



Arctic White

Danna Smith , Lee White (Illustrations)

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*When you live in the Arctic in winter,
everything is a shade of white.*

A young girl looks around her home in the Arctic and sees only white, white, white . . . but one day her grandfather takes her out on a journey through the tundra. And at the end of their cold walk across the ice, they find something special that brings color into their world.

Arctic White Details

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Author : Danna Smith , Lee White (Illustrations)

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Animals, Family

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From Reader Review Arctic White for online ebook

Miss Pippi the Librarian says

The Arctic has many shades of white. Will color ever appear? Take a journey with an Arctic family as they go to see the Northern Lights. The story was a tad long for my storytime group, so I ad-libbed a few pages to move the story along. This book also lends itself to group discussions and activities for older listeners.

2018 storytime theme: arctic

Reviewed from a library copy.

littlemiao says

The Miaolings and I enjoyed how the illustrations and simple text bring attention to the many shades of arctic winter. The author's intention seemed to be to show the monotony of the wintry whiteness until the northern lights, but the effect of the text combined with the illustrations is quite different. I am not sure how accurately snowflakes are represented - they seem to have acquired an additional axis of symmetry. The main reason we can't give this book more stars, lovely as it is in many ways, is that the protagonist and her grandfather are presented as indigenous but without any context whatsoever. We don't know who they are or even what century they are in. Whatever the intention of the author and illustrator, their approach cannot help but reinforce whatever stereotyped and probably inaccurate ideas young readers may have of indigenous life in the arctic.

Aiyu_Z says

Beautifully illustrated, Arctic White is a book about colors---how all colors except the white disappear during the winter in the Arctic. An Eskimo girl wants to see colors, so her grandfather takes her to see the aurora.

The book isn't very strong in story plot and character building, but it seems to be a photo album of Eskimos' lives in the Arctic. The book is told in the second person, which makes it more emphatic and contagious. The illustrations not only present the Eskimo culture by their lifestyle of hunting, their transportation ways of sleds, traditional architecture igloos, etc. but also portray the geographical surroundings of the Arctic accurately (plantation, animals, temperature). However, I hope the book could dive deeper into cultural values. Since the relation between the girl and her grandfather is an important theme in the book and might be a reflection of social problems in Eskimo communities today, I hope there could be further discussions as well.

Gordon says

[grandfather takes the young girl to observe something magical, and together they see luminous c

Eileen Manes says

The day I purchased this book at the bookstore, I sat and read thirty or forty recently published picture books. I only bought one: *Arctic White* by Danna Smith (and three or four chapter books, and a couple of novels, and a board game, and...#bookstoreproblems).

Arctic White tells the tale of a little girl who hopes and waits for something more than white in all of the white of the Arctic, until the day her grandfather takes her on a journey to view the Northern Lights.

Like several of the books I've recently reviewed, the text is spare. In this story however, the spare text helps to emphasize the seeming lack of depth in the Arctic tundra in winter, where "everything is a shade of white" and "winter days are dark as night." Yet even with so few words, Danna Smith manages to imbue the text with subtle glances into deeper subjects, and reminds us that nature is never really lacking.

She neatly juxtaposes the warmth the little girl feels for her grandfather with the cold that "always finds a way to sneak inside your warmest parka." She reminds us of the hope the little girl feels, on the longest journey where "even footprints are white in the Arctic" through her grandfather's glowing lantern. Smith ties the wondrous beauty of nature and the Northern Lights back to the little girl's love of her grandfather, as the Northern Lights not only remind her to welcome the dark but also help her see "the twinkle in his eye." And since the little girl has an artist's eye for color (the blue-white versus the yellow-white versus the silver-white), of course she remembers the beauty through art.

Several reviews of this book mention that there isn't enough (or any) space given to setting or culture. While this is true, I don't feel that the story really needs it. There is always pressure to put more into our stories, to make them more useful for school readings and to teach children about the world. But there is so much more to teaching children than teaching history and place. There is hope, patience, trust, family, wonder, nature, art...and these are the lessons that Danna Smith teaches beautifully.

Jim Erikson says

White's illustrations are anything but white. You can't illustrate a book about everything being white and grey without a lot of blue and what looks like some purple on other pages. Smith give the mixed colors to us on some pages, but not on others where the non-white is even more true. I loved how this close look at the watercolors subverts the main point of the text and sometimes contradicts the words page to page. It makes me wonder what Lee White thought about while painting?

The ending was predictable and I was hoping for something more like a closer look at the places where colors would jump out at you within the white, such as when the ice is deep or turquoise blue, or has red bacteria growth. I would imagine you would get attuned to seeing where the small color is if you saw mostly white everywhere.

Jeimy says

When you wish for color to break up the dreary arctic white, you go see the northern lights.

Whole And says

A nice winter book exploring the great white arctic and yearning, waiting for colour.

Not sure of the accuracy of representation of the arctic but a gentle winter read which can also be used to introduce colours in art.

Matthew says

Someone who lives in the Arctic longs for color, until she encounters the Northern Lights. This was a wonderful primary grade picture book that is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Janet says

Lovely title with brief text, but warm storyline showing different hues of white in the Arctic. How does color come to the white winter world? A very well done title that ultimately shows a wonderful natural happening that happens in our world and seen predominantly in the Arctic regions. I can think of lots of storytime themes this could be used with.

Kris says

Sweet concept, but kind of generic. I did love the idea that the people in the Arctic are starved for color during the white of winter, but I found the art too colorful to really get that across.

Linda Gill says

"When you live in the Arctic in winter, everything is a shade of white."

One night, the young girl's grandfather smiles and hums. She thinks he is keeping a secret. She follows him as he walks out across the cold tundra. Others of the community follow too. All the while, she sees the whites of the tundra. They finally reach a place where grandfather stops. The beauty of the Northern Lights dances across the sky before them where they enjoy the glorious colors, their movements, together.

She had hoped for color in her world. She got so much that she wanted to hold onto this wild array of color. She painted, paper after paper. She recalled the beautiful colors as she recorded them with paint. Then she

filled the walls of the igloo with the colors of the Northern Lights.

Where everything is a shade of white, "...inside, there is hope." Thus a sweet ending to this little book.

Because the book shows this community living in igloos, one may wonder if there are any peoples living in them today. If we, as adults, ask a question about igloos, surely, children will. Because a people or a location on the tundra is not mentioned, confusion may arise. So a bit a preparation about igloo-living, the Tundra, and the Northern Lights would be recommended before reading the book aloud to a class or even to one child. Lessons can be gleaned from this book with some outside research.

Thoughtful words combined with illustrations of watercolor and ink on Arches cold-pressed paper, digitally enhanced, make this a book to read in the winter when much of our own surroundings may be white.

Reading Level: 4 - 8 years

Author

Danna Smith grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her father trained, bred, and rehabilitated animals. She was around all types of animals, growing to love animals and nature. She also loved words, writing poems and stories that "sparked emotion." This combination of animals, nature, and writing has led to some wonderful children's books by Mrs. Smith.

Danna "lives in Northern California with her husband, two grown children, and their cocker spaniel, Peanut. She enjoys spending time outdoors and painting with watercolors but most of the time, you can find her at her computer playing with words." You can find her wonderful website @ <http://www.dannasmithbooks.com> Her Twitter handle is @dannasmith8

Illustrator

Lee White has illustrated ten children's books, other things as well. He currently lives in Portland, Oregon. He graduated from the Art Center College of Design in 2003 (with honors) and has been working as an illustrator ever since. He is writing two new books as well as working in visual development for animation and games. He can be found @ <http://www.leewhiteillustration.com>

Hannah Groeschen says

This book had unique illustrations. I loved all the descriptions in the story. It almost made me want to go visit the Arctic to see all the shades of white.

Laura Harrison says

My favorite picture book of 2016 so far. Glorious!

Lindsay says

Snowflakes have six sides, not eight.
