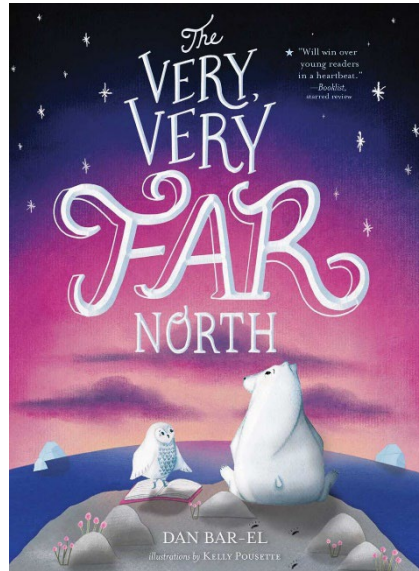
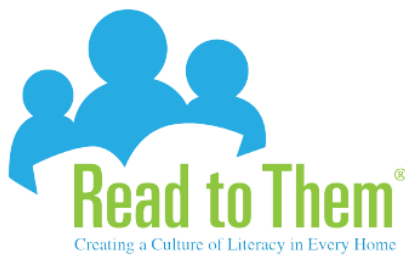


Family Fun Pack

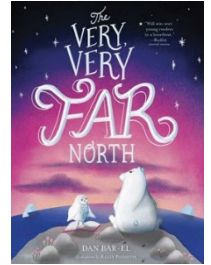


The Very, Very Far North
by Dan Bar-el



Read Aloud Tips For Families

The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el



- ✓ **Make reading time a priority** – Sit down as a family and decide on a daily reading time, and then consider it an appointment that needs to be kept. Some families might find that right before bed is the best time, but early risers might enjoy reading at breakfast. For younger listeners, bath time can be great! Build it into your daily routine and soon you will find that everyone is ready and waiting to hear what comes next in the story.
- ✓ **Show emotion that matches the story** – All of the books from **Read to Them** capture a range of emotions over the course of the story. When reading aloud, mirroring the emotions felt by the characters will make the story more meaningful to your listener.
- ✓ **Vary your rhythm** – Have fun with the language in your book. During suspenseful sections, *slow down* and let the suspense build. During a particularly meaningful moment, *pause* and let the impact settle. During emotion-packed scenes, drop your voice to a *whisper*. When you are reading aloud, you are performing the story. Authors don't want their stories performed in monotone!
- ✓ **Don't be afraid to be silly** – Accents, funny voices, and sound effects are all great tools to use to make reading aloud more engaging. Character-specific voices or mannerisms also help listeners follow the dialogue. It might be a challenge, but it's worth the effort to make your story come alive.
- ✓ **Stay engaged with your listener throughout your reading time** – Stop from time to time to explain an unfamiliar vocabulary word, discuss an important point, or ask your child to make a prediction. You don't want to derail the story too much, but you do want to make reading together interactive.
- ✓ **Expect some fidgeting** – Listening during reading time does not have to be a stationary activity. Some listeners will sit still as stones with eyes and ears fixed on you, and that's great. But other listeners stay more engaged with something in their hands like a small toy, some crayons, or a stuffed animal. Some children might listen better if allowed to walk around the room, or even bounce on the bed a bit. Work together to find the way that works best for your child.

Creating a culture of literacy in every home.

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B

Use the [Connection Guide](#) to contact the Read to Them and let us know you're reading about Duane!

Draw a picture of a favorite character.

Create a scrapbook page profile of one of the characters from the book.

Hot Seat!
Pretend to be a character from the book and let someone interview you.

Write a letter to one of the characters in the book.

I

Build a reading fort with blankets and pillows.

Design a new cover for the book.

Have a family pajama day!

Have some hot chocolate.

Go to your local public library and get library cards for the whole family.

N

Follow Duane's lead and come up with names for some items in your home.

Take a family walk and listen for birds. Maybe you'll hear an owl like C.C.!



Find out more about arctic animals – look for a nonfiction book at your library.

Make a frosty treat with crushed ice and some juice.

G

Duane loves to eat. Make a snack fit for a polar bear.

Find a quote in the book that's worth sharing. Put it on a banner, poster, or t-shirt!

Play charades!
Reenact a scene from the book without using words.

Try out one of the activities in the [Family Fun Packet](#).

Ask everyone in your family what arctic animal they would like to be.

O

Make bookmarks together!

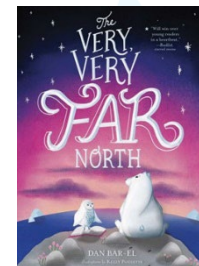
Write a letter to someone who might be a new friend.

Practice marching like Major Puff.

Draw a picture of Duane and his friends.

Share a picture of your family reading with [@readtothem](#).





Family Fun Cards

Pages 1-82

The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el

What do you know?

When do all good stories start?

What do Duane and Handsome both adore?

Who is Major Puff's sworn enemy?

What do you think?

"[Duane] remembered that C.C. didn't like to be touched. So instead of a hug, he just looked at her and smiled and blinked three times." (p. 82) Do you liked to be hugged? Or is there a different way you like to be appreciated? What about the rest of the members of your family?

What can you do?

Three Favorite Activities

Duane prizes "three activities above all others" – napping, eating, and exploring. (pp. 4-5)

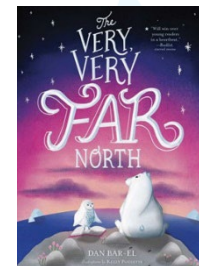
Duane's love for napping, eating, and exploring guide his actions throughout *The Very, Very Far North*. Take a poll in your family. What are the three most favored activities for each member of your family? Why is each one so important? Then have each person make a sign with the three activities and the reason each one is important. Hang these signs up in your home as a reminder that when someone is engaged in one of these activities, it is best not to disturb them...unless there is a really good reason!

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Family Fun Cards

Pages 83-158

The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el

What do you know?

Which days are best for “unexpected situations”?

Why doesn't C.C. believe that the snowbank is magically talking to Duane?

What is the name of the giant hill that Magic and Duane toboggan down?

What do you think?

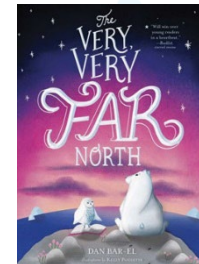
“For the winter months when the reflection pond is frozen over and covered in snow.” (p. 118) Duane brings Handsome the perfect gift – an ornate hand mirror. Discuss great gifts you have given or received. Then together, come up with a thoughtful gift for someone you know who could use a pick-me-up.

What can you do?

RSVP

“Duane, if you'd be so kind as to fetch another chair, I will pour the tea for us all.” (p. 119)

Celebrate Duane's growing circle of friends with a tea (or juice or hot chocolate) party of your own. You can set a different menu than Handsome. Maybe PB&J instead of watercress sandwiches, chocolate chip cookies instead of fancy tarts. But you can still put out a tablecloth and even use some special dishes. Invite a friend or two and share a snack and some lovely conversation. Handsome would be so proud.



Family Fun Cards

Pages 159-265

The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el

What do you know?

How does Major Puff react when he finds out Madame is in danger?

Who says (very softly), “I don’t like thunder. It scares me”?

What are the four kinds of things Squint says he paints?

What do you think?

“You can have hopes and you can have goals, but a day will take you where a day wants to go.” (p. 254) We have all had days that didn’t go the way we had them planned. How do you handle days like that? Can someone help you (like the friends all helped Duane) when your day veers off course? What would help?

What can you do?

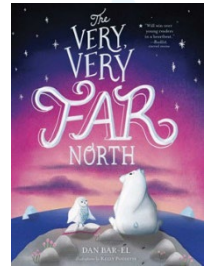
A Portrait of a Friend

“Eventually, Sun Girl returned with Handsome, Boo, Major Puff, Twitch, and Magic...” (p. 255)

Throughout *The Very, Very Far North*, Dan Bar-el’s story has been enhanced with Kelly Pousette’s illustrations. On pages 254 and 255, there is an illustration of almost all of the characters. Look back at page 71 for a picture of C.C. and page 197 for a picture of Squint, the painter. Which character would you most like to be friends with? Try your hand at drawing that character, either using the illustrator’s style of charcoal sketching or a style all your own.



The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el



Family Fun Cards Answer Key

Pages 1-82

When do all good stories start?
on Thursdays

What do Duane and Handsome
both adore?
lunch

Who is Major Puff's sworn
enemy?
the great black-backed gull

Pages 83-158

Which days are best for
“unexpected situations”?
Tuesdays

Why doesn't C.C. believe that the
snowbank is magically talking to
Duane?
because she is a scientist

What is the name of the giant hill
that Magic and Duane toboggan
down?
Baby Whaleback Hill

Pages 159-265

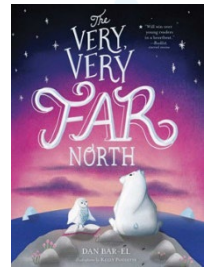
How does Major Puff react when
he finds out Madame is in danger?
He is determined to save her.

Who says (very softly), “I don't
like thunder. It scares me”?
Boo, the Caribou

What are the four kinds of things
Squint says he paints?
*beautiful, sad, scary, and
lonely things*



The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el



Connection Guide

Connect with Read to Them

Hashtags: [#ReadtoThem](#), [#1School1Book](#), [#1District1Book](#)

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, & Pinterest: [@readtothem](#)

Email: programs@readtothem.org

Website: <https://www.readtothem.org/>

Connect with author Dan Bar-el

Twitter: [@Dan__Barel](#)

Facebook: [@DanBarelauthor](#)

Website: <https://danbarel.com/>

Connect with illustrator Kelly Pousette

Instagram: [@kpousetteillustration](#)

Connect with the publisher, Simon & Schuster

Facebook & Instagram: [@SimonandSchuster](#)

Twitter: [@SimonSchuster](#)

Website: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/>

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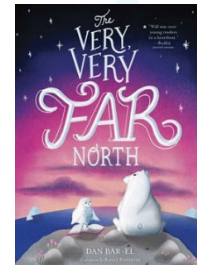
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The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el



Next Book Connections

Other books by Dan Bar-el:

- *Just Beyond the Very, Very Far North* (sequel)
- *Audrey (Cow): An Oral Account of a Most Daring Escape*
- *That One Spooky Night*
- *Not Your Typical Dragon* (picture book)
- *Such a Prince* (picture book)

Picture books with similar themes:

- *Little Bear: An Inuit Folktale* by Dawn Casey
- *How Nivi Got Her Names* by Laura Deal
- *Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joose
- *Ice! Poems about Polar Life* by Douglas Florian
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
- *Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer
- *Louise: The Adventures of a Chicken* by Kate DiCamillo
- *The Antlered Ship* by Dashka Slater
- *The Three Snow Bears* by Jan Brett
- *The Tea Party in the Woods* by Akiko Miyakoshi
- *Out of the Ice* by Claire Eamer
- *Blue* by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond

Other books illustrated by Kelly Pousette:

- *Little Things* by Nick Dyer
- *If You Were Night* by Muon Thi Van
- *Do Not Rake Your Garden in a Party Dress* by Aimee Bissonette

Novels with similar themes:

- *The Adventures of a South Pole Pig* by Chris Kurtz
- *Nuts to You* by Lynne Rae Perkins
- *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
- *The Last Polar Bear* by Hannah Gold
- *The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow* by Elaine Dimopoulos
- *Winnie the Pooh* by A.A. Milne
- *Odder* by Katherine Applegate
- *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate
- *Gooseberry Park* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Cress Watercress* by Gregory Maguire
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *Stella Díaz Has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez