

Figures of speech/Imagery

Great for discussion – have students draw pictures of images...

P. 3

"outsiders came flitting about the North. They plucked us from our homes on the scattered islands of the Arctic Ocean and carried us back to the nests they called schools, in Aklavik."

P. 8

"a shot cracked through the air, killing my chance to convince him."

P. 8-10

"I climbed the cemetery hill and stared out over the sleeping, stone-still water each day, waiting for the sea to come alive with waves."

P. 10

"..when the sun stood constant watch in the sky and night traversed it only briefly like the shadow of a passing bird's wing..."

P. 12

"Time melted away. My eight birthday came and went. The sea began to wake from its slumber, and I knew it would not be long before the ice broke from the shore and was carried out to be swallowed by the sea."

P. 17

"excitement consumed me"

P. 24 busy street, now deserted

P. 31 "the sound of the shears severing the thick black hair drowned out the howls of the disgraced girls."

P. 31

"sobbing in the humiliation of our discarded hair."

P. 38

I perched myself in one of the small wooden desks to see how it would feel.

P. 43

My spirit sank like the stockings that slouched around my ankles

P. 44

I was working outside one day when the last of the outsiders' boats returned to Aklavik carrying both freshly plucked children and those they had regathered.

P. 50 they were like a flock of open mouthed hatchlings, giggling at me. "if I had a pocket of stones, I would shoo you with a storm of pebbles."

P. 54 I dreamed I was locked beneath the Raven's habit with many other children. She cackled and laughed as we tried to break free, straining against its weight, knowing that we would never see our parents again.

P. 55 it wasn't just the chores, they were paid by the government per student and plucking us from our homes and keeping us in their nests was a money making business.

P. 60 "Rosie had been telling the truth: Alice had not been hunting the rabbit at all. I would have brought the pelt back for my father."

P. 67 I imagined the Raven in the role of the Queen of Hearts

P. 67 a buzz filled the room and swarmed about the tables.

P. 70 she flailed like a fish on ice when she noticed my bare legs

P. 73 I sprang down the hallway stairs, like a grey-legged wolf

P. 74 her face turned as red as seal's blood on snow

P. 75

...she whispered something in her ear and the Raven blew up like a ptarmigan balloon

P. 74 "Be careful what birds you choose to pluck from their nests. A wren can be just as clever as a raven."

P. 79 I had left it behind me, back past the tree line in a tangled cluster of waterways.

P. 82 "My curiosity had led me far away, and now here I was, after two years, satisfied that I now knew what happens to girls who went down rabbit holes."

Extension

Research the weather/ hours of daylight in the Arctic

Take a google map journey of the places in the novel.

Research which groups of people (e.g. p. 4 “French – Canadian accents”, “...pale-skinned priests who...called Belgium”) worked in Residential Schools as brothers and sisters.

Icebergs/calving p.12

What was the Stefansson expedition and why was it famous? P. 16

Research what Olemaun says on p.18, “...to the settlement our own great-grandfather, Old Man Pokiak, had founded as a trading post.”

There is some wonderful information on the following site:

<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/programs/historicplaces/pokiak.asp>

“Pokiak originated as a Hudson Bay Company post built in response to increased trade competition from traders on the coast. Kenneth Stewart chose the site on the recommendation of Pokiak, an Inuvialuit man living in the area, and named it as a tribute to him. When the whaling industry slowed in the early 1900’s and trading posts on the coast closed, more Inuvialuit moved inland to Pokiak. Gwich’in people moved down the Peel River to live at Pokiak. This area soon became known as an excellent trapping area and a key transportation centre. By the 1920’s it was the major community in the Delta.”

“Pokiak and Aklavik have a unique history as it is one of the first times the Gwich’in and Inuvialuit co-existed peacefully. Elders from both groups remember early times as times of cooperation and helping each other. The whole flavour of the settlement was multi-ethnic, with Europeans and Canadians arriving in the north to trap, trade, build, and take jobs at new churches, hospitals and government offices. Pokiak highlights and promotes understanding about its inhabitants.” – since Olemaun mentions that the two groups didn’t traditionally get along.

P. 21 Research the athletic games/ and Dominion Day

What is a ptarmigan? P.22

Draw a picture of the way the school "feels" to yours of page 26

Research smallpox p. 55

Research the northern lights p. 56