

Year Group: Years 1-2

Length: 29 mins

Starting Positions: Sitting down in your own space

Learning Intentions:

To understand...

- How people in the Arctic live, including how they hunt and what they eat
- The visible effects of Global Warming on Inuit communities specifically and the polar ice caps more widely

Synopsis:

- Your name is Cub and you're fishing on the ice in Greenland, your home. You catch a fish and receive praise from your father.
- Suddenly, a bell tolls, signifying the end of winter and the start of the hunting season. But something's not right – surely it's too early in the year for the ice to melt...?
- Arriving home, you present your catch to your mum, and meet your older brother Gedion who is always mean to you. He mocks your fish.
- You sit down to dinner – seal soup again! Life in the Arctic is very hard and food is not plentiful.
- You're upset and angry because you're not allowed go on the hunt, and instead must feed the dogs.
- You decide you're going anyway and hide under the reindeer skins on the sled along with Arluk, your favourite pet husky dog.
- Your father only laughs when you're finally discovered, and teaches you how to build an igloo. Gedion is incensed.
- The hunt is for mussels, and you're definitely not allowed to follow father and Gedion down into the ice caves for this one, so you stay above the ice, and kick it in frustration.
- Suddenly, the ice cracks and shifts dangerously. Father and Gedion are trapped below and they shout for help!
- You grab the sled and head towards the fishing village in the East. You summon the villagers by ringing the bell, and they help you rescue your father and Gedion.
- You're treated to a feast and hailed as a hero. The village leader, Amka, changes your name to Atanarjuat, The Fast One.

Characters

- **Papa** – Strong Inuit hunter
- **Mama** – Inuit mother to you and Gedion
- **Gedion** – your older brother
- **Amka** – a wise and knowledgeable Inuit hunter and leader of the village
- **Arluk** – your husky dog

Locations:

- **Greenland**
- **Inuit Village**

Glossary:

- **Inuit** - a member of an indigenous people of northern Canada and parts of Greenland and Alaska.
- **Remote** - (of a place) situated far from the main centres of population; distant.
- **Igloo** - a type of dome-shaped shelter built from blocks of solid snow, traditionally used by Inuits.
- **Mussels** – a type of seafood, like a small clam, with a brown or purplish-black shell.

Discussion:

Story & Factual

- What part of the world did we live in?
- What food did mum prepare, and why were we not that happy to eat it?
- What is an igloo? Describe how we built the igloo with father.
- What are your brother and father searching for in the ice caves? Why are you not allowed go into the ice caves with them?
- What happens when you kick the ice in frustration? What was the real reason for the ice cracking and moving?
- How did you rescue father and Gedion?
- What was the Inuit name for ice-cream? (**Akutaq**)
- What was the new name given to you by the village leader? (**Atanarjuat, 'The Fast One'**)

PSHE & Philosophical

- Would you like to live in the Arctic? Why / why not?
- The ice in the Arctic is melting faster each year, and the winter months are becoming shorter and shorter. Why do you think that is?
- Why do you think your older brother Gedion was mean to you at the beginning of the story? How did you feel when he made fun of the fish you caught?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters who you fight with at home? Why do we fight with people we love sometimes?
- How did you feel when you realised father and Gedion were trapped in the ice cave?
- What did the Inuit ice cream taste like?

Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – 5 creative writing ideas
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**