

The Legend of the FOG

by Qaunaq Mikkigak & Joanne Schwartz
Illustrated by Danny Christopher

EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



The Legend of the Fog

About the Book

In this traditional Inuit story, a simple walk on the tundra becomes a life-or-death journey for a young man. When he comes across a giant who wants to take him home and cook him for dinner, the young man's quick thinking saves him from being devoured by the giant and his family, and in the process, releases the first fog into the world. Written by Cape Dorset Elder Qaunaq Mikkigak and Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award–nominated author Joanne Schwartz, this action-packed picture book brings a centuries-old traditional story to life.

About the Authors

Qaunaq Mikkigak was an Elder, artist, and throat singer from Cape Dorset, Nunavut. She was born in 1932 in the Cape Dorset area and grew up on the land in a traditional Inuit community. She was featured in the books *Inuit Women Artists: Voices from Cape Dorset* and *Cape Dorset Sculpture*. She collaborated with author Joanne Schwartz on picture book versions of two traditional Inuit stories, *The Legend of the Fog* and *Grandmother Ptarmigan*.

Joanne Schwartz's first picture book, *Our Corner Grocery Store*, was a Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award finalist. Joanne had the honour to collaborate with Inuit Elder Qaunaq Mikkigak on two picture book versions of traditional Inuit stories, *The Legend of the Fog* and *Grandmother Ptarmigan*. Her recent picture book *Town Is by the Sea*, illustrated by Sydney Smith, was a Governor General's Literary Award nominee and won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award. Joanne has been a children's librarian for more than thirty years. She lives in Toronto.

About the Illustrator

Danny Christopher has travelled throughout the Canadian Arctic as an instructor for Nunavut Arctic College. He is the illustrator of *The Legend of the Fog*, *A Children's Guide to Arctic Birds*, and *Animals Illustrated: Polar Bear*, and author of *Putuguq @ Kublu*. His work on *The Legend of the Fog* was nominated for the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award. He lives in Toronto with his wife, four children, and a puppy.

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.

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

- Legends, stories, myths, and folklore
- Oral storytelling
- Meaning of names
- Arctic landscapes and weather

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- What is fog?
- Do you know any legends of where fog comes from? Do you know any legends of where any other type of weather comes from?
- What type of story do you think this will be? (For example, happy, sad, scary, funny.)
- What does the cover illustration make you think of?

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *The Legend of the Fog*. 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 2: Why do you think Quanguaviniq needs to pretend to be frozen?
- Page 4: Close your eyes and listen to the description and imagery on this page again. What do you hear? What do you feel? What can you smell?
- Page 6: Do you think his plan will work?
- Page 8: How do you think Quanguaviniq is feeling at this point? What might he do next to stay safe?
- Page 12: What do you think will happen next?
- Page 18: Do you think Quanguaviniq will get away from the *tuurngaq*?
- Page 22: Do you think this story is going to have a happy ending for Quanguaviniq?
- Page 26: We still do not know where the fog comes into play in this story. What might happen that could incorporate fog?
- How do you think Quanguaviniq changed after this experience?
- What was your favourite part of this story? Did you like the story? Why or why not?
- Did this story remind you of anything? How did it make you feel?
- How else might you trick a *tuurngaq* if they were chasing you?



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/Drawing/Acting: Create a Monster

The afterword explains that there are many different versions of this story and that the monster could be a wide variety of things. Create your own version of this story using a monster that you create. Draw a picture of the monster. Write about its characteristics. Act out what would have happened to Quanguaviniq if your monster were in the story instead of the tuurngaq.

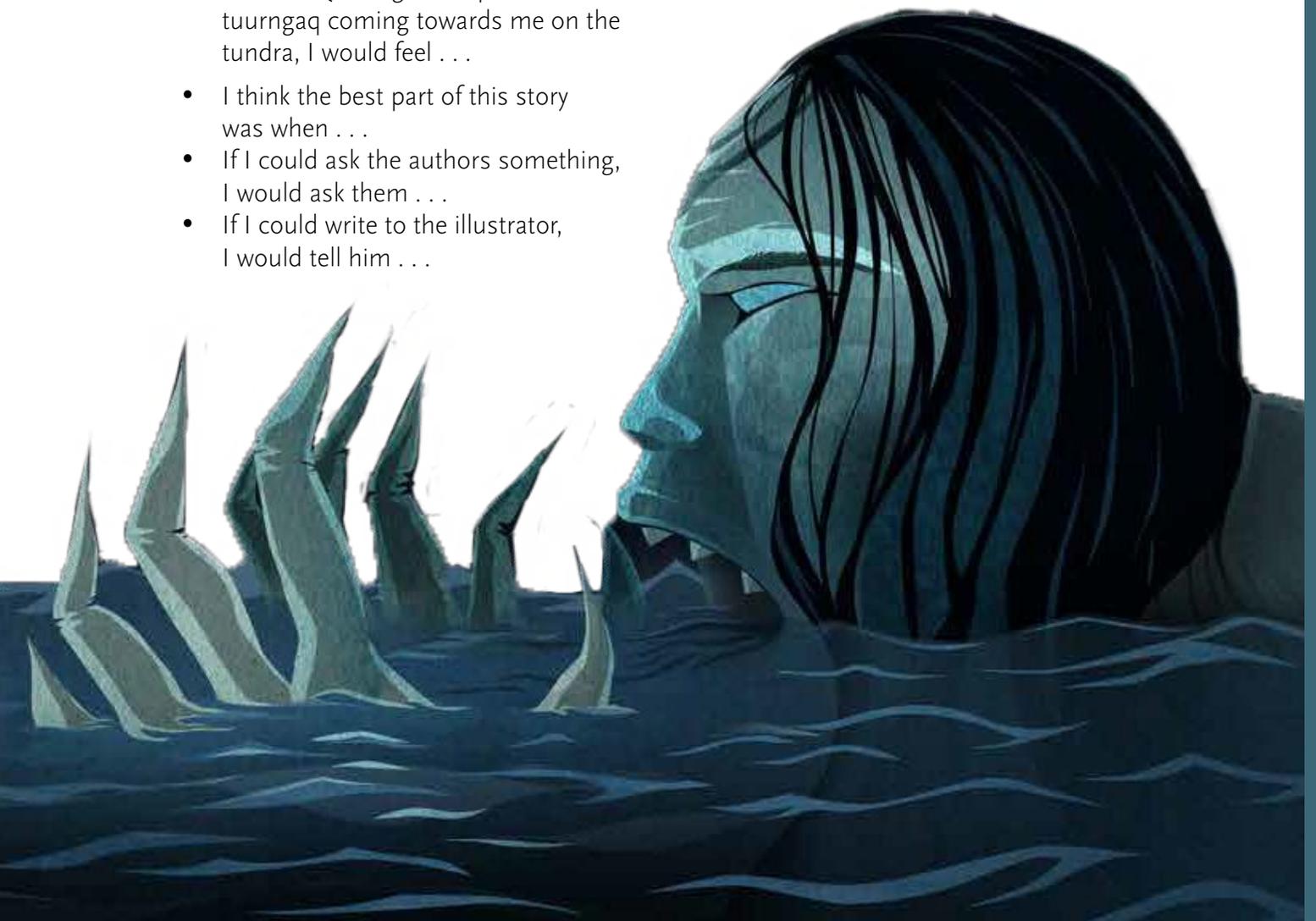
Science: Weather

This legend tells of how fog came to be. List as many words as you can think of about weather or temperatures.

Journal Writing

Complete any of the following prompts:

- If I were Quanguaviniq and I saw the tuurngaq coming towards me on the tundra, I would feel . . .
- I think the best part of this story was when . . .
- If I could ask the authors something, I would ask them . . .
- If I could write to the illustrator, I would tell him . . .



Literacy: Classroom Library Sort

Get out all (or many) of the books in your classroom library. Think of different ways you can sort them. Consider different genres or themes.

- Sort books into fiction and non-fiction
- Find all the books that are legends, myths, and folklore
- Sort books into academic subject areas: math, science, art, health, and so on
- Sort books by reading level
- Create your own sorting rule and have your classmates work together to sort all the books following your rule

