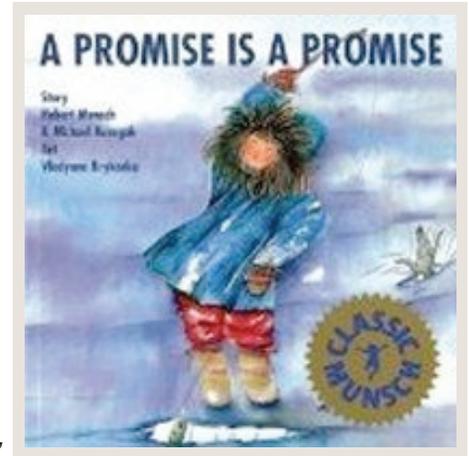




Title: A Promise is a Promise
Author: Robert Munsch and Michael Kusugak
Genre: Picture Book (Fiction)
Cultural Connection: Mythical Creatures



PLOT SUMMARY

When Allashua announces that she wants to go fishing, her mother warns her that the Qallupilluit, who live under the sea ice, grab children who are not with their parents. Allashua promises to go fishing at the lake instead. Unwisely, Allashua breaks her promise. As she catches her sixth fish from a deep crack in the sea ice she yells *“I am the best fisherman in the world!”* To her astonishment she hears a voice reply *“The best you may be, but the smartest you are not.”* The Qallupilluit, as her mother predicted, have surfaced and are blocking her path back to the shore. They grab Allashua by her feet and drag her down into the icy water. Allashua tries to hold her breath but finally, in desperation, she promises she will deliver her brothers and sisters to the sea ice if they let her go. The Qallupilluit throw Allashua back up into the cold wind and she makes her way home. Allashua’s father finds her almost at the back door frozen to the snow. Once she is warmed up Allashua tells the story of the strange promise she has made. Eventually her mother comes up with a plan. The Qallupilluit are invited into the house to wait while the parents say goodbye to the children. While the Qallupilluit are distracted with food and dancing the children slip outside and go down to the ice. Having fulfilled her promise, and with no sign of the Qallupilluit, Allashua leads her brothers and sisters back to the safety of the land. When the Qallupilluit discover the trick they *jumped down to the bottom of the sea and took the cracks with them. The whole ocean of ice became perfectly smooth.*

LEARNING INTENTION

Focus Reading Connection: #4 Predicting

Readers predict when they use their prior knowledge, as well as all of the information that they have gathered from the text and illustrations, to come up with a guess about what the story will be about. When talking to students about predicting it is important to emphasize that:

1. There is no right or wrong answer.
2. There are many clues in the text and in the pictures.
3. Their prediction might stay the same, or it might change, when new information is added to their prior knowledge.
4. Predicting is something that good readers do before they start reading the story.
5. Readers continue to predict while they are engaged in reading the story.

This lesson uses structured partner talk as a learning strategy. To learn more about partner talk please refer to the Educator’s page on our website.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1 copy of A Promise is a Promise
- 1 copy of the prediction worksheet for each student
- 1 pencil for each student



BEFORE

- There are numerous opportunities for students to make predictions in this story. Pre-read the book and mark, with sticky notes, the places where you want to stop reading and have them practise predicting.
- Explain to the class what a prediction is (using prior knowledge plus the clues in the book to make a smart guess as to what the book is about-or what will happen next).
- Explain that there is no right or wrong answer when you are making a prediction.
- Explain that you might want to alter your prediction after you gather new information or find new clues in the story.
- Explain that today they are going to make predictions about what might happen next in the story and that they will be asked to justify their predictions (supply a reason or evidence to support the prediction).
- Show the cover of the book to the students and read them the title. Examine and discuss the details in the picture. Determine that each student has an understanding of the word “promise”.
- Have each student talk to a partner and make a prediction for what they think the story might be about. Have them each justify their thinking (What clues or evidence do you see on the cover to make you think that?)
“I think that.....because.”
- Have several students share their predictions with the whole class. Again, have them justify their thinking
“I think that.....because.”

DURING

- Distribute a copy of the prediction worksheet to each student.
- Read the first chunk of the story. Stop when you get to your first sticky note.
- Have each student talk to the same partner and make a prediction for what they think will happen next in the story. Have them justify their thinking by stating what clues they found in the story to make them think that:
“I think that.....because.”
- Have several students share their predictions (and justification) with the whole class.
- Have each student fill in the first part of the worksheet.
- Continue reading the story and repeat this process each time you come to a sticky note.

AFTER

- Have each student re-read their predictions and clues and then circle either YES or NO to indicate whether or not their predictions actually happened or not.
- Have each student discuss their findings with the same partner.

Suggested Supplemental Resources:

Click on the Kids tab of our website to find similar stories such as:

- Very Last First Time by Ian Andrews
- Fox on the Ice by Tomson Highway
- Shaman’s Nephew by Simon Tookoome
- Kumak’s Fish: A Tale from the Far North by Michael Bania



Date: _____

Name: _____

Making Predictions

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1. My prediction is | 1. The clue is | YES NO |
| 2. My prediction is | 2. The clue is | YES NO |
| 3. My prediction is | 3. The clue is | YES NO |
| 4. My prediction is | 4. The clue is | YES NO |