



# STORIES OF THE SEASONS



Revised by Jane Sutherland Niebergall

# STORIES OF THE SEASONS

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THE STORIES HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED AND  
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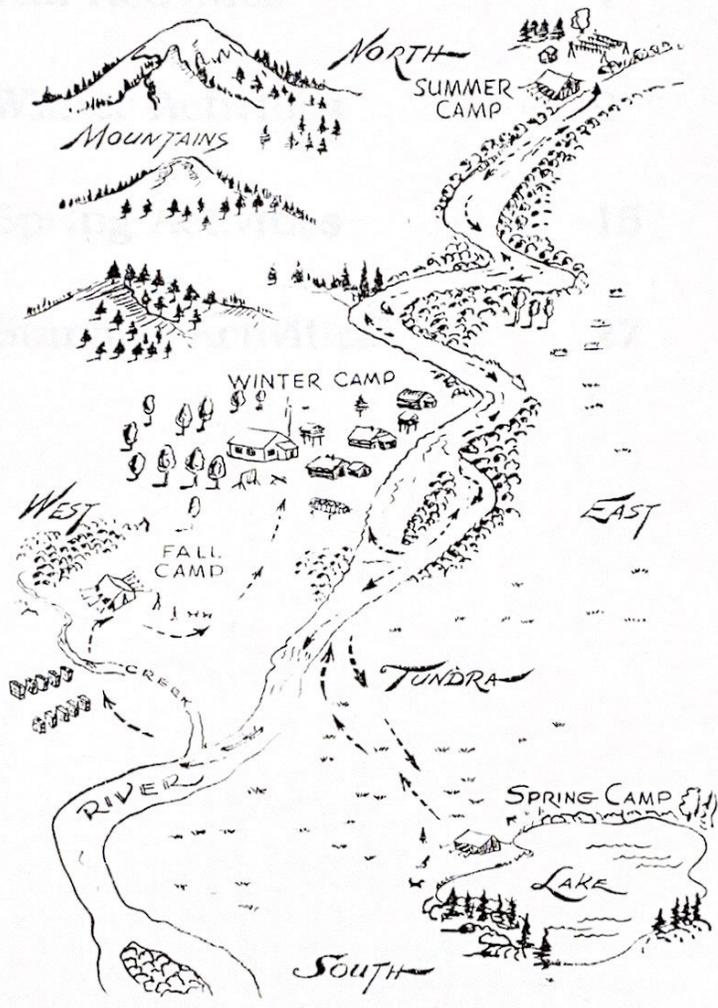
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This little book was first published by the Department of Interior in 1954. The authors are unknown to us. The setting could be anywhere in the Alaskan interior.

It tells about life in those earlier days. But, there are many experiences common with life today.

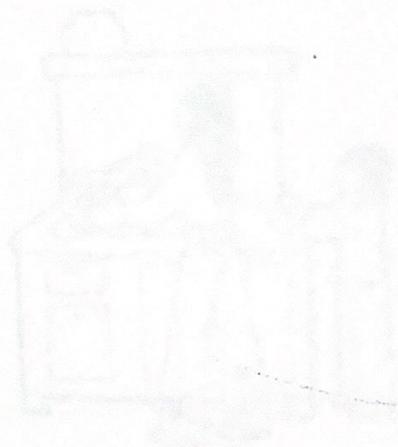
So, we have edited, added some, updated it, changed the illustrations, and republished it for young students of the 1990's to enjoy.

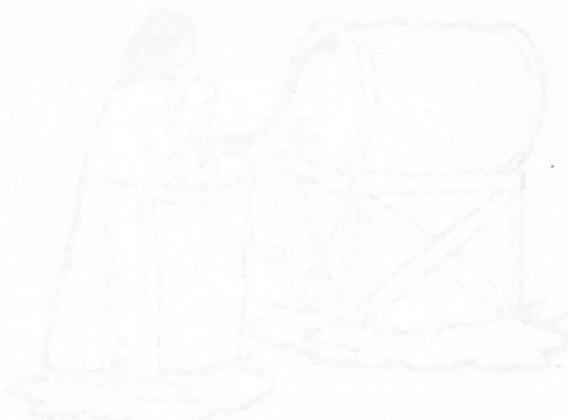
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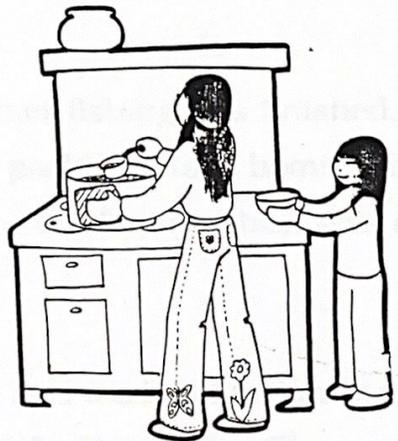
Fall Activities





## Fall Activities

### Fall Camp





## Fall Camp

The summer fishing was finished. The dried fish had been packed to take home. There was dried salmon for the family. There was dried salmon for the dogs.

Everyone had worked hard in the summer. They made food for the winter. They were happy to have fish for the winter.

Father said, "We must leave summer camp. We must go to fall camp. We must have wood for winter. We will have berries to eat. The winter is long and cold. It is good to be ready for winter."

Father said, "Come, David. You must help me get ready. We will pack the boat. The dogs must be tied in the boat."

Mother said, "Come Mary. You must help me get ready. You may play with baby. I will pack our food. I will pack our clothes and bedding. I want to get things ready for daddy to take down the tent"

Father and David took down the tent. They carried all of the things down to the boat. Father tied everything into the boat. He tied the dogs in the boat. The family got into the boat. Father started the engine. The boat took off. The boat went fast up the river. David and Mary fell asleep. They did not know how far it was to Fall Camp.

Soon the family reached Fall Camp. Mother woke up Mary and David. It was time to get the boat unloaded. Mary and David got to help set up camp.



It was late in the day when the family came to camp. Many things had to be done. Everyone helped. The tent had to be put up and the things packed out of the boat. David and Mary helped Mother and Father get camp set up. The dogs were tied up near camp.

Father put out the fish net. When we went to check the net. He soon brought back some fresh fish. Mother took the fish. She made fish soup.

Mary called blubber, you should get the some water. Mary and David found some blueberries. They each picked a cup full for supper. Everyone was hungry. Mother's fish soup was warm and good. The berries were good, too. Everyone was tired. Soon everyone went to bed.



## Mary Helps Mother

The sun was up. It had been up a long time.

"Mary," called Mother, "you must get me some water.

We need water to wash our hands and faces. We need water for breakfast. Hurry! Hurry! There are many things to do today"

Mary jumped up. She was still sleepy. But, she was happy to be at Fall Camp. "Oh, Mother, I will pick berries. I will pick berries every day. The berry buckets will be full. We will have berries for winter."

Mary liked to eat berries in the cold winter. She would think about Fall Camp. She would think about the fun of picking berries. She would think about the long fall days.

Mary liked to come to Fall Camp. She liked to end the summer picking berries for winter. Her family had worked in the summer to catch and dry fish for their winter food. They had been at summer camp for two months. Now it was time to think about the change of seasons.

## David Helps Father

Father said, "David, are you ready? We must cut some wood today. We will go up on the hill. There are many trees on the hill. We need to cut five big loads of birch. We will need five loads of spruce. Then we will have wood for the winter. It takes a lot of wood to be ready for the long, cold winter. Our wood stove helps keep our house warm."

David and his dad went on their way. They would be gone all day. Mother had put some salmon strips in their pockets. They would eat berries along the way. They would not get hungry while they worked hard cutting wood.

David was happy to work with his dad. He felt good about being in camp with his family. His family was important. Each year he grew up and could help his dad do more chores.

It would take Dad and David many days to get all of the wood that they needed for the winter. They would stack some. They would pack some back to the village and stack it to dry for winter.

Getting wood was a big job each fall. David liked to help his dad. Each year his dad would teach him about the tools. This year he would learn to use the chain saw. He felt like he was doing a man's work. He was helping bring wood home to keep the family warm.

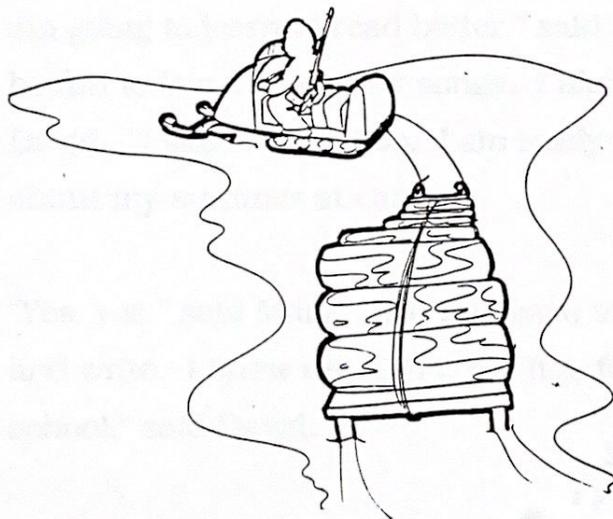


## Hour in the Village

A man came to the house. Other families were back in the village. They had been out and had not seen the boy. They had worked hard all summer and fall. They were busy in the morning, but they missed their little boy.

It was a very big work. All of the village children were busy in the field. They would go to school. The days were getting shorter and shorter every day.

## Winter Activities



## Home in the Village

It was nice to be home. Other families were back in the village. Mary and David could not wait to tell their friends about the summer. They had worked hard all summer and fall. They were busy in the summer, but they missed their friends, too.

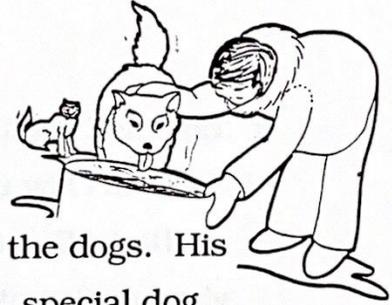
Now it was time for school. All of the village children get ready for school. David and Mary would go to school. They were very happy. The days were getting shorter. It was getting colder every day.

"I am going to learn to read in school," said Mary. "I am going to learn to read better," said David. "It will be fun to learn some new songs. I like to sing," said David. "I like to write, too. I am ready to write all about my summer at camp."

"Yes, yes." said Mary. "We will learn to sing and read and write. I know my A, B C's" "It is fun to go to school," said David.



## A Dog Race



David went out in the evening to feed the dogs. His job was to feed all of the dogs, but his special dog was called Big Dog.

"Come, Big Dog! Come Big Dog! " said David. "Here is your food. You will like this food. It is dried fish. We dried this fish for you last summer. I like you, Big Dog. You are a good dog. Eat all of your food. Eat this good fish."

David kept talking to Big Dog. "Tomorrow we will run in the dog races. It is the boys' turn to race. The men raced today. We will race tomorrow. The race is on the slough. The slough is a good place to race. The ice on the slough is smooth. This time of year the slough ice is strong and no one will fall through. We will just race fast and hope that we win."

"Each boy will race one dog. One dog will pull each sled. You will pull my sled, Big Dog. You will pull my sled around the island. The trail is one mile long." David patted Big Dog on the head. Big dog liked that. He pushed his head up to David.

"When we race," David told Big Dog, "I will help you. I will push on the back of the sled. You will run fast. I will run fast. Go to sleep now, Big Dog. We both must sleep. Tomorrow we are going to get up early. We will try to win the race tomorrow. "

The next day Big Dog and David were at the slough. David and Big Dog were excited to see so many dogs. It was fun to race. "You look fine in your new harness, Big Dog." laughed David. "I am glad I fixed the sled and painted it blue. It is the only blue sled here. Mother will see our sled. Father will see our sled. I will tie you to this post. Be a good dog. I will come back soon."

All of the boys got a number. The number told them when it was their turn to run. David and Big Dog got number four. They would be the fourth sled in line. One dog sled would leave every minute. David ran out to get Big Dog ready. "We leave in four minutes!"

"There goes the first sled!" shouted David. "Boy, they are going fast! I hope we can go faster. I know we can! Oh No! The dog left the trail. Now he is coming back."

"You and I cannot leave the trail, Big Dog. We must go all the way around the island. We must run one mile." The second sled went by. Then the third sled went by, going fast. "It is our turn now, Big Dog," shouted David. "MUSH!" "Here we go." The wind was blowing David's parka. They were going fast.

David and Big Dog passed the musher in front of them. They passed the second musher. "You are a good dog. We have only one sled in front of us, now!" "I will push on the back of the sled, Big Dog. We must go faster, faster. That dog in front of us is tired. "

Big Dog and David ran as fast as they could. They passed the dog sled in front of them. David said to himself, "I am glad we got a lot of sleep and kept healthy. We have a better chance to win this race."

The other dog sleds are coming fast. "We must hurry. We must run faster. We are near the end, now, Big Dog. We are near the finish line. We must run to the flags. The flags are at the finish line. Hurry, Big Dog!" We must run very fast and cross the line. Both of us will run to help."

They went across the finish line ! The man at the finish line looked at his watch. He said, "It took David and Big Dog eight minutes to run around the island. It took eight minutes to run one mile. David rubbed Big Dog's ears. "Good dog, Big Dog!" "I am tired, Big Dog. I bet you are tired, too. We can rest now. We will sit and watch the other sleds come in. We must wait until all the sleds come in. The sled that goes the fastest wins.

"All the sleds are here now, Big Dog." David was excited. "The race is over, now. Listen to the noise. Everyone is happy that the race is over. "

"They are calling a name of the winner. It sounds like my name. Come on Big Dog, you and I have won the race!" David was very happy. He patted big dog over and over.

"Dad will take our picture. He will take a picture of the winning dog, Big Dog. He will want to take a picture of the pretty blue sled. Then he will take a picture of the winning musher. We did a good job. We ran a good race. Good dog, Big Dog!"

## Spring Camp

Spring is here. It is time to get ready to go to Spring Camp. David and Mary helped their mother and father.

David took his rifle. Mary took her bow and arrow. They went to the camp. They were very happy. They had a good time. They were very busy. They were very happy.

## Spring Activities

They were very busy. They were very happy. They were very busy. They were very happy.

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## Spring Camp

School is out. Spring is here! We must get ready to go to Spring Camp. David and Mary helped their mother and father.

David took his gun. It was a .22. He was going to shoot muskrats. Mary said, "David, may I shoot your gun at camp?" "No, Mary, you are too young." "I want to help you shoot muskrats," said Mary. "You may help me," said David. "How can I help you? You will not let me shoot your gun." "You will see," said David. "Come now, we will finish packing."

Father packed two sleds. The family was ready to go. One sled had the food, clothing and the tent. The other sled had the family and bedding. David would drive the young dog team. It had the lightest load.

Father would drive the old dog team. It had the heaviest load. The ground was still frozen. They must hurry. The ice and snow were melting fast. It is spring! Soon it would be summer.

The family put up the tent at spring camp. They built a fire. It was warm inside the tent.

## Mary Helps David

The next morning was clear and cold. "David, David," called Mary. "It's time to get up. You promised me I could help. You promised me I could help you shoot muskrats."

David jumped out of his sleeping bag. "Is it morning? I slept so well. It is good to sleep. The air is so fresh." "Yes, yes," said Mary. "I am always happy to be at Spring Camp."

David and Mary ran out of the tent. They washed their hands and faces. Mother said, "Come, children, eat your breakfast. My, what rosy cheeks you have! My, how happy you look!" "Yes, yes," said Mary, "we are happy!" "We are going to hunt muskrats, today," said David.

"We will go down to the lake. There will be muskrats near the lake. There will be many muskrats this time of the year," said David.

"It will be fun to look around," Mary said.

"It will be fun to see where they are." "Let's go, David."

David and Mary looked around. There were berries under the snow. The ducks were landing on the lake.

David and Mary spent all day at the lake. The sun was going down. It was evening. David said, "Soon we will see the little muskrats. I will use my .22. We will have many muskrats this year." David shot five muskrats.

Mary said, "David, you said I could help you. You said I could help you shoot muskrats. Now you have shot them all. Now I will not be able to help you."

David replied, "Come, little sister. Now it is your turn to help. You must learn to do the helping jobs that women do. If you are going to help me, you must skin the muskrats. I will teach you, for I skin muskrats, too. You must prepare the meat for dinner. This is a big job. But you are a big girl now. When you grow bigger, you can learn to shoot my gun, too. Then you will be able to do all of the jobs"

We will have a good time and make muskrat skins at the same time. I will shoot the muskrats. You will skin the muskrats. We will work together. We will have fun.



## The Kuskokwim Queen

The people in the village got up early. They could hear something down the river. Something was saying a loud, "Chug-a-puffle! Chug-a-puffle! Chug-a-puffle!" Everyone was happy to hear this sound. They knew that the first barge was coming.

All the boys and girls ran to the river. David and Mary went to the river. All the men walked to the river. The women came to the river, too. The women held the children's hands. Some of the women carried babies. Soon, all the village people were by the river.

The noise grew louder and louder. The barge came around the bend in the river. There was a name on the bow of the boat. The people could see that it was the KUSKOKWIM QUEEN. Some of the children read the name aloud. They said, "It is the Kus'-ko-kwim Queen!"

Every year the Kuskokwim Queen came to the village. It came after break-up. The barge brought many things for the store. It brought flour, sugar, rice, raisins, prunes, and candy. It brought cereal and soda pop. It brought guns, shells, traps, shovels, tents and nails. It brought many kinds of clothes. It brought toys for the children. It brought many other things that people needed. People were happy to see this barge.

The Kuskokwim Queen was tied to the bank. All the men went onto the boat. The captain wrote men's names on paper. These men were to work for the day. Some of these men worked on the bank. Some of these men carried things. They carried things from the boat to the shore. All the men were busy.

David and John sat on the bank. They sat with the other boys. They watched the men work. The men were working for pay so they could buy things for their family at the store.

A man threw a piece of wood onto the river bank. David jumped down. He got the piece of wood.

"What are you going to do with that piece of wood?" John asked. "I am going to make some skates," David replied. "Why?" said John. "It is not cold. There is no ice on the lake. You cannot skate now. It is soon going to soon be summer. You don't need ice skates now."

"That is right," David told him. "There is no ice on the lake now. But someday it will be cold again. There will be ice on the lake. I shall not want to make my skates then. It will be too cold and my fingers will freeze. I shall want to skate, then."

"Why don't you make some skates, too, John?" David asked. "I have an old sled runner. I will give you some of the sled runner."

"No," said John. "I don't want to make skates now. I am going to hunt little birds with my sling. That is more fun."

"You must not hunt in the village," said David. "If you do, the council will be angry. They say that the birds eat the mosquitos that bite us. They need birds to fly in the village. The council says that children break windows with our slings. They do not want us to hunt in the village."

"The council men are working. They will not see me," said John. "I can do what I want." John went off down the road toward the village. David was thinking that John should not hunt birds too close to the village. It was not the right thing to do. He hoped that John would not hunt birds in the village.

David went home to get his sled runner. He wanted to make his skates. John walked around the village looking for birds. He shot at a swallow. Peter Black saw him. Peter Black was on the council. He took John's sling away from him. He took John to Sam Jones. Sam Jones was president of the council. He was working at the river.

Peter Black gave the sling to Sam Jones. He said, "This boy shot a swallow behind the store. I saw him." Sam Jones was angry. He threw the sling into the water. It floated down the river. "Maybe the fish will want to shoot at the seagulls," he said.

Everybody laughed. John did not laugh. He had lost a good sling. "I think we should punish this boy," said Sam Jones. "He cannot remember to follow the rules.. I think we should make him carry boxes to the store." Everyone thought that John should have something to do for punishment.

"All right," said Sam Jones. "John must carry the small boxes to the store. He will not get any pay for the job. No pay for bad boys.!"

All the men laughed. All the women laughed. All the boys and girls on the bank laughed, too. John did not laugh. He was not happy. He was thinking about what he did to get him this job. He was not happy.

## The Skates

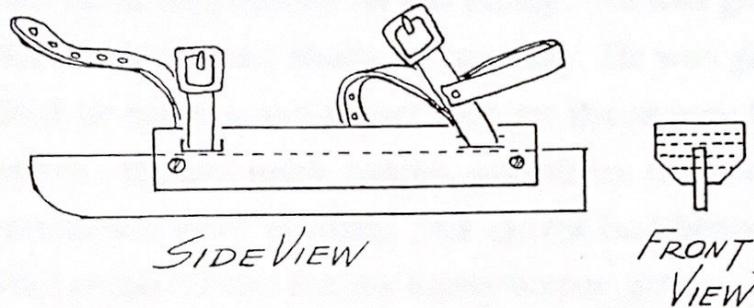
David had no skates. Big Dog had lost his skates. The strings on David's skates had been made of sealskin. Big Dog had found the skates. He had taken them off into the grass to eat the strings. Big Dog was a puppy then. He liked to eat everything he could find.

Now David had to make some more skates. First he cut a piece of wood with the little ax. Then he cut it some more with a big knife. At last he cut the wood with a saw.

David had a piece a sled runner. First he cut the sled runner with the little saw. Then he cut it with a file. At last he put the piece of sled runner in the wood where he had cut it with the saw. He fastened the sled runner in the wood with screws. Then he made another skate. They looked like very good skates.

David tried his new skates on. They fit, but it was spring and he could not try them out on the ice. David thought that these looked like they would be very good skates.

The end and the side of the skates looked like this:



David hung his nice new skates high in the cache. Big Dog could not get them. He didn't want that to happen again.

Just then, Mr. Kent came by. Mr. Kent was David's teacher. He saw David's new skates. He told David that they were nice skates. He asked David to make him some skates just like them. He told David where to find some wood.

David worked all afternoon on Mr. Kent's skates. He made a fine looking pair. He took them to Mr. Kent's house. Mr. Kent gave David some money for the skates.

David ran to the store with the money. He wanted to buy some shells for his rifle. He bought some shells from the store. Then he went hunting for rabbits.

Rabbits were out at this time of the day. David killed two fat spring rabbits for his family. He was glad that he had some shells for hunting. He was glad that he could make skates and get the money for the shells. He had made skates, sold them, then bought shells and went hunting. His skates had brought him some rabbits for his family's stew pot.

## Summer Activities



## Summer Activities





## Summer Camp

David and Mary are at Summer Camp. Summer Camp is the fish camp. The family has traveled from their village to fish camp. There is a lot to do at this site. Everyone is working.

Father is putting up the fish wheel. Mother is getting the knives ready. The knives must be sharp. There is something for everyone to do. Soon the king salmon will be running. Everyone must work fast.

"Help me fix the fish wheel," said Father. "We must put it in a good eddy. We will use the same eddy that we used last summer. We caught a lot of fish in the wheel last year."

Mother called to Mary, "Come I need your help. You are a big girl now. You learned how to skin muskrats. Now you will learn how to cut fish. You will be a big help to me."

One night David was going to take the boat and go for a ride. It was a nice summer night. He said to father, "I want to learn how to put out the net." David told his father his plan. Father said, "David, I will go with you. It looks like the king salmon are running. You will need some help with a net. I will teach you how to put a net out in the water. It looks like the king salmon are running. We shall see."

David was excited! It was fun to drift. It was fun to drift for King Salmon. He always helped his father. Now he is big enough to learn how to put out the net. Everyone was hungry for fresh king salmon!

It was late when Father and David came back to camp. They had caught three king salmon. David was tired. Father and David were hungry. Mother cooked the fresh king salmon. Everyone ate it. It was good!

"Tomorrow we will start to work," said Father. The fish wheel will be full. We may have to empty the basket twice. It is good to fish in summer. It is good to have fish for winter. The family works together. That is good, too."

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An explanation of how the various civilizations of Alaskan Native peoples came to be living in the Alaskan area			
<u>ESKIMO MAN AND THE GIANT</u>	B009	3+	\$5.95
The traditional story of how a man was lost - of survival, traditional skills, and friendship between a giant and a man			
<u>THE FISH OF ALASKA - POSTERS</u>	P007	all	\$32.00

32 black & white pictures of fish found in Alaska (11" x 17"),

FISH & SEA COLORBOOK BC001 primary+ \$3.50  
Pictures of Alaska fish and sea animals with formal name and popular name - use for science, identification, descriptive writing, third-person writing, fun...

THE HUNGRY FOX B056 primary+ \$4.00  
Tell this story, the students write their own version in any language, (on the lines provided) Permission to copy for one class

IT DOESN'T PAY TO LIE B054 primary \$4.00  
A friendship between seal and raven is destroyed forever, because raven lied

KIANA'S IDITAROD B031 all \$8.95  
Famous Iditarod sled, Kiana, tells the story of his well-known run with the serum to Nome

MAMMOTH MAGIC B036 3+ \$7.95  
An Eskimo boy overcomes his fear of the dark with help from his wise grandfather and his wooly friend

MOOSE - FINGER PUPPET PJ002 primary + \$4.00  
Hand-made felt animals, 4" finger-size (for children and adults) and a great oral language motivator (any 3 puppets \$11.50)

MOOSE PUZZLE - 9 piece wooden LC001 primary \$9.50  
Preschoolers are motivated by a familiar animal - spatial perception skills for the young child

PLANTS OF ALASKA - POSTERS P010 all \$22.00  
22 black & white pictures of plants found in Alaska (11" x 17")

POLAR BEAR - FINGER PUPPET PP004 primary+ \$4.00  
A familiar animal for young dramatists - project the third person orally into this puppet - about 4" size - hand made

SALMON COOKIE CUTTER AC1669 all \$4.00  
Have a salmon for lunch - as dessert- make these for math study, with teamwork,

SEA MAMMALS/ CRUSTACIANS - POSTERS P008 all \$13.00  
13 black & white posters of birds and insects found in Alaska (11" x 17")

<u>SEASONS OF THE SLED DOG- video</u>	VPY01	2+	\$34.95
Mary Shields talks about training and running sled dogs She lives the rural life Positive attitude about dog care and trail life			
<u>TAKING CARE OF YOUR BODY</u>	B060	primary	\$4.50
Line drawings, a script-type of story dramatizing the advantages of living a healthy life			
<u>TALES OF THE BEAR</u>	AL006	5+	\$7.50
Bear stories adapted from Ten'a texts and tales from Anvik			
<u>THUNDERFEET book/audio tape</u>	B032	2+	\$11.95
Story of Alaska's dinosaurs and other prehistoric critters. The text is read on audio tape and special dinosaur songs are sung (words included)			
<u>TOM IS SICK</u>	B061	primary	\$4.50
Line drawings and story in a village setting - a Health Aide talks to Tom about stying healthy			
<u>VERBS &amp; ACTIONS - ALASKA SET I cards</u>	PS003	primary+	\$7.00
Everyday actions, village children - one action per card, colors, talk or write abut actions - 15 cards			
<u>VERBS &amp; ACTIONS - ALASKA SET II cards</u>	PS004	primary+	\$7.00
Challenge young minds with conversation about verb/actions depicted on the cards - develop vocabulary in oral or written mode			
<u>VILLAGE ACTIVITIES-PICTURES class masters</u>	CM006	all	\$5.00
Line drawings of village life activities - use for language study, English/Bilingual studies, story motivation, vocabulary, etc. Permission given to copy one class set			
<u>VILLAGE ACTIVITIES POSTERS</u>	P006	all	\$8.00
5 colored posters of a variety of village activities . use for research, reports, language/ vocabulary development, etc. (11" x 17")			
<u>VILLAGE PRIMARY P.E. BOOK*</u>	PE020	primary+	\$10.00
The mosquito relay, and many more - with exercises, lesson plans, certificates - also some Yup'ik language games			
<u>VILLAGE SCENES PICTURE POSTERS set I</u>	P001	all	\$15.00
Colored scenes from 9 villages/town representing all of Alaska. Use for research, reports, bulletin boards, motivation, Alaska studies (11" x 17")			
<u>VILLAGE SCENES PICTURE POSTERS set II</u>	P002	all	\$15.00
Same as Set I, but different scenes from 9 different villages in Alaska			

WALRUS -rubber stamp R008 all \$4.00

Use this 1 inch square stamp in animal study, to project third-person ideas - teachers use this for comments, students use this in writing, ..

WALRUS PUZZLE - 1000 pieces AP007 7+ \$5.95

Challenging science project, team project, writing project to log progress of self, class, or group toward solving this puzzle

WALRUS - FINGER PUPPET PJ003 primary+ \$4.00

Colorful hand-made 4" familiar Alaskan animal - use for third-person vocabulary development, dramatizations, read scripts written by a group, unlimited possibilities...(any 3 puppets \$11.50)

WATER ANIMALS - class masters CM003 all \$3.50

Great for sea week - use for stories, third-party writing, to illustrate studies, identification, bilingual studies

WRITING WITH MATH I (1 - 12) WACM001 primary+ \$5.00

A whole language unit focusing on math. TEACH MATH WITH WRITING - the conceptual level of Math Their Way, utilizing village settings.. The teacher sets the task, students complete, and write - Includes lesson plans, a variety of options, samples, samples, samples, (grouping, addition, subtraction, real problems relating to local surroundings) work sheets, blank sheets for student stories - 2 - 3 week unit

WRITING WITH MATH II (13-25) WACM002 primary+ \$5.00

Same as set I, but with numbers 12 - 25 - more examples, grouping, addition, examples relating to pre-division and multiplication  
Sets the mind for those "word problems" - students make up their own and thus understand the concept and patterns

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