Una Huna? What is This?

Author/Publisher/Website: Aglukark, S.
Copyright: 2018
Evaluation/Record Entry Date: May/2019
Submitting Suppliers: Not Available
Primary Identifier: 9781772272260

Recommended Grades: 1-3
Subjects/Courses: Cross Curriculum

ERAC Review

DESCRIPTION

Ukpik, a young Inuit girl, is excited when her camp gets new utensils through trading with a boat from the south and enjoys trying them with her friends, but becomes concerned that things are changing. She seeks her grandmother who assures her that trade and learning about the outside world is a positive change for their community, but that the camp and her family will always be the same. This Canadian picture book by Susan Aglukark demonstrates that change and caution are okay and help us progress, and deals with themes of family, traditions, connection to community, and culture. Useful as a read-aloud, stand-alone story for stronger readers, or part of a unit on cultures or Inuit people.

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum? Extensively

This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:

• Communication
• Creative Thinking
• Critical thinking
• Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
• Personal Awareness and Responsibility
• Social Responsibility

Comments:
CURRICULUM FIT

The book supports the SS Gr 3 Big Idea: Learning about Indigenous peoples nurtures multicultural awareness and respect for diversity; the Gr 2 Big Idea: Canada is made up of many diverse regions and communities; and the Gr 1-3 Big Idea: Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us. The Social Responsibility Competency Profiles about contributing to a community and building relationships are effectively shown through the daily life of a tight-knit family and their friendly trading with the Captain. In ADST the Gr 1-3 Big Idea that technologies are tools that extend human capabilities is reflected in the family’s use of western utensils.

GENERAL CONTENT

Content:
Should this product be identified as Canadian? Yes
Is the resource an Authentic First Peoples Text? Yes

This resource supports the characteristics of Aboriginal worldviews and perspectives:

- Connectedness and Relationship
- Awareness of History
- Local Focus
- Engagement with the Land, Nature, the Outdoors
- Emphasis on Identity
- Traditional Teaching
- Language and Culture

Is the resource engaging? Extensively
Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade? Extensively
Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade? Extensively
Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings? Extensively

Audience:
Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students? Extensively
Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking? Extensively
Is the level of detail appropriate? Extensively
Is the content of particular interest to male students? Extensively
Is the content of particular interest to female students? Extensively
Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students? Moderately
Are the visuals appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students? Extensively

Comments:
The book is engaging with a simple and interesting plot that doubles as early non-fiction and historical study. Some pages have extensive text with some challenging and new vocabulary, therefore teacher support for younger readers will be necessary. The reading level is higher than the target age, although the content fits well with the primary curriculum. To fully comprehend and benefit from the inclusion of Inuit words, teacher-guided oral readings would be necessary. Students will think critically about changes happening in Ukpik’s community and what life would be like living in the North at that time.
TECHNICAL DESIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Extensively</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the resource make effective use of the medium?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the location of illustrations appropriate?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the resource easy to use?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the use of font, text size and presentation uniform?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
The book has an inviting bright cover showing the main character, Ukpik, and her puppy playing with the captain's ship in the background. Both characters are printed in a high gloss for effect. The illustrations are simple and clear with effective use of watercolour and mixed media. Early readers will be able to form ideas about the story's main ideas through the pictures and facial expressions. The text is appropriately sized with an accessible font for the target readers, however, many pages seem overly cluttered with text. The glossary provides an opportunity to pre-teach the use of Inuit words with proper pronunciation. The pages are numbered and author/illustrator bios are included.

PRINT NOVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Extensively</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the text broaden students’ experiences and understanding?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To what degree is this text stylistically rich?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plot description:
This is a detailed historical story about a young Inuit girl, Ukpik, experiencing changes in her community during trading season. At first, she is excited but after spending time with her friends exploring the new utensils, she grows concerned. She seeks out her grandmother who explains that communities do change and reassures her that trading and learning about the world outside their own is positive. She tells Ukpik that their camp and family will always be together. The underlying theme in the story is Ukpik's challenge to name her new puppy with the best possible name. After discussing with her grandmother, Ukpik chooses a name that reflects her love for her family and home.

Related Comments:
Visuals help bring the story to life as they depict feelings of joy, celebration, apprehension, acceptance, and friendship. On a primary level, the book helps readers see that change and caution are okay and help us make progress. The theme of being connected to the community, both in the past and present, as well as family, traditions, and culture, is well defined through the many interactions of Ukpik with her grandmother, parents, and friends. This resource allows the teaching of the diverse lifestyle of fellow Canadians of the far North in Inuit communities. Introducing some Inuit words to young students is possible with the use of Una Huna? What is This? as a teaching tool.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRINT NOVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Descriptors:**  
| **Genre:**  
| Adventure  
| Historical  
| **Literary Highlights:**  
| Well-developed themes  
| Effective figurative language  
| Point of view  
| **Type:**  
| Picture book  
| **Visual Highlights:**  
| Effective use of visual elements  
| Clear sequence of images  
| Visual convey character, emotions and attitudes  
| Visuals convey mood |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Comments:**  
| This resource could be used as a teacher read-aloud, a stand-alone story for stronger readers, or a component of a unit study on cultures or Inuit people. With the story as a backdrop, the class could study the relationships within a family, the responsibility of owning a pet, learning how to use new tools, and early trade and relationships in the North. As the story depicts a healthy and supportive intergenerational family, this would be interesting for historical discussion. The class could do a mapping study using the location of this story as a starting point and one's local location as the endpoint, and compare and contrast the varied landscapes, lifestyles, and food of that time. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Readability:**  
| Above intended grade level(s)  
| **Comments:**  
| Susan Aglukark is an Inuk, a Juno-award winning singer-songwriter, a 2016 recipient of the Governor General’s Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award, and an officer of the Order of Canada and now an author. Una Huna? What is That? is book one of six picture books planned by the author. This series of books was inspired by Ms Aglukark’s desire to honour her ancestors’ resilience and to show Inuit people as people who have more to their history than sorrow and crisis. |