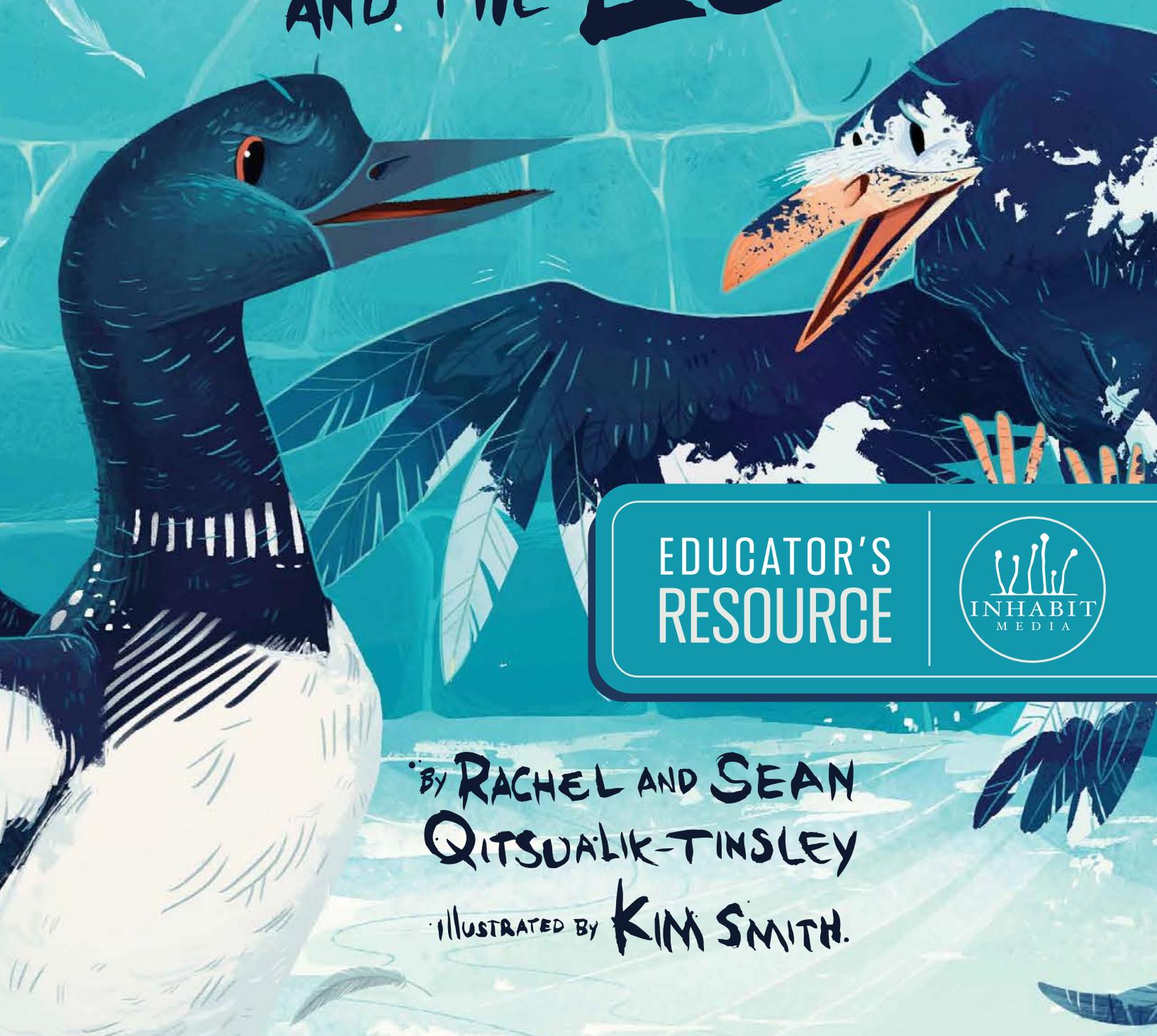


THE RAVEN AND THE LOON.



EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



BY RACHEL AND SEAN
QITSUALIK-TINSLEY
ILLUSTRATED BY KIM SMITH.

The Raven and the Loon

About the Book

Raven does not like being bored! He offers to keep Loon company as she sews, but things quickly escalate as Raven tries to find something fun to do. *The Raven and the Loon* teaches readers about the legend of two birds and how they got their dark colouring.

About the Authors

Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley write works celebrating ancient Arctic beliefs, focusing on imagination, lore, and shamanism. Of Inuit ancestry, Rachel balances personal shamanic experience with post-secondary education. For writing, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Sean was born at the southernmost edge of Ontario and grew up learning traditional woodcraft. Rachel and Sean have spent decades as Arctic researchers, consultants, and cowriters. Their young adult novel *Skraelings* won second prize in the Governor General's Literary Awards in 2014.

About the Illustrator

Kim Smith has worked in magazines, advertising, animation, and children's gaming. She studied illustration at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary, Alberta, where she currently resides.

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, myths, stories, folklore, and other oral traditions
- Storytelling
- Arctic birds
- Patience

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- Show students the cover of the book.
- What do you think the problem is going to be in this story?
- What do you think the setting of this story will be?
- Do you think Raven and Loon are good friends? Why or why not?
- Have you seen a raven or a loon before? What do you know about these types of birds?

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *The Raven and the Loon*. 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: Raven and Loon are both white! On the cover we can see that they are both black. Let's make predictions about how their colour changes during the story.
- Page 2: Raven is feeling bored. What are some things that you do when you feel bored?
- Page 3: Why do you think other animals have a hard time liking Raven?
- Page 3: Loon is patient with Raven, even though the story tells us that nobody really likes him. Why is it important to be patient and kind to others even when we don't always want to be?
- Page 4: Raven is not being very polite when he says he could do better than Loon! What is something nicer that Raven could have said instead?
- Page 5: Were any of our predictions correct about how Raven and Loon became black birds?
- Page 9: Raven is having a hard time sitting still while Loon paints his feathered coat. When do you have a hard time sitting still?
- Page 10: How do you think Loon is feeling right now? How do you think Raven is feeling?
- Do you think Raven and Loon will ever be friends again?
- Did you like this story? Why or why not?
- Let's think of a different ending for the story. How could this story end in a happier way?
- Tell us about a part of the story that you liked or disliked.
- How did it make you feel when Loon and Raven threw the lamp at each other?



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.

Art: Painting Loon and Raven

Provide students with a simple blank drawing of a loon and a raven, or have students draw one of the birds on their own or through a directed drawing lesson.

Use only a black crayon, coloured pencil, or marker to create a beautiful pattern for both Loon and Raven on their feathers.

Writing Prompts

Use any of the following writing prompts to strengthen students' connections to the story. Differentiate the prompts depending on students' reading and writing abilities.

- Retell the story from either Loon or Raven's perspective. How does this change the tone of the story?
- Complete the sentence, "When I am bored, I like to..."
- Raven and Loon are both beautiful artists! What is your favourite kind of art to create? (For example, painting, sculpting, drawing, woodworking, carving, sewing.) Write at least five tips or instructions for someone who would like to try your favourite kind of art.
- Rewrite the ending of *The Raven and the Loon*. Begin writing at the part in the story where Raven and Loon are going to paint their coats.

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 contributing. Here are some possible discussion points:

- Tell us about a time that you had to use patience.
- Which of the two characters in this story did you like the best? Why?
- If you could fly like a bird, where would you like to go?

Poetry

Write two haiku poems. Make one haiku about Raven and one about Loon. Look through the story for words to describe each character and use some of those words in your poem. Read your two poems out loud to your class.

