

The Day and the Life of an Inuit

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December 2015



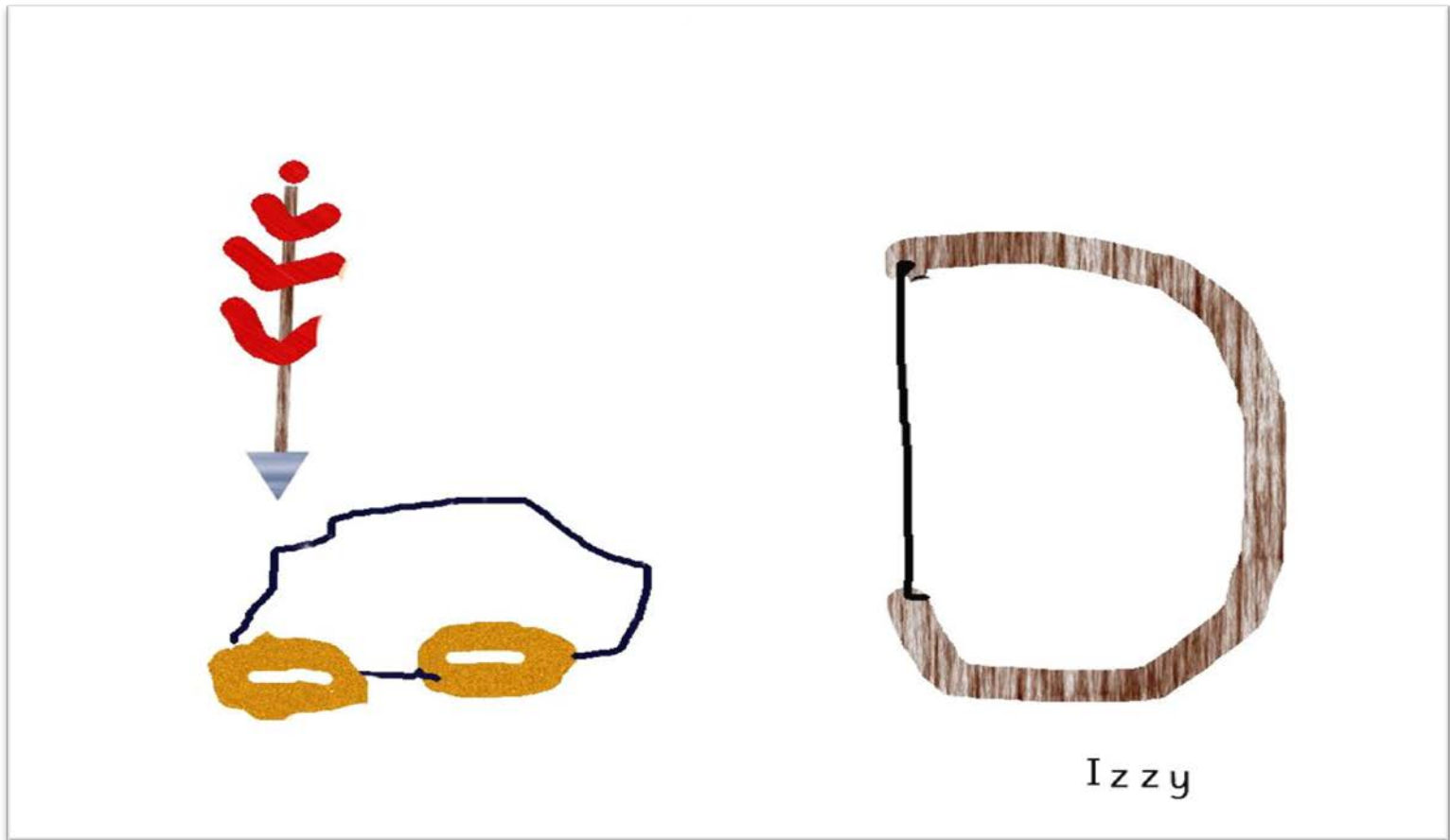
Hi, my name is Howler. I am an Inuit and live in the Arctic. Most of the year is very very cold here. It is also snowy, icy and windy. My winter home is in an igloo. But now it is still fall and we are getting ready for the unwelcoming weather to come.



I woke up in my sod house which we live in from spring through fall. Soon we will make our winter igloo out of snow and ice blocks. Today is the day I need to go for a hunt because winter is coming and then the animals will be hibernating, and it will be too cold. I started my day by getting dressed. First I put on my under clothes, a shirt and long pants, then I put on my boots. It is warm out so I don't need my parka and mittens. After I put my clothes made out of animal skins on, I went outside.



I looked around for my friend, Hawker. Finally I found him wandering around the camp. I asked him if he wanted to play Cat's Cradle? It was a long game. The point of the game was to make figures with string. After we played Cat's Cradle I went back inside the sod house to do my morning chores. First, I rolled up my animal skin bed. Second, I helped my mother by bringing the fish out to the drying racks. After I did all my chores, I was hungry. I had Arctic char for breakfast.



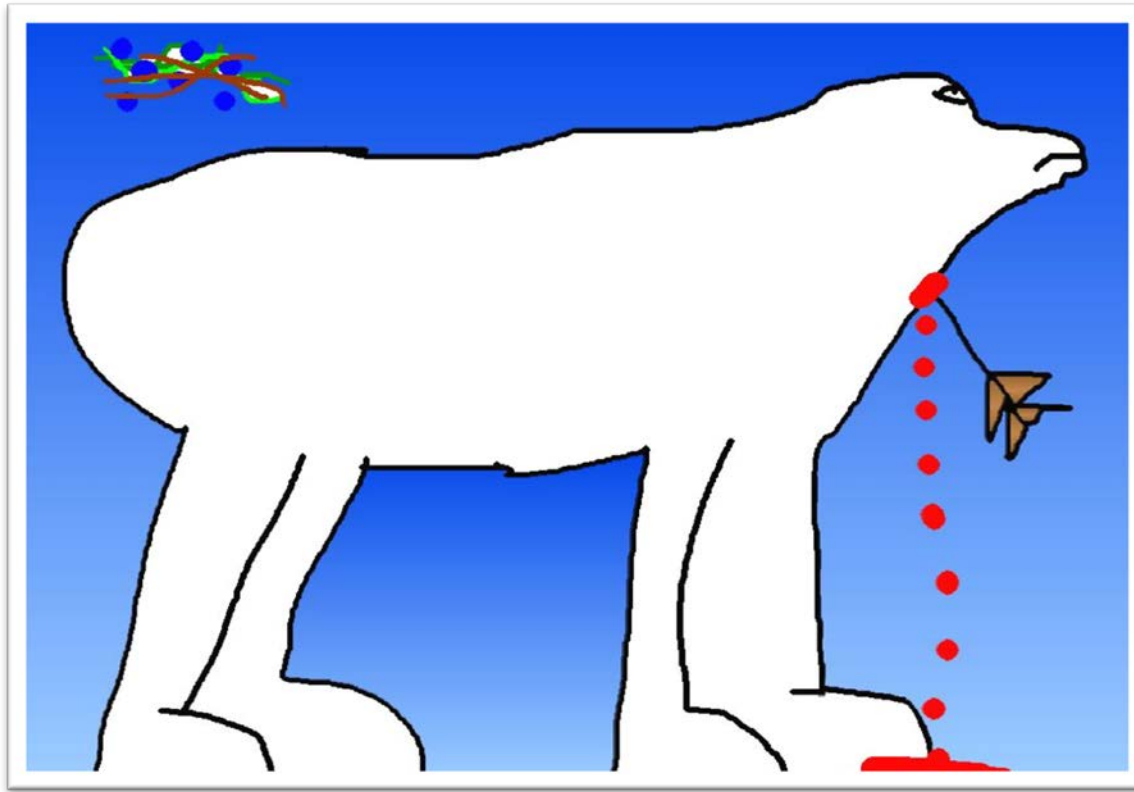
After I had breakfast I went back outside and asked my father if I could go for a hunt alone because I was old enough. My father said yes. I went to go get my bow and arrow. I also got my snow goggles for protecting my eyes from the bright sun, then I was off.



I walked to the woods. I looked carefully for an inuksuk. They are made from stacked stones. We make them to tell people they are on the right path to find something, like food. Finally I found one in front of a herd of caribou. I pulled back the string of my bow letting an arrow strike a caribou in the neck. I dragged the caribou by the horns. It was heavy.



On the way back to our camp I stopped by a pond. I knew that I did not have any fishing gear but I thought I could catch one by hand. I left the caribou on the shore and pushed a kayak into shallow water. I rowed to the middle of the pond. Then I kept my eyes out for fish. I saw a lot of fish but did not catch anything. On the 36th try I gave up. I rowed back to the shore with no fish. I started to drag my caribou again all the way back to the camp.



When I arrived at the sod house my father had caught a polar bear. My mother had also gathered wild roots and grass. I showed my caribou that I caught with pride. We had all of our food for dinner with a little bit of seal. After dinner I played another long game of Cat's Cradle with Hawker.



Then we went into my sod house to tell about the daily events. I told about the caribou I caught and trying to catch fish by hand. Hawker told me about him and his father catching an Arctic fox and him catching two salmon. He also told me the tale, *The Lady under the Water*. It is a myth that every Inuit should know. It tells how the water animals were created and about Sedna. Sedna was saved from drowning by the spirits of the Air and Moon. Now she is the underwater guardian of the Inuit. After he told me about his events he went back to his sod house and I went to sleep in my own animal skin bed.