Skraelings by R. & S. Qitsualik-Tinsley

Sandy Campbell

DOI: https://doi.org/10.20361/G2SC77

Abstract


This volume is the first in the Arctic Moon Magick series. In it writing duo, Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley, have recreated an Inuit world at the time of Viking contact, presented through the eyes of a young Inuit hunter, Kannujaq. In his travels, he comes across people of the Tuniit culture, of whom he has only heard legends. He meets Siku, a boy-shaman, whose name means “ice” and is named for his blue eyes. The Tuniit have been attacked in the past by Vikings from Greenland. They return each spring and Kannujaq finds himself in the middle of a battle, where he becomes a reluctant warrior. The title Skraelings, which means “Weaklings”, is a Viking taunt to the Tuniit.

This is a well written chapter book for ages 12 and older and the language is age-appropriate. There are a few black and white drawings that complement the text. While much of the story proceeds logically along the plot line, occasionally, the authors break in, not as narrators, but simply to give the reader additional information. For example: “Oh, we forgot to tell you: Shamans were pretty clever when it came to the things that plants and other natural materials could do” (p. 26). While this is unusual in a novel and breaks the flow of the story, it is completely in keeping with oral storytelling and is rather endearing. However, this book should not be mistaken for simple story. It is an engaging read, culminating in a final plot twist that demonstrates the authors’ broad and compassionate understanding of the regional history of the Eastern Arctic.

This is an excellent work and unique in young adult Arctic literature. It should definitely be included in junior high and middle school libraries and public libraries everywhere.

Recommendation: 4 stars out of 4
Reviewer: Sandy Campbell

Sandy is a Health Sciences Librarian at the University of Alberta, who has written hundreds of book reviews across many disciplines. Sandy thinks that sharing books with children is one of the greatest gifts anyone can give.

Author Biography

Sandy Campbell
Health Sciences Librarian
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Title: Skraelings: Clashes in the Old Arctic. Author: Qitsualik-Tinsley, Rachel/ Qitsualik-Tinsley, Sean. The inhabitants of the camp are Tuniit, a race of ancient Inuit ancestors known for their strength and shyness. Read full description. See details and exclusions. See all 3 brand new listings. Buy it now. Add to basket. Skraelings: Clashes in the Old Arctic (Arctic Moon Magick). Jul 31, 2015 | Kindle eBook. by Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley. $7.99 $ 7 99 Kindle Edition. Anne of Green Gables (Macmillan Collector's Library Book 109). May 18, 2017 | Kindle eBook. by L. M. Montgomery and Anna South. $1.24 $ 1 24 Kindle Edition. Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley have found a clever, fun way to tell a story that engages, informs, and entertains. Using a modern-day narrator to tell the story of an ancient land and time, the Qitsualik-Tinsley writing duo have managed to create a remarkably accurate representation of the old oral story-telling tradition, but recreated it in written form. You truly get the feeling, while reading, that yo This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 4.5. The historical fiction book, Skraelings, by Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley is a touching and beautiful piece of story-telling in the campfire story-telling tradition. ...more. flag 2 likes · Like · see review. May 27, 2014 Fantasy Literature rated it liked it.
Rachel Attituq Qitsualik-Tinsley is a Canadian writer. She was a winner of the Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature in 2015 for Skraelings, which she cowrote with her husband Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley. The book was also a shortlisted finalist for the Governor General's Award for English-language children's literature at the 2014 Governor General's Awards. Skraelings by R. & S. Qitsualik-Tinsley. Sandy Campbell. Snap! by H. Hutchins. The Way to School by R. McCarney. Nasra Gathoni. Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley. Rating. 4.1 of 5 Votes. 2. Skraelings: Clashes In The Old Arctic (2014). About book: Imagine how we felt, having to describe it! There were no police in Kanjuajâ€™s time and place.