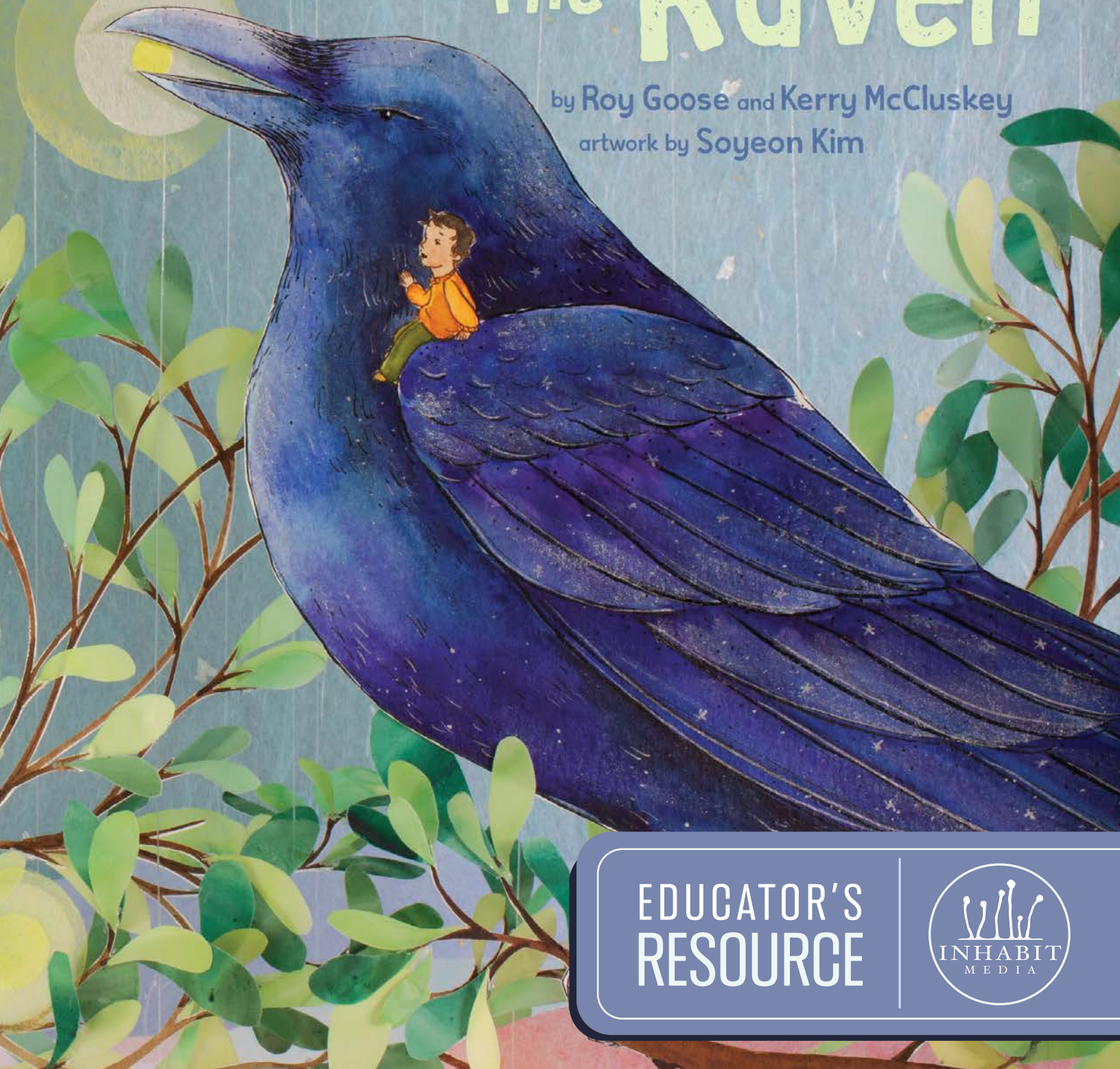


Sukaq and the Raven

by Roy Goose and Kerry McCluskey
artwork by Soyeon Kim



EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



Sukaq and the Raven

About the Book

Sukaq's wonderful imagination always allows him to have fantastic journeys as he falls asleep! In this story, Sukaq is listening to his anaana tell how a raven formed the world. Sukaq rides on the raven's wings as he witnesses the adventure himself.

About the Authors

Roy Goose learned many of the legends he knows from his great-grandmother, Naimee Mammayuk, who left Alaska and came to Canada around 1910 with the Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Roy passed these legends on to his children to teach them important life lessons and morals.

Kerry McCluskey lived in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, for five years before moving to Iqaluit, Nunavut, in 1998 to work as a journalist. Nearly twenty years later, Kerry continues to write and has built a wonderful home in Iqaluit with her son, River Talittuq Sukaq Gordon McCluskey. Her son features prominently in many of the stories she tells.

About the Illustrator

Soyeon Kim is a Toronto-based, Korean-born artist and art educator who specializes in work that merges fine sketching and painting techniques to produce three-dimensional dioramas. Her previous children's books include *Wild Ideas*, *Is This Panama?*, and *You Are Stardust*, for which she won the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award.

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
- Creativity and imagination
- Nature (animals, humans, the sun, the moon)

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- Do you think this story is fiction or non-fiction? Why?
- Tell me what you know about ravens.
- What would you like to learn about ravens?
- What do you think is going to happen in this story?
- Can you point to the title? Authors' names? Illustrator's name? Illustration?

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Sukaq and the Raven*. 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: Let's find Apex on our map of Canada.
- Page 2: The illustrator made lots of beautiful, bright-coloured houses and buildings on this page. Which one do you like the best?



- Page 4: Do you have a favourite bedtime story?
- Page 7: Can you close your eyes and imagine being on the back of a raven? What would it feel like?
- Page 13: How do you think Sukaq and the raven will find light to see?
- Page 17: Sukaq is a little bit afraid of the dark. What things are you afraid of? What do you do to feel brave when you are scared?
- Do you often remember your dreams? What is one of the best dreams you've ever had?
- Talk about a part of the story that you liked or didn't like.
- Why do you think the author wanted to write this story?
- Did this book remind you of any other stories you know or books you've read?
- Read the write-ups about the two authors and the illustrator. If you could ask them each one question, what would you like to ask them?

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.

Parka Designs

Raven turned into a man in a beautiful parka. Draw a parka and colour it with beautiful designs and patterns.

Drama

In small groups, act out the story. Choose characters and have a narrator. Determine the most important parts. Create costumes. Present your play to the class.

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.

- Describe each of the characters in the story using descriptive words.
- Retell the story in your own words, using the same setting, characters, and basic plot.
- Write down five questions you would ask Sukaq or the raven if you could meet them.
- Write a different ending for the story.



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 animal do you think would be the most fun to join for a day?
- This legend tells how the sun, moon, and humans were created. Have you heard any other legends about the world's creation?
- What is one word you would use to describe this story?
- How did this story make you feel?

Sukaq's Dreams

Create a comic strip about Sukaq. Imagine he goes on a different adventure. What else would he dream about? Draw pictures and use speech bubbles to tell a possible story of another one of Sukaq's dreams.

