



Ice Drift

Theodore Taylor

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The year is 1868, and fourteen-year-old Alika and his younger brother, Sulu, are hunting for seals on an ice floe attached to their island in the Arctic. Suddenly the ice starts to shake, and they hear a loud crack--the terrible sound of the floe breaking free from land. The boys watch with horror as the dark expanse of water between the ice and the shore rapidly widens, and they start drifting south--away from their home, their family, and everything they've ever known.

Throughout their six-month-long journey down the Greenland Strait, the brothers face bitter cold, starvation, and most frightening of all, vicious polar bears. But they still remain hopeful that one day they'll be rescued.

This thrilling new adventure story from bestselling author Theodore Taylor is a moving testament to the bond between brothers--and to the strength of the human spirit.

Includes a map, a glossary of Inuit words and phrases, and an author's note..

Ice Drift Details

Date : Published March 1st 2006 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published 2005)

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Author : Theodore Taylor

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From Reader Review Ice Drift for online ebook

Peter N says

Theodore Taylor's novel *Ice Drift* is about a 14 year old boy named Alik, his younger brother Sulu and their dog Jamka who were out hunting seals along an ice floe near their home island where their family and village is located. Suddenly in the middle of their hunting, the ice floe started rumbling and cracking, the ice floe started to drift away with Alik and his younger brother still on it. The villagers and their attempt to bring the both of them back to shore failed and they drifted far off away from their home leaving behind everything they ever knew. The two brothers and their dog ventured a 6 month journey through blizzards, bitter cold weather, deadly polar bears and starvation. However through their journey they did everything they could to survive, Alik cared for both himself and his little brother, in hopes that one day they will stumble upon land again.

This novel brings us a thrilling adventure, a book that will keep you wanting to read more. The style and tone of the book was pretty dark and unsettling, however at the same time the tone of the story was hopeful, it is demonstrated through the care and love that Alik gave to his younger brother, it is their attempted to stay alive and their care for each other is what kept the tone of the story hopeful. Another great thing about the book is it's message, it shows that no matter what conditions you're in it is always the best idea to keep trying, and also that caring for others can sometimes help with your own situation and problems. The author did a great job delivering the story and message, the way it was narrated made it real, focusing a lot of details. Throughout the book, almost two stories were going on at once, one was with Alik and the ice drift, while the other was about their parents who are going on a wild goose chase trying to find their sons across the arctic seas. This cross story brought more attention to the world around them making the story feel alive, also putting on this stressfulness that is what's really going on. I definitely recommend this book if you're looking for a good action/adventure book.

Overall, I rate the book a 4. I believe that the story was dragged on for too long, the book went at a pretty slow pace, and could've been a bit more faster. Also the story seems a bit, "unrealistic", as the whole story seems to be some miracle work but at the same time because of that very reason it made the story intriguing. The way the author incorporated the Inuit culture made the story feel a lot more realistic, it demonstrated their living styles and how they survive. The other also delivered the story and message very well, also the tone of the story was unique, how it was a dark and unsettling tone, yet at the same time the brother's effort to care for each other and survive made it a very heartwarming and hopeful story.

Abbie Shawano says

I thought that *Ice Drift* was full of action and adventure. Although it seemed a bit unrealistic at times, I thought that Theodore Taylor was able to keep the attention of his readers throughout the entire story. I liked that his action and storyline was a bit more intense; I think that older children should be able to start understanding the concepts of hardship and what many of our ancestors and some people today must go through for the simple act of survival. Personally, I could relate to some of the oral tradition that took place when the brothers spoke of stories that related to the land, animals, and beliefs of the Inuit people, being Native American. I enjoyed the nature and closeness of sibling love and togetherness during this entire book, making me want to look further into how this novel could be introduced into the classroom.

The best way to incorporate *Ice Drift* into the classroom would be by independent reading. I think that each

student from about grade four to six should read this book, and afterwards (depending on their grade level) incorporate a study. The students could research the culture of Inuit people or other modern day tribes. They could also study the map provided within the book to learn more about the geography or landmarks talked about throughout the book. Animals and nature were also involved in many different instances. I think that after each student researches what they are interested in most, they can dig deeper and present their findings for the rest of the class. I always enjoyed assignments such as these.

Growing up with two older brothers and two very different families, I was able to have a pretty diverse outlook on life whether that be gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomics, language, or so on. I believe that the importance of family and diversity in any person's mind are the most significant. With that being said, educators should be able to push their students, at a comfortable level, to share about their lives, showing its importance while also learning about others. This book tells a great story of the love between two family members and the pride they have from their culture, and that is why I find this book to be so great.

Jerry Pu says

I think "Ice Drift" by Theodore Taylor is an amazing story of adventure and action. After the first couple of chapters, the book turns into two stories going at once. One story is the main character, Alik, his little brother, Sulu, and their dog, Jamka who are trying to survive after being separated from their village. The other story is their parents trying to find their children. Their village survives mostly on seals and other animals they can find. But an iceberg hit and broke off a chunk of the ice that the children and the dog were on. After a couple days, Alik is able to find food to last a week and so they eat and continue searching the glaciers for a possible route west toward their village. Its a very interesting story about survival and adventure

Even though the author has to frequently switch stories, they do not lose track of their reader. They are very detailed at describing the environment and everything that is going on. The author also explains what the characters are thinking and what they are feeling very well. One thing I am concerned about that the author switched stories too often. They would switch stories every two or three chapters. I would have to think about the story differently every time they switched. I would prefer if the author switched stories 5 chapters or so. If this book was a series and there were sequels, I would still keep reading because I like the sense of adventure the author has in the book. Overall I think the book is very descriptive and has an interesting story. I would definitely recommend this book to my classmates.

Kit says

historically questionable

Seema ♥Nerdgirl♥ says

4.5 stars

Loved the bond between the brothers. <3

Mrs. Galway says

Contains a lot of details about Inuit life, beliefs, religion and the Alaskan environment. This would be great partnered with a non-fiction book or as part of a Social Studies/ Science study. The Inuit words and new vocabulary are explained well.

The action starts quickly in this book and continues throughout. The chapters are short, which makes it easier to read.

MaryMargaret Kelly says

I honestly was not the biggest fan of this book. i felt as if it had a really slow going pace and i really do think this book appeals to the gender of male but also the adventurous souls out there which i am not so much. I thought it was a little unrealistic of these young children being stranded and it was just hard for me to really get involved in this book. I like more imaginative stories and fun, exciting books but i felt this was a little too dull for me.

I think this book would be really good for boys 3rd-6th because it includes a lot of adventure, survival and well "boy stuff". The main characters are two brothers who need to get back home after being on ice in the middle of no where dealing with many obstacles. Boys love to read about being the "tough guy", saving lives and making in through really scary and hard times and this book portrays that very well.

I think this book would be best read as a read aloud because there are a lot of things, including words, that may be confusing or ideas that would be explained well by a teacher. Also, they could do a lot of activities after reading this book as a class by creating their own survival story, learning about the culture of the Inuit people and their region, clothing, food, music etc. It would be a really good topic during winter, since they can relate to the cold, and they could have designated people to look up the temperature of the area in the Arctic and compare it to where they live, which would help them understand what the boys in the book had to go through.

Overall, it is a good book but it definitely pushes for a certain audience.

Kim Olson says

I learned a lot about Inuit life and as well as the arctic region, wildlife and biosphere. I was always waiting for the polar bear attack...it was very suspenseful!

Susan says

Overall, I enjoyed the story. I also appreciated the information conveyed about Inuit culture at that time (and I imagine in modified forms still today). However, some parts felt more non-fiction, information dumps than story. I am uncertain how I feel about those latter parts; the new information was appreciated but also paused the story along the way. On the other hand, there were smaller facts and information tucked into the narrative

that worked quite well, providing the information without overwhelming the reader.

I generally enjoyed this read and will likely read other books by this author as I come across them.

Note: I gave this book a full review because this book was published by HMH Books for Young Readers.

I used to give full reviews for all of the books that I rated on GR. However, GR's new giveaway policies (Good Reads 2017 November Giveaways Policies Changes) have caused me to change my reviewing decisions. These new GR policies seem to harm smaller publishing efforts in favour of providing advantage to the larger companies, (GR Authors' Feedback) the big five publishers (Big Five Publishers). So, because of these new GR policies from now on I will be supporting smaller publishing efforts by only giving full reviews to books published by: publishing businesses outside the big five companies, indie publishers, and self-published authors. This book was published by one of these smaller publishing efforts so I have given it a full review.

Alex Rakita says

This book was a pretty decent book it had a acceptable story line. I'm saying it was amazing but it was pretty good for a simple book like this one.

The story starts off in 1868 with these two brothers that went to hunt for seals and on some ice and unfortunately some ice cracked and they drifted away they are very scared and they go on an adventure to find there home. Through this journey they face problems like to cold harsh weather and starvation. The fourteen-year-old Alika and his younger brother, Sulu still have hope that one day they will be rescued. This book was very interesting for me because I like tense and harsh survival storys. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is look for a good book that doesn't a huge amount of pages but I doesn't have to little either. The downsides though are that it may get boring in some parts but that is still very rare other then this issue you should enjoy this book.(:

Isabella Zhang says

This book was filled with action and close calls. If you like books that have turning points, hope, and the will to live struggling to keep bright, this book is for you!

Dan Jodzio says

This was a story that was told very well and included plenty of moments where you could picture yourself in the situations within. The characters are interesting and the trials they are put through are used as learning experiences.

Elizabeth says

Ice Drift by Theodore Taylor was not a good book in my own personal opinion. It was about Alika, a young Inuit who gets trapped on ice that has drifted from shore with his brother Sulu for six months. The boys survive and eventually return home safely. The book shows the importance of strong sibling bonds, and that sometimes you need the encouragement and kindness of others during struggling times.

This book would appeal to boys mainly, and children that are into adventures and survival stories, and probably for students in 3rd-7th grade. This book seemed too far-fetched for it to seem even slightly realistic or believable, but I did enjoy how Theodore Taylor incorporated Inuit culture and language into the story as much as possible. The story line would keep younger boys, in my opinion, intrigued, but I don't think it needed to be as long or drawn out as it was. The language is very good for middle-school aged children because it uses somewhat challenging words, but the context clues make the words very easy to figure out, and it has a dictionary of Inuit words in the back, which is very interesting to read through and learn. This book would have a good purpose in teaching about eskimo/Inuit culture because the food they eat, what and how they hunt, how they dress, and how they talk all reflect their culture, as well as every other small aspect of the story. The fact that the two boys travel to almost Greenland would help teach geography of the arctic area also.

Joe says

Ice Drift is based on a true story of two Inuit brothers Alika and Sulu, they are hunting seals on an ice floe when it suddenly breaks apart from them leaving them floating far away from their dry safe land. When night comes and they do not return home the children's parents go take to the sea in kayaks hoping to find the missing children but their floe is one of tons in the icy ocean and it is already drifting the wrong way. The children also threw their dogs overboard in hope that they will get help and warn their parents. The oldest boy Alika, is only thirteen but he has already learned the essential skills he needs for survival on the harsh piece of land. They have all the equipment that they carried on an Inuit sledge the kids kept one excellent hunting dog just in case and, fortunately a rifle. The kids had to live off of the seals they hunted for food. The boys were attacked by a massive polar bear witch they were able to defeat with the help by the dog. Also the boys survived snow blizzards and hunger. The story did go off track a little bit but it was still a interesting book to read. Anybody who likes survival books learning how to survive in deadly situations would like this book. The characters were compassionate and loving towards each other. They had the strongest relationship to work together and overcome this huge challenge. This books was in the middle of action packed and slow witch was different in my opinion. Yes i would recommend this to one of my class mates this would be a good book for some of them if they like survival like books.

P.S This book was a quick book but I couldn't put it down because I was very interested in it, this was more on the easy side so next time I am going to pick a book that will challenge me more.

Nate Rakita says

Ice Drift would be a good book for someone who loves suspense and thriller and drama all in the same book. At some times i was out of my seat waiting to see what was going to happen on the next page. So, it all starts when two brother, Alika and Sulu go out on a hunting trip with their dog Jamka. Then a huge storm hits and gets them off track. They were stranded after this enormous storm and they had to find a way to survive on

their own not knowing where they were or how to get back to the Inuit village. Along the way Alika and Sulu use their hunting strategies that their father had taught them at a young age. He had also packed their sled with a limited amount of food and emergency supplies. If they were alive in 2015 instead of 1867 they would easily be able to find their way back to their town or village by using GPS. But, because of their time in age they had to use the available resources. They also used spirits of the north to direct food to them and help them fight Polar Bears. When they killed a Polar Bear it gave them enough food for about 7 days. They had to survive on this and fish from the Arctic Ocean. Along with this Alika the older of the the two brothers made an Igloo from ice in the area. He learned how to do this from a technique that his father(the best Inuit hunter) had taught him. After months of the brothers surviving on their own their mother had gone out alone alone in attempt to save them.To avoid spoilers i'm going to stop right here. If you want to find out what happens next get the book and read it. If you like a books with thriller and drama and a little bit of suspense this will be the perfect book for you.
