



Lesson for the Wolf

by Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley
illustrated by Alan Cook

EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



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About the Book

A wolf does not have an easy time fitting in with his brothers and sisters. He does not like the things that other wolves like. The wolf admires and envies other animals. He gets so carried away in trying to be beautiful like the other creatures that he forgets how to be himself! With his family's help, the wolf learns an important lesson about admiring beauty.

About the Authors

Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley was born at the northernmost edge of Baffin Island, in Canada's Arctic. She grew up learning traditional survival lore from her father. Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley was born at the southernmost edge of Ontario. He grew up learning traditional woodcraft. They were brought together by a love of nature and each other. Together, they write Arctic fantasy.

About the Illustrator

Alan Cook is an illustrator and visual developer. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

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
- Confidence and individuality
- Beauty
- The importance of all living creatures
- Fitting in
- Friendship, family, and supporting others
- Arctic animals and landscapes

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- It seems like the wolf is going to learn an important lesson in this book. What do you think it might be?
- What important lessons have you learned lately?
- Does the cover or title remind you of anything?
- What do you already know about wolves before reading this book?
- What words would you use to describe a wolf?

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Lesson for the Wolf*. 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 1: This story starts with a few questions. It is a unique way to start a story that really grabs the reader's attention. Close your eyes and listen to the description again. What things do you see? Hear? Feel?
- Page 2: Why do you think this wolf is so different from his brothers and sisters? What do you think he does like to do, since he doesn't like doing the things wolves typically do?
- Page 2: Do you like to do the same things or different things than your siblings?
- Page 4: What would you say to the wolf to help make him feel better?
- Page 4: What do you think the wolf's wild ideas are? What is going to happen next?
- Page 5: Did you know that caribou shed their antlers? Did you know that wolverines have a bad smell?
- Page 6: The illustrator showed the aurora borealis in the background of this page. What things do you know about the aurora borealis?
- Page 7: Do you think the wolf is going to stay happy with his new form? Why or why not?
- Page 8: The wolf's siblings were not being very kind at first. They laughed at him. Then, their feelings changed and they felt sorry for their brother. Why is it important to have empathy for others and to always show kindness?
- Page 9: If you could speak with the wolf now, what advice might you give him?
- What do you think the mother meant when she said, "But you cannot admire beauty by becoming it"?
- Why did the wolves all come together to howl? Why were they not laughing at their brother anymore? What do you think happened?
- By the end of the story, the wolf loves himself for who he is! How did the others help him see this?
- Did you like this story? Why or why not?
- What was the lesson that the wolf learned?



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.

Nature Walk

This story is about finding beauty in everything. Go on a walk with your class around the school property. Find as many beautiful things as you can in nature. Think of adjectives (describing words) that you could use for everything you find.

Collage: Beautiful Me!

Wolf learns to love being a wolf. It is important for everyone to be their own person and not try to be like others. The world is beautiful because everyone is different. Make a collage using words, pictures, drawings, magazine cutouts, or anything else you might have. Celebrate yourself. Add photos and words of things that you love and things that make you who you are! Present your collage to your peers.



Writing Prompt

Use any number of the following writing prompts:

- “I feel sad when . . .”
- “I feel embarrassed when . . .”
- “I feel proud when . . .”
- “I feel happy when . . .”
- “I feel frustrated when . . .”

Imagery

- Go through the story a second time and focus on descriptions of nature. Write down all the words that the authors use to describe the land, the sky, and the animals.
- Think of a special place. Create your own description using strong words and imagery. You could write down your thoughts or say them out loud to a partner.

Math: Graphic Likes and Dislikes

- Create a list of things you like or dislike (for example, pizza, basketball, fishing, homework, sewing).
- Survey your classmates. Ask them whether they like or dislike each item. Keep a tally for each one.
- Use your findings to create graphs, showing which class members like or dislike each item.

