

The Career Fair



This book is part of the Tulliniliara Reading Series, developed by the Department of Family Services in Nunavut. The Tulliniliara Reading Series is a unique, Nunavut-developed literacy initiative that infuses awareness of skills, interests, and careers into a culturally appropriate reading program.

The Tulliniliara Reading Series was developed to support the reading level guidelines outlined in Uqalimaariuqsaniq, the Department of Education's reading program. Uqalimaariuqsaniq is a sequential and progressive Inuktitut reading program that supports students in their development as readers.

The Tulliniliara Reading Series will inform readers about jobs available in their community. It will also provide opportunities for readers to consider their own interests and skills when thinking about future work. Awareness of career possibilities at a young age will better prepare children to understand the opportunities that are open to them and the importance of staying in school.

These books represent the Department of Family Services' investment in the early development of our future workforce.

Book details

Level:	13
Text type:	Fiction
Subjects/themes:	Different jobs in communities, basic skills required to do these jobs
Key features:	32 pages, past tense, dialogue, third-person point of view

The Career Fair



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It started out like any other school day.

Manasie climbed out of bed and wandered into the kitchen. His anaana was there making him oatmeal for breakfast.

“Good morning, irniq,” she said with a smile. “Are you excited for the career fair today?”

Manasie had forgotten about the career fair. His teacher had sent a letter home to parents last week.

“I guess so,” he said.





The truth was that Manasie was nervous. His teacher had told them that a career fair was an opportunity for students to meet different people with different jobs and maybe decide what job they would like to have one day.

Manasie didn't know what he wanted to be when he grew up! He was only in Grade 5!

Manasie walked to school slowly. When he arrived, he saw his friends Mina and Simeonie. They waited so he could catch up with them.

“Hey Manasie!” Mina said. “Are you excited about the career fair?”

“I don’t know,” Manasie said quietly. His stomach felt tight.

“I am!” Simeonie said. “My ataata is going to be there. He’s an RCMP officer. I want to be an RCMP officer one day, too!”





“I want to be a teacher like Louisa,” Mina said as they walked into the classroom. She smiled widely at Louisa.

“Good morning, class!” Louisa said. “It sounds like some of you are ready for the career fair today!”

“Yeah!” Mina, Simeonie, and some other students cheered.

“Let’s all line up and we’ll walk to the gym,” Louisa said. “There will be lots of interesting people for you to meet there.”

In the gym, Manasie looked around. He saw Simeonie's ataata, the RCMP officer. He saw a pilot, a nurse, a construction worker, and a few people who weren't wearing uniforms. Even the mayor was there!

Simeonie and Mina ran ahead to talk to Simeonie's ataata. Manasie didn't know which person to talk to.





Then Manasie saw his anaana's friend Janet. Janet and Manasie's anaana were both nurses. Janet waved at him.

Manasie's anaana loved being a nurse. She liked to help people feel better. But Manasie didn't like being around sick people. He didn't think he could ever do that job.

He waved back, but he decided to talk to Simeonie's ataata.

“Hey Manasie,” Simeonie’s ataata said, smiling. “Do you want to learn about being an RCMP officer?”

“I guess so,” Manasie said.

“An RCMP officer’s responsibility is to keep everyone in the community safe,” he said.

That sounded like a lot of work to Manasie. He didn’t even like to babysit his little sister. How could he take care of a whole community?





There were two people standing next to Simeonie's ataata: a man dressed all in white and a woman wearing a suit jacket and a name tag.

Manasie didn't think he had seen either of them before.

"What do you do?" Manasie asked them.

"We run the hotel in town," the woman said.

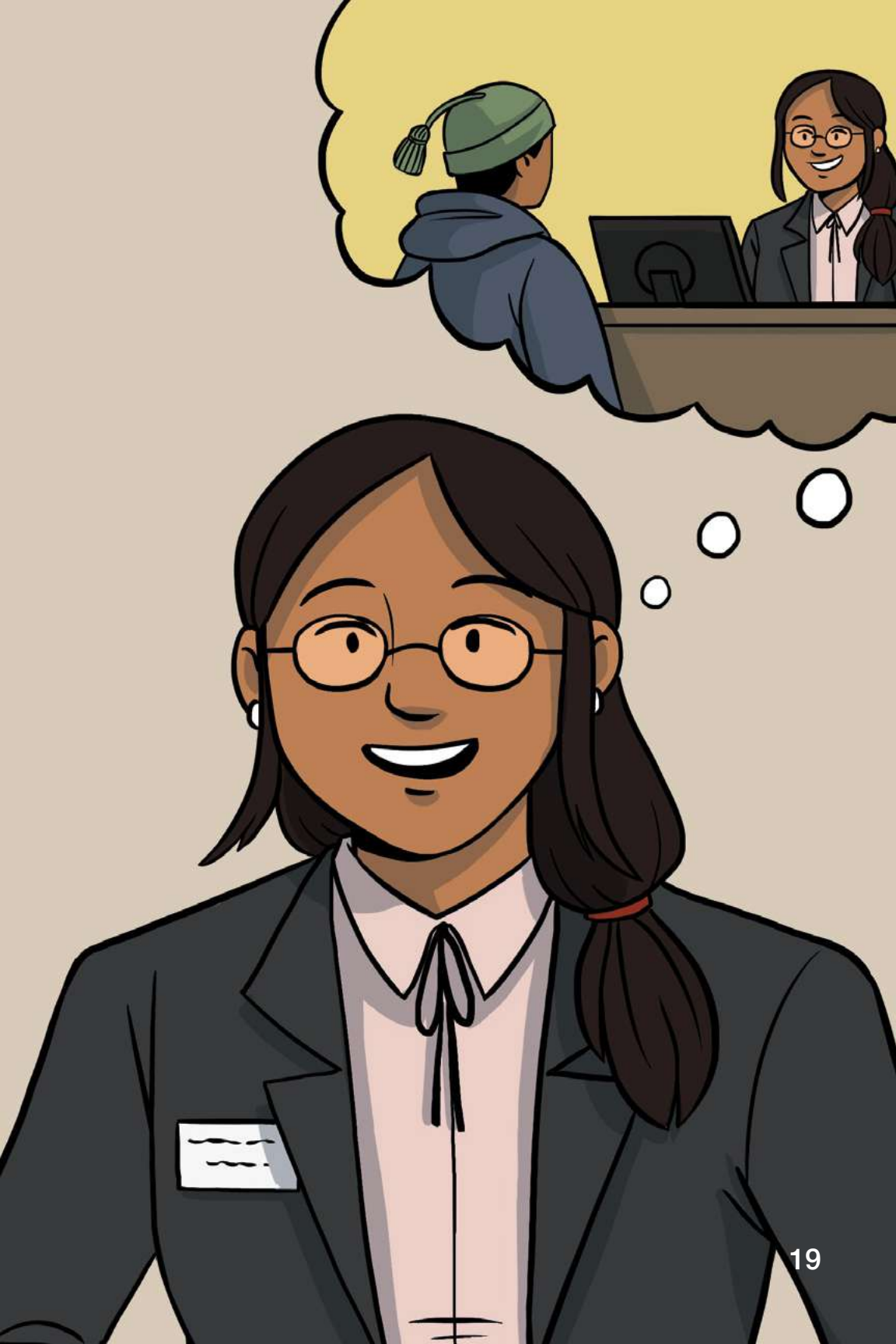
"I'm the chef at the hotel's restaurant, and Nancy runs the front desk," the man said.

Manasie had never thought about those kinds of jobs before. He'd never stayed in the hotel in his own community.

Manasie didn't like to cook. It was too messy. But he was curious about how hotels worked.

"How do you run a front desk?" he asked the woman.

"You have to greet the people who will stay at the hotel and organize where they will stay," she replied. "You get to meet people from all across Nunavut and around the world."





Manasie was shy. He didn't think running a front desk would be a good job for him. He felt discouraged.

Maybe I'm not good at anything, he thought. How would he ever figure out what job he should do?

He turned and walked out of the gym. Just outside the doors, he ran into someone wearing a bright orange vest. She was rushing down the hall.

“Hi!” she said. “Do you know where the career fair is?”

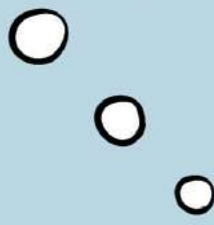
“It’s in the gym,” he said, pointing behind him.

“Oh, good. I’m late!” she said. “The airplane from Winnipeg today was delayed.”

“Did you come all the way from Winnipeg for the career fair?” Manasie asked.

“No, I work at the airport,” she replied. “I’m an air traffic controller. My name is Leesie.”





“What’s that?” Manasie asked.

“I talk to pilots to tell them if the runway is safe for them to take off and land their planes,” Leesie replied.

Manasie thought that sounded pretty cool. He liked watching planes come and go from his community. Sometimes big planes flew in from Iqaluit and Yellowknife, but most of the time he saw propeller planes and helicopters.

“So, do you know what you want to be when you grow up?” Leesie asked.

“No, I couldn’t find a single job I think I’d be good at,” Manasie said, staring at his feet.

Leesie smiled.

“You don’t have to pick a job today!” she said. “You’re just here to learn about different options!”

Manasie looked up at her.





“When I was your age, I didn’t know what I wanted to be,” Leesie said. “All I wanted to do was play hockey outside every night with my friends.”

“I guess I’m just worried that I’m not good at anything,” Manasie sighed.

“I’m sure that’s not true!” she said. “What do you like to do?”

Manasie thought for a moment. “I like to play video games,” he said.

Leesie raised her eyebrows.
“Did you know that someone needs to make the video games you like to play?”

“But I don’t know how to do that,” Manasie said, confused.

“You don’t need to know how right now,” Leesie said.

“You can learn how! I certainly didn’t know how to help planes land before I went to college!”

Manasie laughed.



“How about we go back to the fair?” she asked Manasie.

“Sure,” Manasie said.

Manasie realized he was feeling a lot better. Leesie had made thinking about different jobs a lot of fun. Even if he didn't want to be an air traffic controller, he was glad that he had met her.

“Do you want to meet my friends?” Manasie asked, as he spotted Mina and Simeonie waving at him.

“Atii!” Leesie said, and they went back into the gym.



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