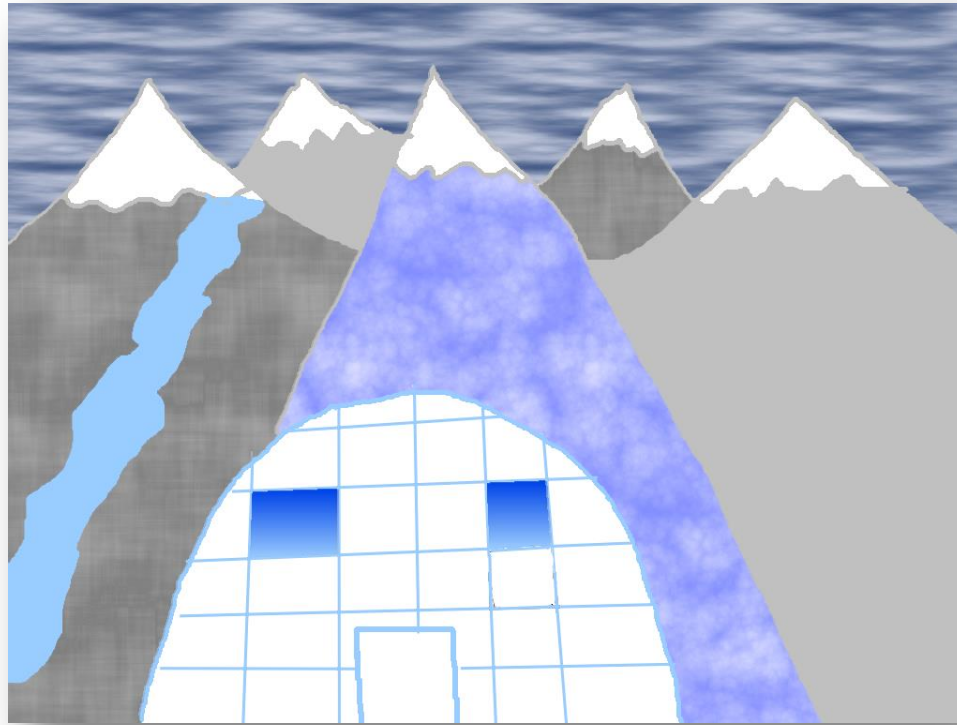


The Inuit

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One cold morning my Inuit family woke up in our igloo in the Arctic. I peeked outside and saw mountains covered in snow and frozen rivers. Everywhere I looked I saw white. I heard the wind howling. I said, “It’s going to be a freezing cold day.” The wind blew a cold breeze down my back. My name is Athletic Arctic Fox. I live with mother, sister, father, and grandfather. It was time to start our day.

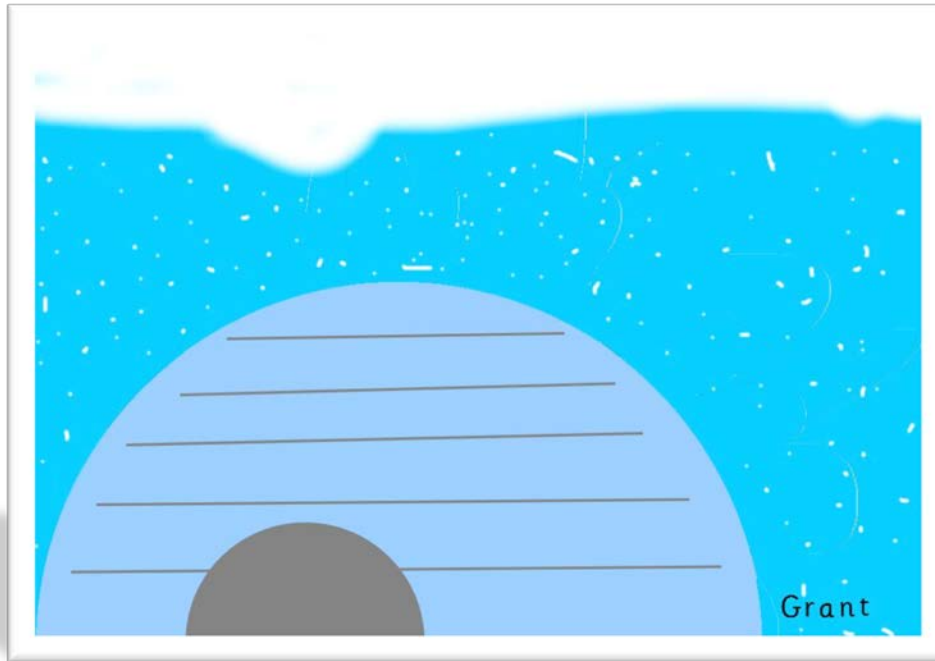


I started to get dressed. We wear two sets of clothes in winter because it is very cold. I put my underclothes on first. I put on a shirt, pants and socks with the fur facing my skin. Then comes my outer clothes. I put on my long pants and boots. I need to stuff grass and feathers in the boots to make them warmer. Then I put on my parka. It is a coat with a hood. It has wolf fur inside the hood to keep my head warm. It has wolf fur around the hood's edge to make it warmer.

W i l l i a m

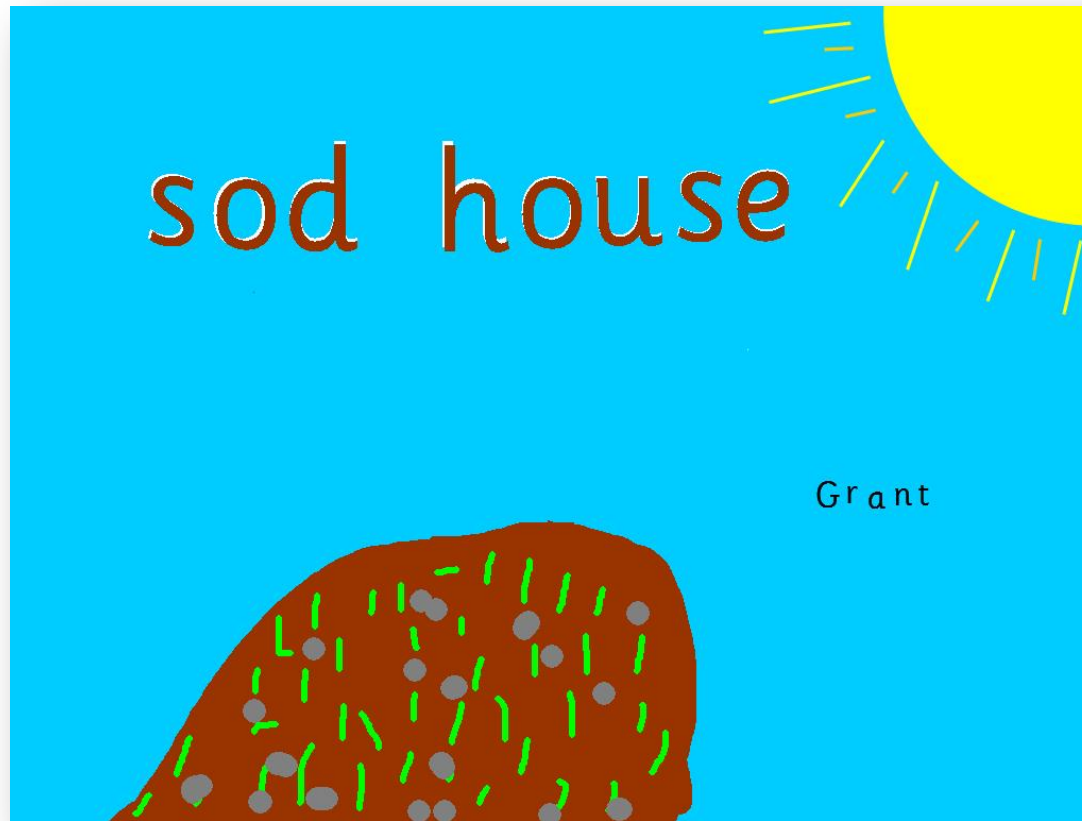


I even wear goggles. They are made from wood or bone. They have a little opening so I can see! Now it is time to go outside.

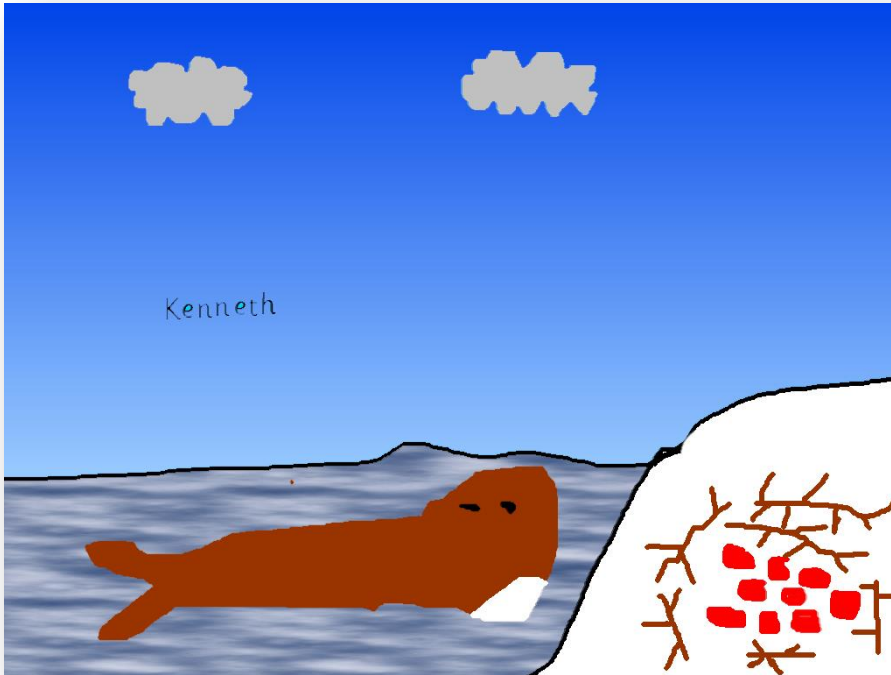


I looked back at our new igloo.

I remember when we moved from our sod house to our igloo, which we do every winter. When we started building the igloo, I said, “Father, what do we do first?” Father said, “First we need to cut pieces of packed snow. We will use the long bone knives. Then we need to put them on top of each other to make a dome. Now we need to break a hole in the igloo.” “What?!!!!!!! Why?” I asked. “To make a window!” “Oh, okay.” Then ... SMASH! I broke a hole. I said to father, “Okay, that is a little too big!” So we had to start all over again. “So now it is time to break the hole for the window again, so be very careful!” father said. “I did it!” I yelled. “Great!” said father. Now we will fill in the cracks with snow.

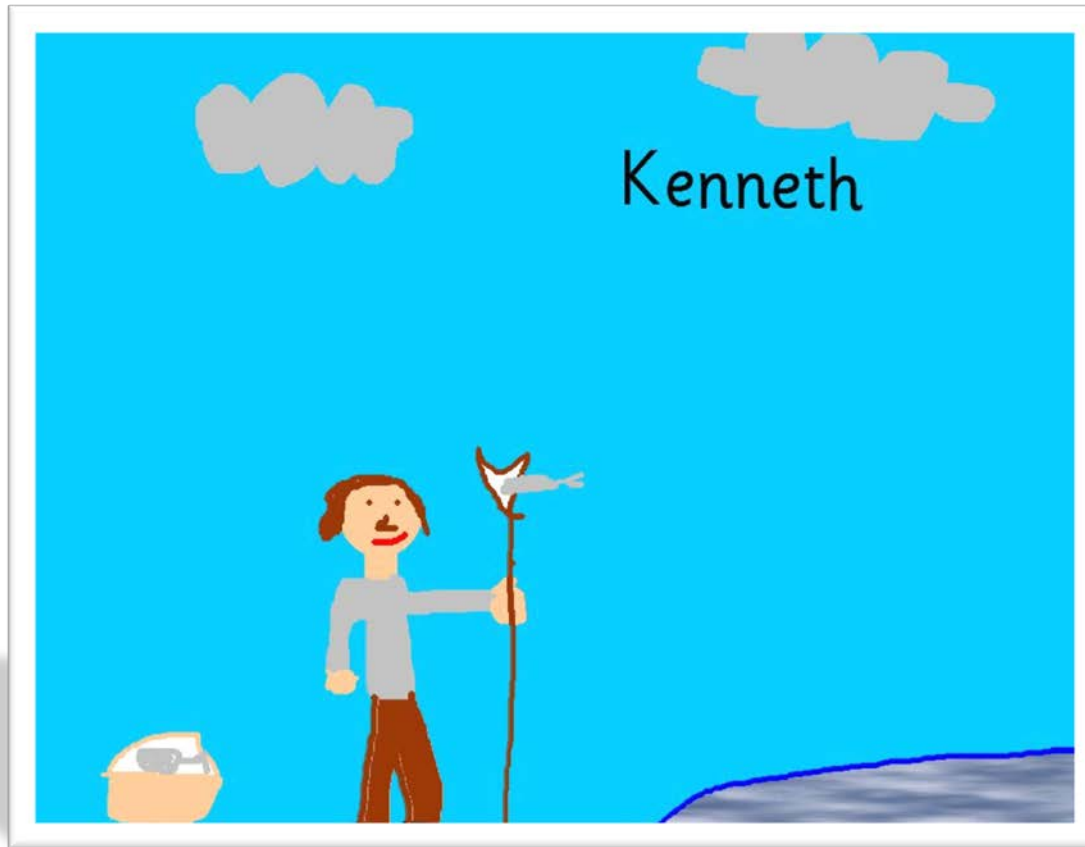


“Wow, the sod house was much easier to build!” I said. So this is how we made a sod house. First we dug about one foot below the ground. Then we used stones, driftwood, and whale bones to make the dome shaped frame. Last we covered the frame with some sod. The sod house is our fall home.

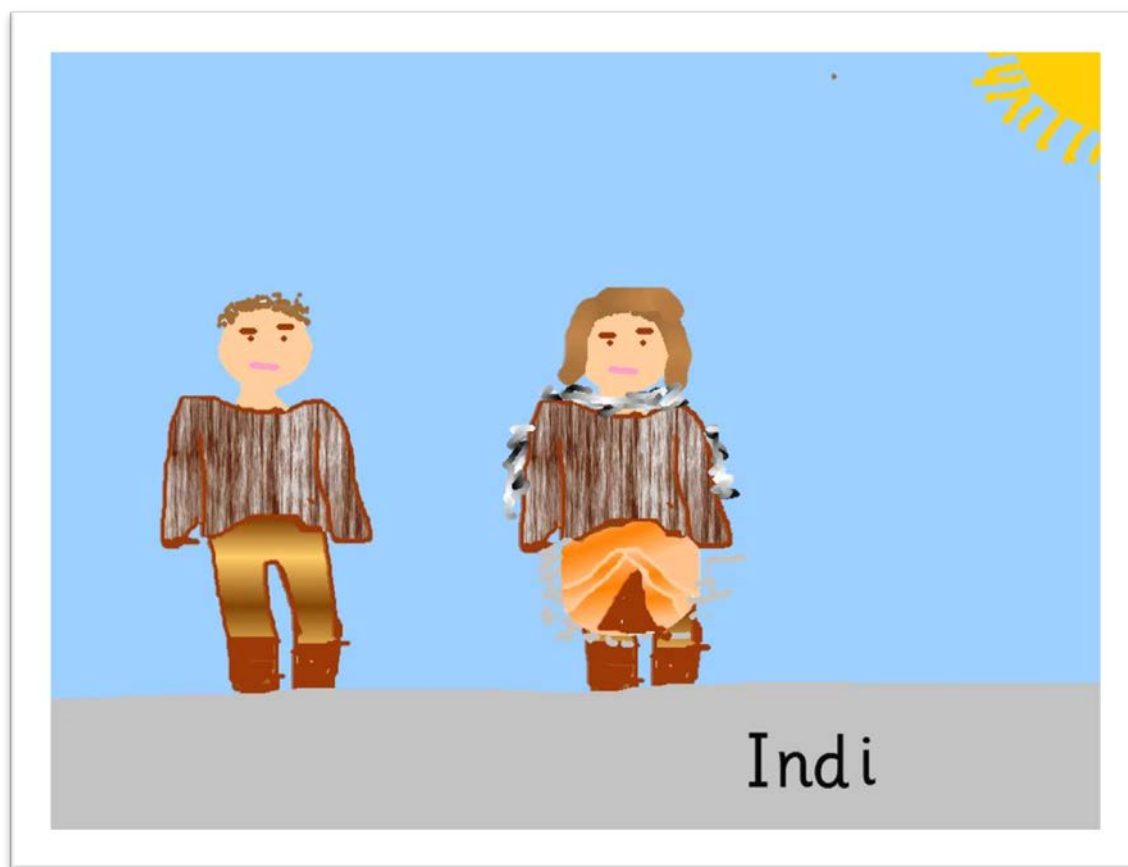


It was time to look for food.

“Wait for me,” I said to grandfather and father. I ran right up to them and said, “What are we hunting or fishing for today father?” “We are going to go on the umiak, that large boat remember? And try to catch a seal.” Grandfather said, “Let’s get the harpoon too.” I ran over and grabbed the harpoon. Grandfather said, “Don’t forget the umiak!” I ran over and tugged it over. “Let’s go!” I yelled. We put the umiak in the water and jumped on to it. I took out the harpoon. I saw something. It was a seal! I jabbed the harpoon in it. I made it myself out of driftwood. I was tugging and tugging until I finally pulled it up. I let it off the harpoon there was blood everywhere. We gave thanks for the seal for giving its life so we could live.



We got off the umiak and went to the igloo. Tomorrow we'll go fishing on top of ice on the river. We will get salmon. We have to cut a hole in the ice. We have to use the spear to jab the fish. The spear head is made out of antler bones.



Today, Mother was sewing more warm clothing out of seal, polar bear skin, and Arctic fox. Sister was sewing under clothes and she was also sewing some over clothes.

Father and grandfather began to skin the seal. Mother was waiting for the seal meat so she could salt it, freeze some, and dry some over the fire.



Back at the igloo sister and mother were waiting for us. “I wish we could have some cloud berries,” sister said. “You’ll have to wait for spring,” mother replied. In the spring and summer there are plenty of berries, grasses, wild roots, birds, and bird eggs. In winter, we eat mostly meat and fish, which we have to store in a special building to keep animals out.

Before you knew it, we’d had a delicious seal dinner and were ready to go to sleep, but first, grandfather told sister and I the Inuit myth of *The Woman from Below the Ocean*. Slowly my eyes were closing, and then I was asleep.