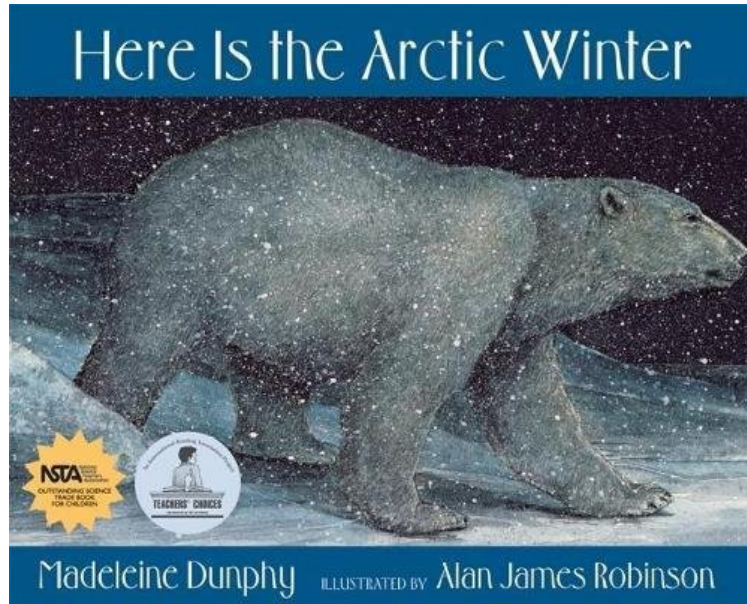


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Here Is the Arctic Winter (Web of Life)

Madeleine Dunphy

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Madeleine Dunphy : Here Is the Arctic Winter (Web of Life) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Here Is the Arctic Winter (Web of Life):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Books for my Classroom LibraryBy Keri SchowThis will be an excellent addition to my various aged classroom library. My students always love to hear new read-alouds.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fin way to teach biomesBy Robyn GardnerMy students have enjoyed acting out the book, and they remember what plants and animals live there because of their participation.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. artic animal bookBy C. GiglioMy 5 year old son loves this book series. The illustrations are beautiful and the repetitive text really brings home the information.

The Arctic winter is cold, snowy, and dark. The barren landscape is covered by a layer of snow that stretches to the horizon, with nothing to disrupt it but jagged rocks. There are only a few plants and no sunlight. And yet, there are animals hardy enough to survive this bleak environment: the arctic wolf, hare, cod, and fox; the snowy owl, polar bear, ringed seal, and Peary caribou, all inextricably linked together in the chain of life. With lyrical text and glowing paintings that capture this mystically beautiful environment with stunning realism, this unusual book fascinates and inspires children of all ages.

From Publishers WeeklyThis unusual cumulative book begins with a stark, black-edged painting of the vast, moonlit, arctic landscape: "Here is the sky / that is dark day and night, / where the sun does not rise / in this cold world of white: / Here is the Arctic winter." Each turn of the page highlights another arctic creature, generally named in the order it appears on the food chain--the wolves "who howl at the sky," the caribou "that flee from the wolves," and so

on. A useful back page contains outlines of each animal and the address of the National Audubon Society's Arctic Program. Robinson's picture book debut impresses at the outset, with a striking jacket illustration of a lone polar bear stalking across a midnight-dark snowscape--inside are even more breathtaking scenes populated with dazzling animals. Dunphy's opening lines contain a lyrical simplicity and elegance that is unfortunately not consistently maintained. The format seems to constrain the text in ways that sometimes make the relationships between animals seem spurious or confusing and the language unwieldy or awkward. Caveats aside, this luminous and reverent work is a welcome addition to the growing ranks of environmental books. Ages 3-8. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Kindergarten-Grade 4-- Here is a lyrical look at the land and creatures of the Arctic during the "endless night" winter season. The illustrations are indeed dark: monochromatic midnight-blue paintings of individual creatures and stark Arctic landscapes, such as sea ice and northern lights. Polar bear, snowshoe hare, seal, and other creatures dominate. The "whale" will pique curiosity, since it appears as a tusked narwhal, while all others are easily identifiable. A pictorial glossary provides the animals' true names. Paintings are evocative, hushed, somber, and sophisticated--quite beautiful, but they lack interest and fail to mesh with the text. In *The House That Jack Built* tradition, the text is cumulative: "Here is the willow, which is food for the caribou / that flee from the wolves . . . where the sun does not rise / in this cold world of white . . ." followed by the title as refrain. Predictability of the verse suggests read-aloud potential, despite the fact that cumulative cadence is not quite achieved and rhyming is inconsistent. If a picture book is desired to accompany Arctic and/or environmental endangerment study, this unique but not outstanding one will work. --Valerie Lennox, Jacksonville Public Library, FL Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sThe first painting sets the scene for this dramatic depiction of Arctic wildlife--a vast expanse of barren rock and wind-scoured snow under an immense sky rimmed with stars. On the next spread appear distant four-legged specks, followed by a closer view of three wolves trailing hoofprints in the snow; the sequence explodes into action as caribou flee the pursuing wolves. The perilous beauty of this harsh world is portrayed in icy blue, white, and black, with touches of subtle gold (moon on snow), purple (the back of a cod), and eerie green (northern lights). Several of the watercolors depict seals and narwhals beneath the ice while a polar bear stalks above, sniffing their breathing holes. An odd cumulative text (perhaps intended to reinforce the idea that each creature is a link in a chain of life) slowly fills a frosty column at the left of each spread, but it's neither successful as poetry nor informative (in one case--a narwhal is called "the whale"--it's confusing). Despite the title, readers will have to turn elsewhere for hard information on the Arctic; still, well worth having for the beauty of the pictures. (Picture book. 4-9) -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.