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Under Alaska's Midnight Sun (PAWS IV)



Synopsis

In the far northern parts of the world, near and above the Arctic Circle, summer days are very long. In Barrow, Alaska, for example, the sun rises in May and sets 83 days later, in early August. During this time, the sun shines all through the night. People call it the midnight sun. When the midnight sun is shining, people and animals stay active even at night. This sweet poetic narrative, illustrated by award-winner Jeremiah Trammell, showcases the many pleasures of this unique time as a little girl dances, fishes, plays games, watches moose and fox, and communes with family and nature.

Book Information

Series: PAWS IV

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 1 [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) On the day of the solstice, a child plays with her baby brother as she waits for midnight to arrive. She shares the day with Alaskan wildlife: salmon leaping in a creek, ducklings waddling alongside a pond, and a moose and its young calf as they meander at the edge of a meadow. After a day of running, dancing, and playing, the young narrator manages to stay up past midnight to celebrate, and finally allows herself to curl up and fall asleep. Vanasse uses occasional rhyme, assonance, and alliteration to give the text a poetic feel, but never subjects readers to too much of a good thing. Some verses read more smoothly than others, but, overall, the text is fresh and vivid. Trammell's joyful, full-page color illustrations are suitably light and airy,

capturing the beauty of the northern landscape and the exuberance of the girl. An author's note provides additional details. This is a good wind-down bedtime choice for children who have decided they can't (or won't) sleep. --Carol L. MacKay, Camrose Public Library, Alberta, Canada
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PreS-Gr. 2. On the night of the summer solstice, a little girl, her brother, and their mother climb into the hills near their home. Stopping to fish and to observe birds and moose along their trail, they picnic, nap, and celebrate the midnight sun. Written in the first person from the girl's point of view, the mostly unrhymed-verse text conveys her excitement as well as her determination not to fall asleep before midnight. However, the wording does not always sound childlike or read aloud smoothly: "We shield our eyes / and point toward the sky / where an eagle soars on the wind. / Her wings whistle a song / of creatures long gone, / a story old as the midnight sun." Expressive, stylized paintings offer sweeping views of the Alaskan landscape as well as details for children to enjoy. Vanasse, who lives in Alaska, explains in an appended note that near the Arctic Circle, winter brings unrelenting weeks of darkness, summer brings many nights when the sun never sets, and summer solstice is a time for celebration. Carolyn Phelan
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after spending 2 months in AK last summer this was a perfect gift for one of my grandchildren.

I'm always looking for different books to read to my kids, and I really loved this one. I want to teach them about other places in the world, and this book does a great job about capturing the beauty of Alaska through a kids' eye:)

This book was mailed as a gift so I haven't actually seen it but understand from the first time grandmother to whom I sent it that both she and her little Aurora love it. They will enjoy it together for many years to come.

I had just returned from Alaska and bought a few children's books, but was looking for a story to read to my preschool through first grade students to explain what it was like in Alaska. I found just that in this book!

A very sweet book!!! More for pre-schoolers.....3,4 years old....adorable!!

Our daughter is fascinated with the suns in this book, she loves the stories and all the beautiful art work.

Great Product.

We have not got the chance to read the book yet however, with the reputation of the author I seen it as a good buy. I can't wait to read it with my kids.

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