

ABOUT

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CHRISTA HOLTEI has published several picture books for young readers in Germany. In addition to writing, she is a teacher and a translator.



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NANUK FLIES HOME

Written by Christa Holtei
Illustrated by Astrid Vohwinkel

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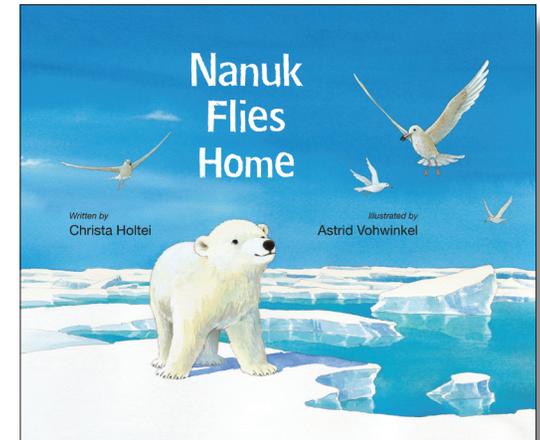
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NANUK FLIES HOME

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Although he is such a small polar bear, Nanuk can do many things. . . . The only thing Nanuk cannot do is fly. He would get home much faster if he could.

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Family relationships
- ❖ Nature and wildlife
- ❖ Animal rescue
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Dreams
- ❖ Home

VOCABULARY

Look up the following terms in a reference book: trudging, plain (noun), settlement, ambles, disappointed, careless, dangerous.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. Read the title and study the cover. Where do you think this story takes place? Who is Nanuk, and what do you think will happen to him?

2. Think about what home means to you. Have you ever been away from home for long? Did you wish you could go back home sooner than you could, or did you enjoy being away? When you got home, how did you feel?

3. Have you ever wished that you could fly? What do you think it would feel like to fly? If you could fly, where would you go?

4. This story takes place in Manitoba, Canada. Find Manitoba on a map. What is the land like in Manitoba?



QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. At the beginning of the book, Nanuk is grumpy and says, “It’s boring here!” Think of a time when you were grumpy and bored. Did you complain about it, like Nanuk, or did you do something different?

2. Nanuk has never been to the human settlement before. It is very different from how he imagined it. Think about a time you went to a place you had never been before. What parts were like you expected? What parts were different or surprising?

3. When Nanuk and Anaana enter the settlement, why do people scream and run away? What can you tell about polar bears from the way the people act?

4. When Nanuk wakes up in a cage, he is anxious, which means nervous, worried, or afraid. Why does he feel this way? What happens to make him feel better?

5. Compare the pictures on pages 14–16 with the pictures on pages 27–29. How is the settlement different from the icy plain? Which one do you think is a better place for Nanuk and Anaana? Why?

6. Think about what happens to Nanuk and Anaana after they go into the grocery store. Do you think the people in the settlement do the right thing with polar bears? What would you do?

7. Read “Polar Bear Capital of the World” on page 30. What does it tell you about polar bears in Manitoba, Canada? How does it help you understand why Nanuk and Anaana are so far from home at the beginning of the story? How does it help to explain what happens to Nanuk and Anaana?



ACTIVITIES

1. Find out more about polar bears. Start with “Facts about Polar Bears” on page 31. Then make a list of more things you would like to know about polar bears. Use library or online sources to find answers to your questions. Make a poster using the facts you find. You might want to include pictures, too.

2. Make a diorama of the icy plain Nanuk calls home. Use library or online sources to find photographs of the Arctic regions where polar bears live. Decorate your diorama and be sure to include polar bears, snowy owls, sea gulls, and fish.

3. When Nanuk is at home on the icy plain, he listens to stories Uppik the Snowy Owl tells. What kinds of stories do you think Uppik tells? Use library or online sources to find out how snowy owls live. Then think of a story that takes place in the Arctic, with snowy owls and other animals as characters. Write down your own Uppik the Snowy Owl story.

4. Unless you live in the Arctic, there are no wild polar bears living near you. What wild animals live near your community? Look in local newspapers or online sources to find out. Where do these animals live and what do they eat? Do these animals need help from people? If so, make a plan for your class to help them.