



The Gift Of The Inuksuk (Tales of the World)

By Michael Ulmer

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The Gift Of The Inuksuk (Tales of the World) By Michael Ulmer

Unique and as beautiful as a snowflake or footprint, an Inuksut (inNUKshuk,) is one of the stone figures that can be seen dotting the Canadian Arctic region. Many made by ancient hands, the Inuksuit (inNUKsweet) purposes are varied, from earthly uses such as navigation and message centers to those of the spirit, as sites of reverence. Author Mike Ulmer explores the connectedness of all Arctic life in his tale, The Gift of the Inuksuk. To find recipes, games, interactives maps and much more for this title visit www.discovertheworldbooks.com! Author Mike Ulmer keeps an Inuksuk at home--it reminds him of the way the Inuit People of the North live a simple life and consume only what they need. His tale expresses this belief in a warm and simple manner that readers of all ages will appreciate and enjoy. Artist Melanie Rose's charming and lively oil paintings bring great variety and surprising bursts of color to this unique northern story. Mike lives in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada with his wife Agnes Bongers and their three daughters: Sadie, Hannah and Madalyn. When he is not learning about Inuksuk, Mike writes a sports column for the Toronto Sun newspaper. Among Mike's books are M is for Maple: A Canadian Alphabet and H is For Horse: An Equestrian Alphabet. Melanie Rose lives in Mississauga, Canada with her son Liam, and their two cats, Mickey and Meesha. Melanie teamed up with Mike previously on M is for Maple: A Canadian Alphabet. She has also illustrated Z is for Zamboni: A Hockey Alphabet and K is for Kick: A Soccer Alphabet. She is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3—In his introductory notes, Ulmer explains that *The Gift of the Inuksuk* is not an Inuit legend, but rather an original *pourquoi* story. However, his language is as spare and straightforward as in many folktales, and he imparts information about the traditional lives of the Inuit. Inuksuit—sculptures of piled stones in the shape of large human figures—dot the landscape of the far north. Ulmer imagines a young girl who makes the first of these figures and uses them to guide her father and brother home from a caribou hunt. This simple story appeals because of the familial warmth it conveys as much as for the explanation of the origins of Inuksuit. Rose effectively uses blues, purples, and browns in her oil paintings to conjure up the cold and barren landscape and warmer tones for the expressive faces of the people. A pleasant look at an unusual subject.—*Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY*

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From [Booklist](#)

PreS-Gr. 2. In this original *pourquoi* tale, Ulmer imagines the origins of the *Inuksuk*, piled-stone figures that appear across the Arctic landscape. Ukaliq, a young Inuit, makes towers of rocks that resemble friendly figures; she even imagines personalities for her stone companions. The small towers find another use when Ukaliq positions them as guideposts for her father and brothers, who are hunting caribou when a fierce snowstorm hits. The rows of *Inuksuk* not only guide Ukaliq's family but also direct a herd of much-needed caribou to Ukaliq's community. In a few places, Ulmer's poetic sentences ("a great storm drained the color from the earth") may initially confuse children, but her reverent story of a resourceful girl will encourage interest in Arctic cultures. Rose's thickly brushed acrylic paintings beautifully capture the blue Arctic light; the wide, sweeping snowscapes; and the deep relationship between humans and animals in the barren land. For another Inuit story suggest Debby Dahl Edwardson's *Whale Snow* (2003). *Gillian Engberg*
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Review

"A sports columnist for the Toronto Sun has written a beautiful tale of the Inuit people to explain the creation of the first "Inuksuk," stone figures used for both practical and spiritual purposes. In his story, a young Inuit girl uses stone figures to help lost caribou hunters find their way home."

-- "Buffalo News" (December 2004)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Isabel McNeal:

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