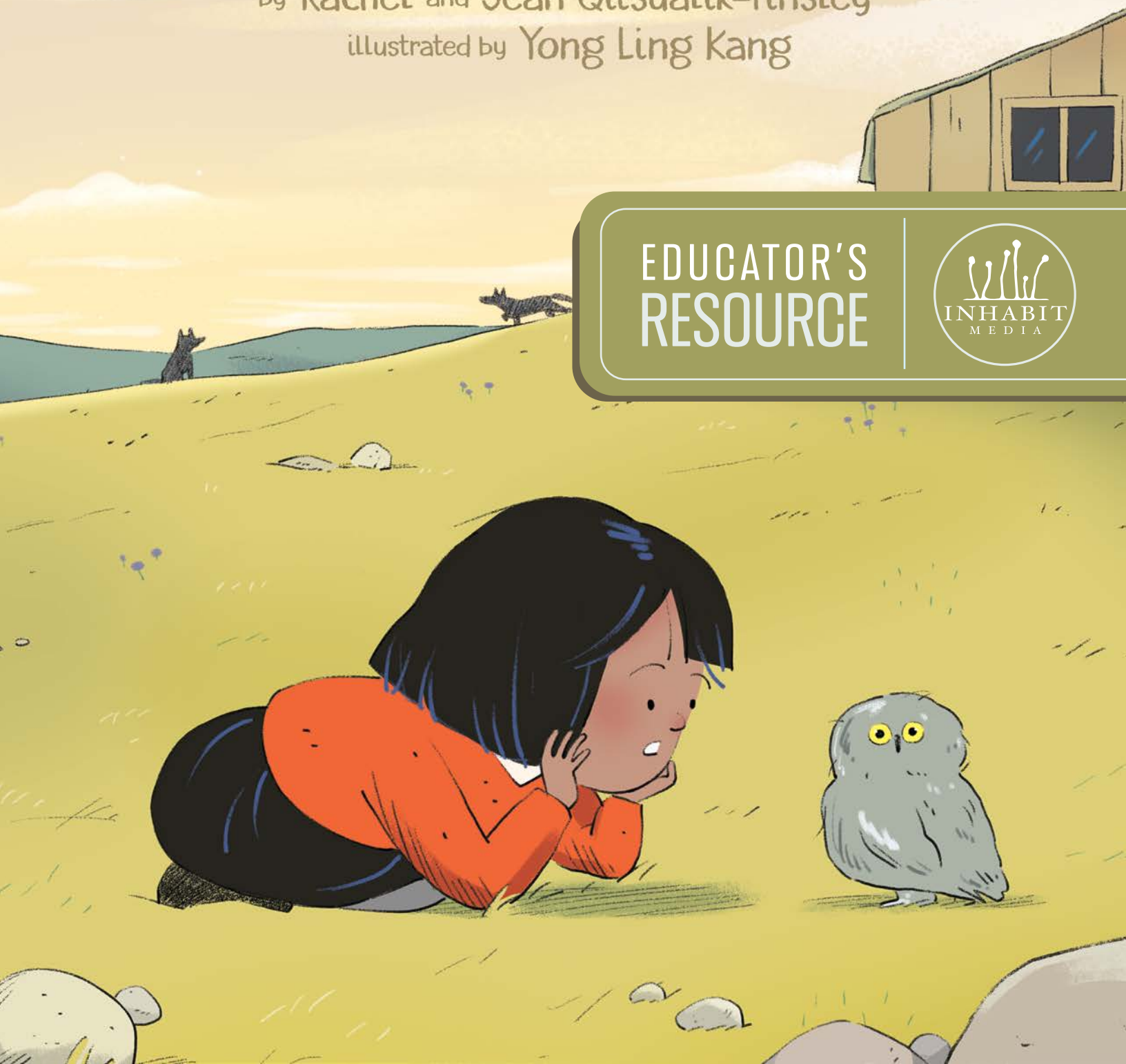


# Tanna's Owl

by Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley

illustrated by Yong Ling Kang

EDUCATOR'S  
RESOURCE



# Tanna's Owl

## About the Book

Tanna's father brings her an owl to take care of. She sees the owl as creepy, demanding, and ugly! Tanna learns just how much work it is to take care of this baby owl as she gets up early, finds food for it, and tries to make it happy. Perhaps Tanna will learn something about beauty after all of her hard work.

## 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

Yong Ling-Kang is an illustrator and avid comic book reader. She is inspired by simple, day-to-day experiences and her nostalgia for childhood. She suspects that her fondness for drawing may have been caused by watching too many cartoons. Yong Ling was raised in tropical Singapore, and as a result, she enjoys slow water sports and spicy food. She currently lives and works in Toronto where she enjoys reading comics and taking long walks in green spaces.

## 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:

- Arctic birds
- Responsibility
- Finding beauty in nature
- The importance of animals

## Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- Look at the cover illustration. How do you think Tanna feels about her owl? Why do you think that?
- What do you think this story is going to be about?
- Would you like to have an owl? Why or why not?
- Read the greeting from Rachel. What other magical animals can you think of that bring together land, sea, or sky?

## During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Tanna's Owl*. 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 5: Why do you think Tanna's father brought her back an owl? How would you feel if you were given an owl to take care of?
- Page 9: What is the earliest that you have had to wake up? Why did you need to get up so early? How do you feel when you're tired and don't get enough sleep?
- Page 13: How do you think Tanna is feeling at this point in the story? How do you think Ukpik is feeling?
- Page 15: Do you think owls and other animals have thoughts like humans do? What would they think about?
- Page 17: Did you already know that owls' heads turn around like that?
- Page 21: Ukpik is trying many new kinds of foods. Have you tried any new foods recently that you really love?
- Page 23: If you could fly, where would you like to go?
- Page 27: What do you think is going to happen next? How might the story end?
- What lessons did Tanna learn from having to take care of Ukpik?
- Do you think it was really Ukpik at the end of the story?
- What do you think Tanna means at the end of the story when she says, "beauty is worth some work"?
- What did you learn from reading this book?
- Which character did you like best? Why?



## 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.

### Writing Prompts

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.

- Make a list of words that describe an owl. They can be words used in this story, or other words that you think of on your own.
- Draw a picture of your perfect pet. Label the picture. Write three sentences about what your pet would be like.
- How did Tanna's feelings towards Ukpik change throughout the story? Write a list of emotions and feelings that Tanna shows.
- Write about your favourite part of the story.
- Make a chart with three headings: Land, Sea, and Sky. List as many animals as you can think of that live in each area.

### Verb Alphabet

- A verb is an action word. Many verbs are used in *Tanna's Owl* to describe what Ukpik is doing (for example, sway, chomp, stomp). On a piece of paper, write each letter of the alphabet on a separate line. Individually, with a partner, or as a whole class, try to think of a verb for each letter of the alphabet (for example, a - add, b - bounce, c - crawl, d - dance).
- Use this list throughout the week and challenge yourself to use each of these verbs in your writing!

### 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:

- Ukpik's name means "owl" in Inuktitut. Does your name have meaning? Do you know why you were given your name?
- If you could have any pet, what would you like to have?
- What would you name a pet owl?
- What was your favourite part of this story?
- What responsibilities do you have at home?





## Dear Diary

Choose a character from the story (Tanna, Ukpik, Tanna's father, or one of Tanna's siblings). Pretend you are that character. From their point of view, write three diary entries:

- The first diary entry should be about before Ukpik joined Tanna's family.
- The second diary entry should be about while Tanna was caring for Ukpik.
- The third entry should be about what they felt or thought after Ukpik left.

## Responsibility Chart

- Think of all the chores that need to be done around your house (laundry, dishes, making the bed, sweeping, and so on).
- Using pictures and words, create a chart of responsibilities for everyone who lives in your home!

