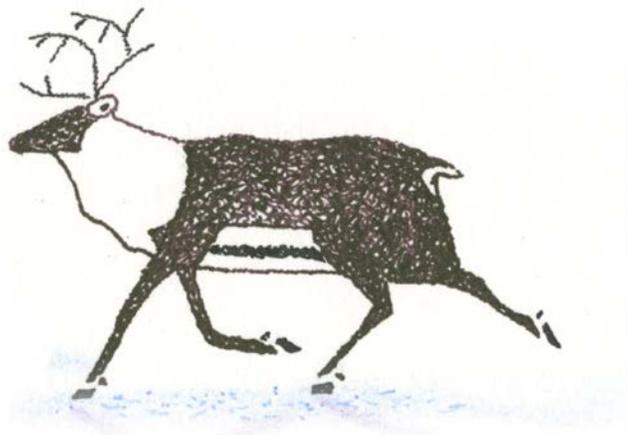
Germaine Arnaktauyok is an Inuit artist and illustrator, best known for her prints and etchings depicting Inuit myths and traditional ways of life. In 1999, she designed the special edition two-dollar coin commemorating the founding of the territory of Nunavut. She is the co-author, with Gyu Oh, of *My Name Is Arnaktauyok: The Life and Art of Germaine Arnaktauyok*. She lives in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

## Note to Educators

This educator's resource is written for Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms. The suggested discussion questions and activities can be adapted for each class according to the experiences of students.

Educators can use this book to teach about topics such as:

- Inuit legends
- Storytelling
- Arctic history
- Arctic animals
- Family relationships and traditions

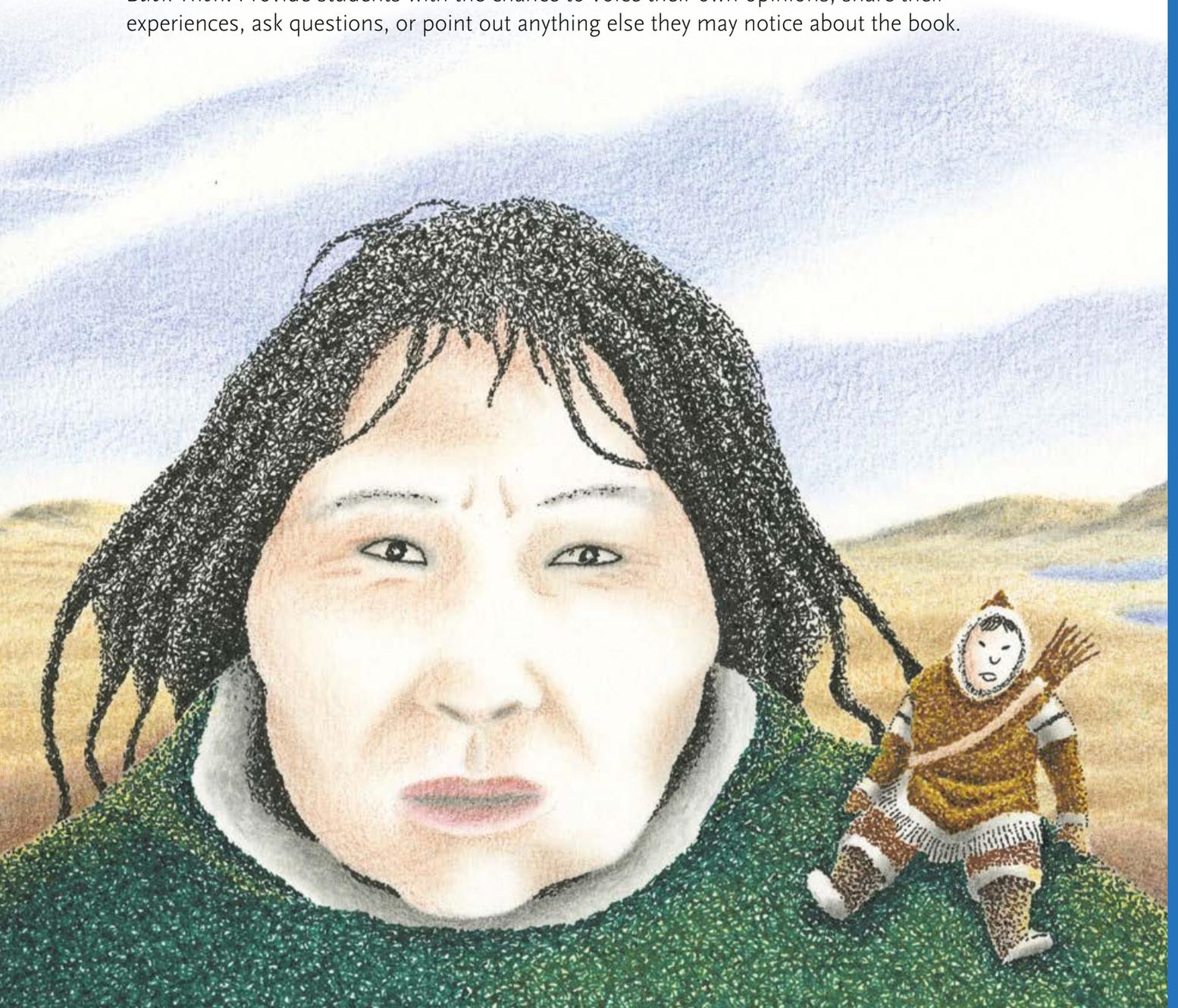


## Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- This story is written in two languages. Can you see that the title and author's and illustrator's names are all written in both English and Inuktitut?
- Who do you think the main characters will be in this story?
- What do you think will happen in this story? When might they be referring to when they say "way back then"?
- Do you have any favourite stories that your family has told you from long ago?
- Read the Inuktitut pronunciation guide. Practise saying each word out loud.

## During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Way Back Then*. Provide students with the chance to voice their own opinions, share their experiences, ask questions, or point out anything else they may notice about the book.



- Page 5: What kinds of stories do you think Kudlu will tell?
- Page 5: Who are the characters that we have met or heard of so far in this story?
- Page 6: How do you think the fox and the raven came to an agreement on having half day and half night?
- Page 9: Do you think the caribou could go back down in the hole? What do you think it would have been like for the caribou to be underground all the time?
- Page 10: Other than flying, what else might the goose miss about being a goose?
- Page 14: Where would you choose to go if your home could fly and land somewhere new?
- Page 17: What else would you like to learn about this legend? How do you think the woman was able to create those sea mammals?
- Page 21: What other things do you think they would be able to do?
- Page 22: Close your eyes and picture a bear as large as an iceberg. What would you think when you first saw it?
- Page 25: Kudlu says he thinks the giants fighting would sound like a thunderstorm. Can you make the sound of what you think it would sound like?
- Page 26: What would it be like on the shoulder of a giant? What would you see? How would it feel?
- Page 30: Why do you think they chose to stay small?
- Of all the legends that Kudlu told his children, which one was your favourite?
- What is one new Inuktitut word that you learned by reading this story?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Why is storytelling important?

## Extension Activities

The following activities could be used to help strengthen students' understanding of the story. Adapt these suggestions to the ability level of your students as necessary.

### Writing Prompts

Choose one of the stories that Kudlu tells his children. Retell the same story from the point of view of one of the story's characters. For example, if you chose the story of the beautiful woman who refused to marry, tell the whole story from the bird spirit's perspective.

### Talking Circle

Sit in a circle on the floor or in chairs. Pass around a talking piece and allow each student to have a turn answering a question about the story. Here are some possible questions:

- What kind of stories do you like to read?
- What is your favourite story to hear before bed?
- If you could be any character in this book, including the characters in each legend, who would you be and why?
- Which illustration did you like the best? What did you like about it?
- Who is the best storyteller you know?

## Music

As a class, or individually, write a song about what you learned from this story. Include words that were used in the book. Create a chorus that summarizes the whole story and repeats after each verse.

## Pamphlet

Create a foldable pamphlet advertising this book. Convince others to read it! Tell your audience only the highlights or a quick summary so you don't give the whole plot away. Use persuasive language and images.

