

This book is part of the Inuutsiarniq Reading Series, developed by the Department of Health in Nunavut. The Inuutsiarniq Reading Series is a unique, Nunavut-developed literacy initiative that infuses Northern values of healthy living and self-care into a culturally appropriate reading program.

The Inuutsiarniq Reading Series was developed to support the reading level guidelines outlined in the Department of Education's Inuktut guided reading program, Uqalimaariuqsaniq. Uqalimaariuqsaniq is a sequential and progressive Inuktut reading program that supports students in their development from emergent to fluent readers.

Healthy students are better learners and become healthy adults. For more information, visit www.gov.nu.ca/health and your local Health Centre.

Book details

- Level:** 10
- Text Type:** Fiction
- Subject/themes:** Seal hunting, warm and protective clothing, frostbite, healthy eating habits
- Key features:** Dialogue, third-person point of view, past tense

Hunting with Uncle Qamaniq



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Tina looked out the kitchen window.
She was very excited, because it was going to be
a great day! She and her Uncle Qamaniq were
going seal hunting!
“Woohoo!” Tina hollered.





Uncle Qamaniq walked into the kitchen and made himself a cup of tea.

“It’s so beautiful out!” Tina said.

“It does look like a beautiful day, Tina, but it certainly will be cold,” Uncle Qamaniq said.

“How will we stay warm for the whole day?” Tina asked.

“First thing we do to stay warm is eat,”
Uncle Qamaniq said. Tina started to pour
some sugary cereal for breakfast.
Uncle Qamaniq said, “That will not keep you warm.
I’ll make some hot oatmeal and boiled eggs.
Remember, it is important to have a good meal
before going out.”





Tina watched as Uncle Qamaniq made the oatmeal. He reached out for the big wooden spoon. Tina saw the gap on his right hand where one finger was missing. “You lost your finger because it was too cold, didn’t you?” Tina asked.

Uncle Qamaniq looked thoughtfully
down at his hand.
“I lost my finger to frostbite many years ago,”
he said. “It happened on a hunting trip when
I was much younger. I didn’t know enough
about staying safe and warm.”



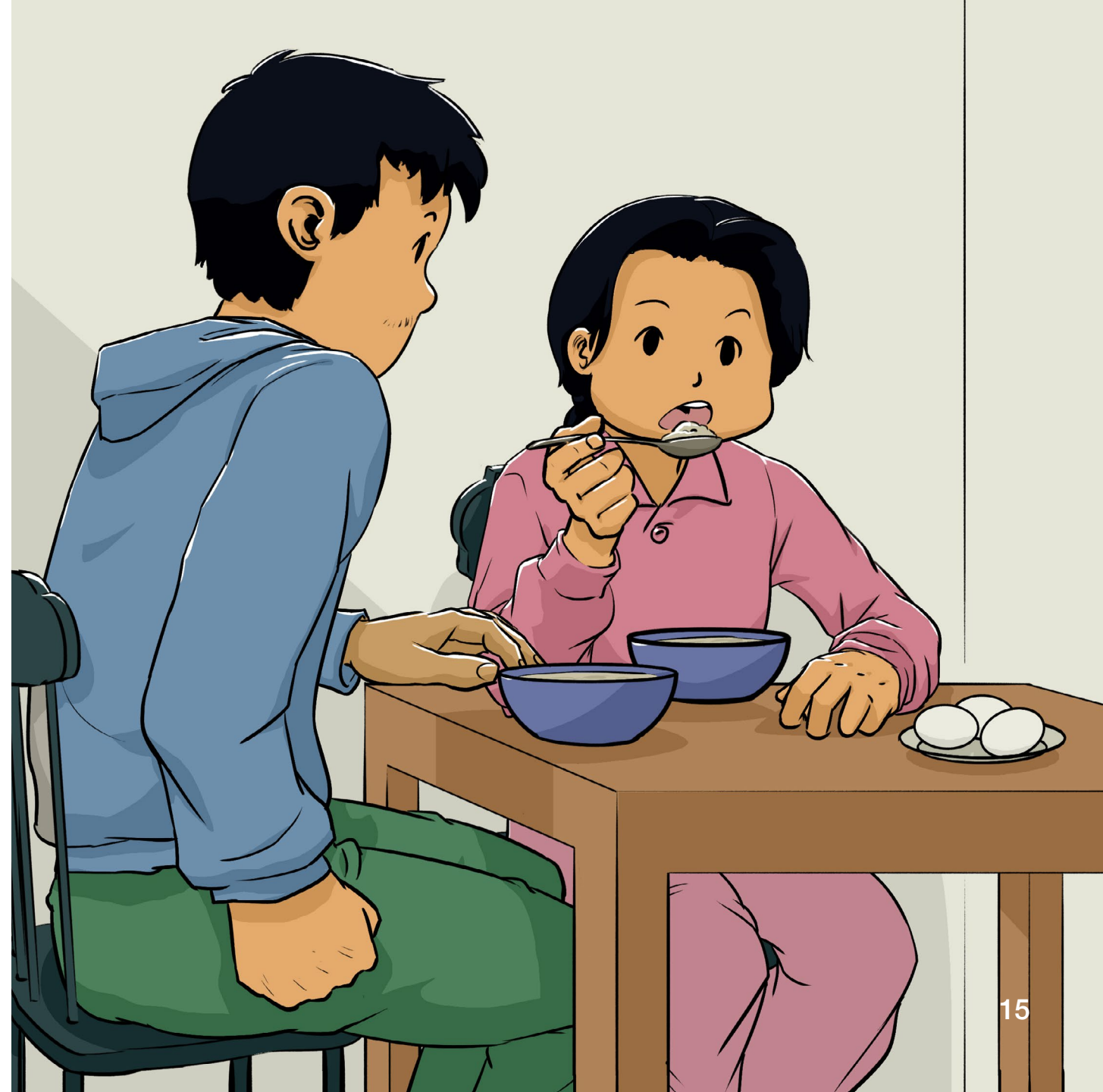


“I lost my trigger finger and have had to learn to shoot with my other hand,” Uncle Qamaniq said. “There are many things to learn about staying warm and safe outside.”

He placed the oatmeal in two bowls.

“Like eating a good meal before going out!” Tina explained.

Tina and Uncle Qamaniq ate their oatmeal and eggs.
“It is very difficult for our bodies to stay warm if we are hungry,” Uncle Qamaniq said.
“We need to prepare some snacks and a hot Thermos for the day.”
Uncle Qamaniq put a snack in his pocket.
He always made sure to pack extra food.



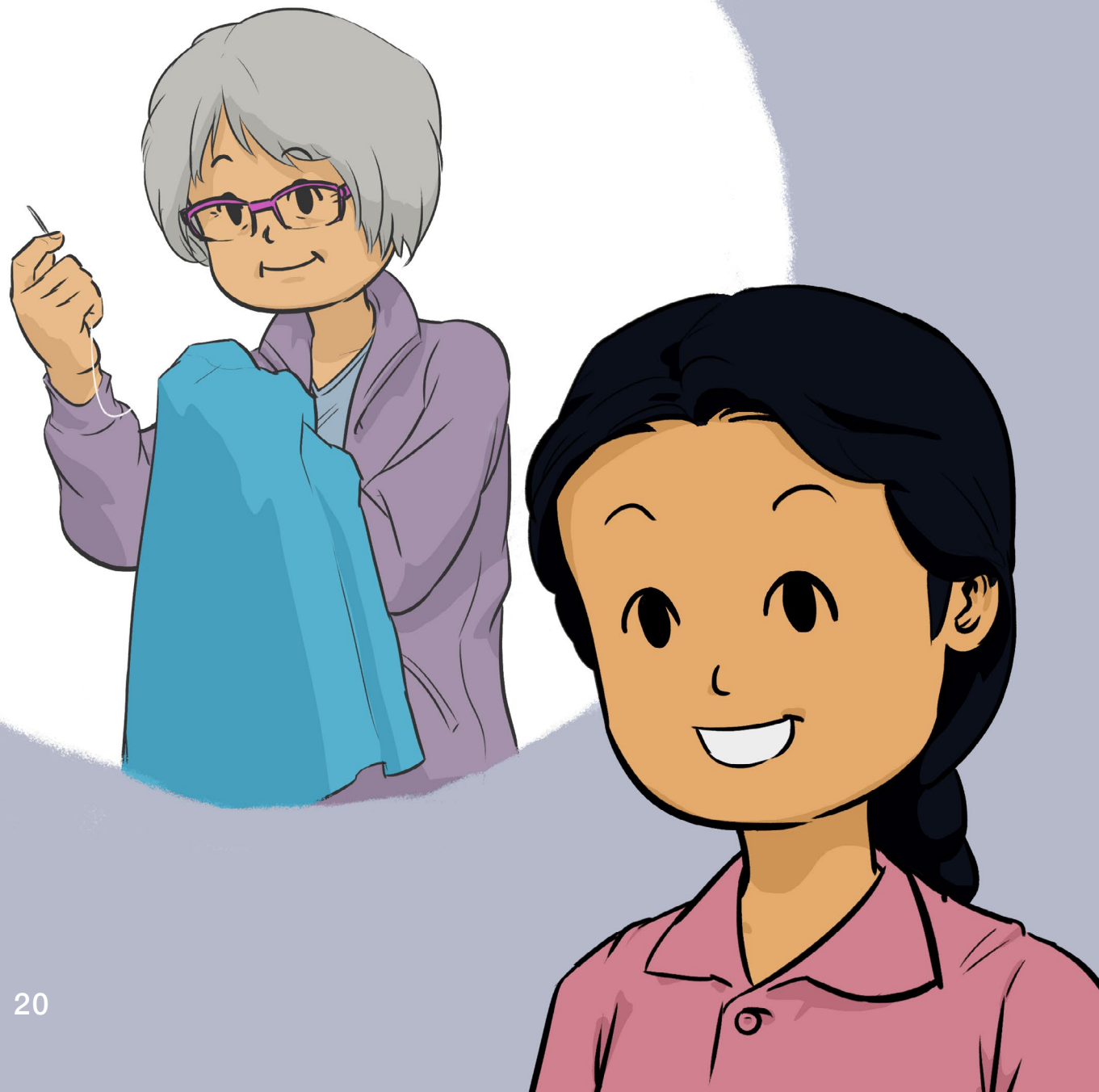


“Good idea!” Tina said.
“What should we take with us?”
“Some things I like to bring are soup packages,
bannock, igunaq, and hot water for tea!”
Uncle Qamaniq replied.
They worked together to get the snacks ready.
Uncle Qamaniq boiled the water for the large Thermos.

Tina went to pee first before she got dressed. Uncle Qamaniq had told her never to go out with a full bladder. It can make you become colder much faster.

She made sure to have a few layers of pants and shirts on. She put on a thick pair of wool socks and checked to make sure nothing was too tight.





“The best clothing to wear is homemade clothing,” Uncle Qamaniq said. “Your grandmother makes wonderful clothing that is designed for this environment. The best parka for really cold weather is a pullover without any zippers.”

Tina pulled on her warmest parka made by her grandmother. It had an amazing wolf-fur ruff on it. She slipped into her large duffle socks and kamiks. Then she added the extra-warm booties over top. She also grabbed some thin gloves for when she would be shooting.





Uncle Qamaniq packed up the snowmobile and qamutiik. There was a windscreen for Tina. Uncle Qamaniq added an extension to the windshield to keep him warm while he drove, too. Tina loved riding on the qamutiik and made sure to always hold on so she didn't fall off!

When they arrived at the hunting spot,
Tina hopped off the qamutiik.
“Brrr,” Tina said as she shivered.
“Move around to warm up,” Uncle Qamaniq suggested.
Tina hopped around to warm up her feet and hands.
“But make sure never to rub any parts that you think
might be frostbitten,” Uncle Qamaniq reminded her.





“When we are waiting at the seal holes, it is important to stay very still,” Uncle Qamaniq said. Tina put her light gloves on and put her mitts on over top so that her hands would be protected if she needed to shoot.

“If you get too cold, it’s okay to take a break in order to warm up,” Uncle Qamaniq said.

They waited for a while for any seals to come up for a breath. They kept very still as they waited, and eventually a seal came up. When it started breathing more heavily, Tina fired the rifle at the hole. “I got it!” she exclaimed. “Great!” Uncle Qamaniq said as he got ready to use the large hook.



“Are you cold?” Uncle Qamaniq asked.

“Yes, a little,” Tina replied.

“Okay, we will have some hot soup to warm up after we prepare the seal for the trip home,”

Uncle Qamaniq said. “It is cold, but you did a terrific job protecting yourself from frostbite!

I am very proud of you!” Uncle Qamaniq said.



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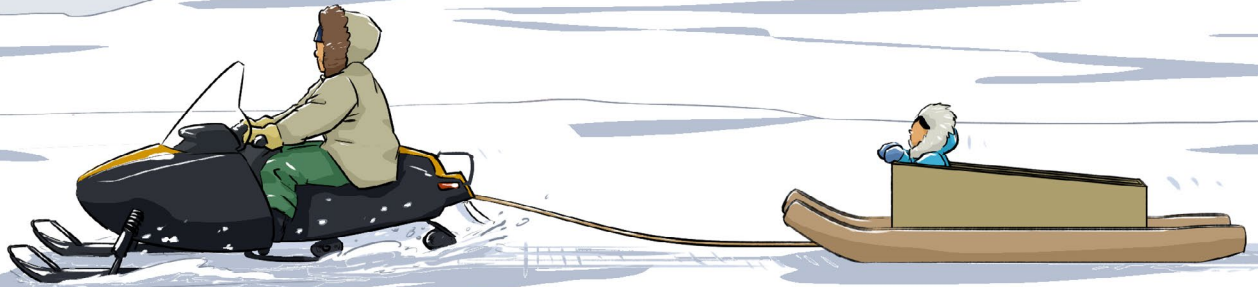
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