



EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



THE QALOPALIK

Story by: Elisha Kilabuk

Illustrated by: Joy Ang

The Qalupalik

About the Book

Qalupaliit are strange creatures that live under the ice. Children need to stay away from the icy water so a *qalupalik* does not put them in their *amauti* and take them away into the ocean! This story tells of a wise orphan who knows just how to trick a qalupalik.

About the Author

Elisha Kilabuk, the youngest of fourteen siblings, was born and raised in Iqaluit. He learned traditional stories from his mother, Muckpaloo. Muckpaloo had a great memory for stories, which she learned from her father who lived on the east coast of Hudson Bay. Elisha is a celebrated cultural performer and storyteller.

About the Illustrator

Joy Ang is an illustrator living in Edmonton who has worked in the comic and gaming industry. Recently she has been creating art for children's books as well as self-publishing a comic anthology called *The Anthology Project*. When she's not creating art, she's either enjoying board games with friends, reading a graphic novel, or figuring out what her next project might be.

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, folk tales, stories, and myths
- Qalupaliit
- The importance of oral storytelling
- Bravery and creativity
- The importance of following rules
- Ice safety

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- Read the dedication from the author. If you publish a story someday, to whom will it be dedicated? What will you say to them?
- What adjectives would you use to describe the qalupalik on the cover?
- Do you think the children in the background of the illustration know that the qalupalik is nearby?
- What would you do if you saw a qalupalik near the water?

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *The Qalupalik*. 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 6: There is extra information on each page with a label and a diagram. Why do the author and illustrator add these details for the reader?
- Page 6: Can you try to make the sound of the underwater air bubbles?
- Page 8: What animal would you say the name of if you caught a qalupalik?
- Page 10: So far the qalupaliiit seem quite scary! Now we are learning that they are not very smart. How do you think you could trick a qalupalik?
- Page 14: Your parents and guardians give you rules because it is their job to keep you safe. These children did not listen and made a very dangerous choice to go near the water and ice. What are some of the rules you have at home to help keep you safe?
- Page 18: How do you think the boy feels at this point in the story?
- Page 24: What other animals do you know of that have webbed feet?
- Page 26: Do you think the orphan is going to get away from the qalupalik?
- What rules do we need to follow when we go near water of any kind? How can we all be safe near water and ice?
- What did this story remind you of?
- Did you like this story?
- Why do you think Elisha Kilabuk wrote this story?
- What other questions do you still have about qalupaliiit?



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 own students as necessary.

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 would you do if you saw a qalupalik?
- How did this story make you feel?
- How can you help pass on ice safety lessons to younger children?
- Why is it important to always listen to your parents or guardians?
- The orphan was very silly and tricked the qalupalik by saying his toes were going to eat it! How would you trick the qalupalik?
- If you could ask the author one question, what would you ask him?

Safety Posters

Use pictures and words to create a poster that shows a safety tip about being near ice. Put these posters around your school to remind your peers about ice safety.

Painting

Qalupaliit live in the water. What other creatures and animals do you know that live in the water? Paint a mural of all the underwater animals that you can think of. Use crayons to draw the animals. When you're done drawing the animals, use blue watercolour paint to paint directly over all of your drawings. The oils in the crayons and the watercolour paint will resist each other, leaving a beautiful watery texture that looks like bubbles!

Writing

Write an acrostic poem about a qalupalik. Use words from the story and words that you think of yourself to complete all nine letters.

Example:

Quick to take children
A
Lurking near the water
U
P
A
L
Icy areas are not safe
K