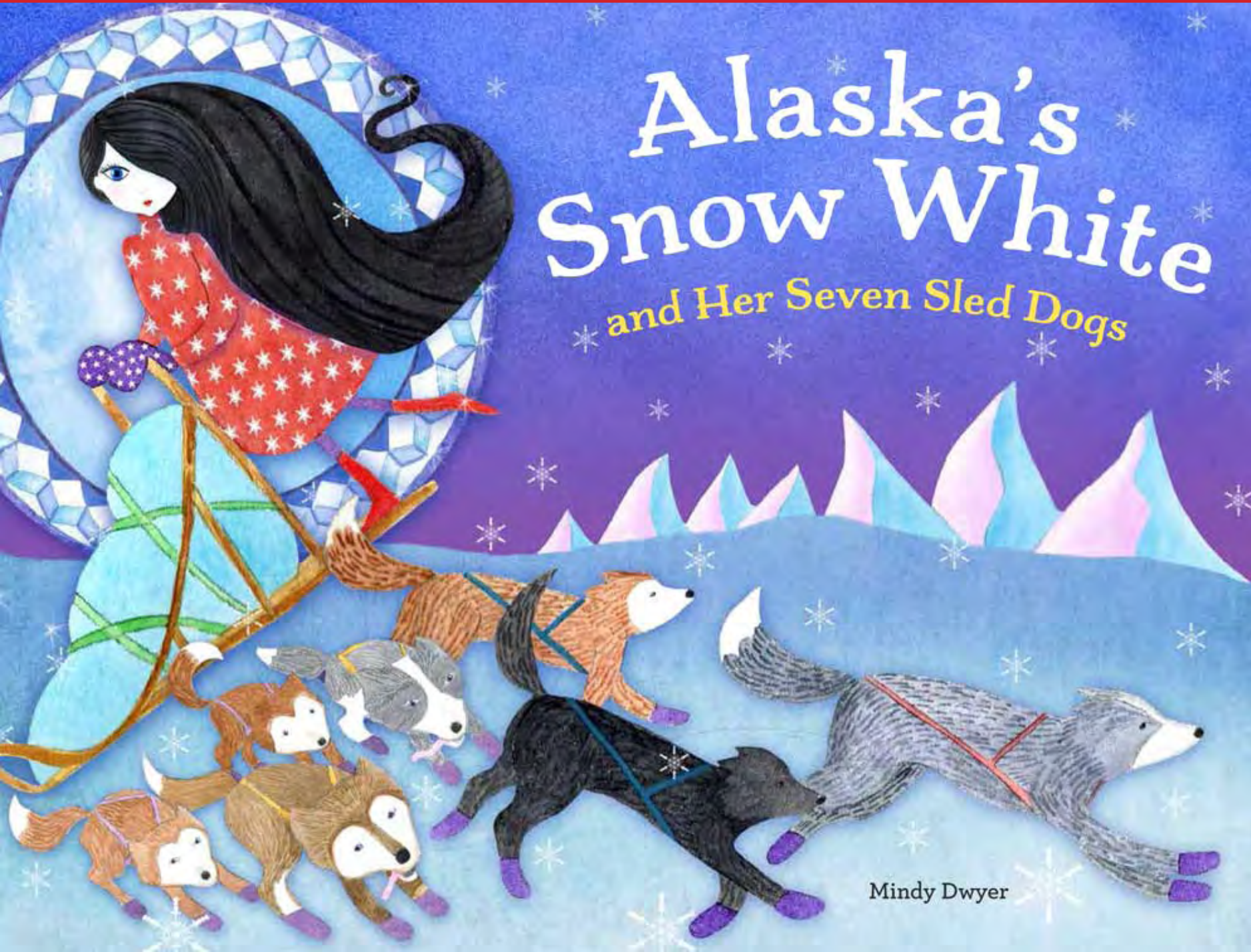


# TEACHER RESOURCE



MINDY DWYER

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

The author and the illustrator are the same person in this book. Often one person does the pictures and a different person writes the story. Editors check the words, art directors make sure the pictures go on the right page and help tell the story, and designers put the book together so it can be printed.

Do you know any other books by Mindy Dwyer?

You can find all of her books on [www.mindydwyer.com](http://www.mindydwyer.com).

Is this a fairy tale?

A fairy tale is a short story that features magic or enchantments with fantasy characters with happiness as a theme usually at the end.

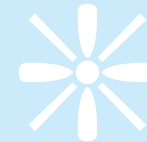
**What the story is about:**

**Abandonment, courage, perseverance**



**What happens?**

A princess is born in an ice castle high in the mountains. When her mother dies she must fend for herself and escape the danger of the evil Queen. She finds a home in Alaska's wilderness, makes a friend and together they bring back the Ice Festival with a new twist and never have to worry about the evil Queen again.



# SO MANY WAYS TO LEARN

One classroom has a variety of learners; seers, thinkers, talkers, listeners, movers, socials, solos! When different parts of the brain are engaged, it is easier to remember what we learned.

I divided these exercises into two main groups: (seers, thinkers, solos) and the (listeners, verbals, socials, talkers).

## VISUAL - SPATIAL

(using pictures, color coding, mind maps )

1. Assign a color to each dog's name as a way to remember them
2. Draw with big paper and markers how the dogs are paired up as a team
3. Use the fairy tale structure on page 7

## LOGICAL - MATHEMATICAL

(reasoning, systems diagram (how things are connected) list making, asking why, flashcards, sequencing)

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A princess is born and then...

The King married again and...

Snow White lives with the Master Skate Maker and then...

The magic mirror speaks to the Queen and...

Snow White is out in the wilderness and then...

The Queen turned herself into a Fur Trapper and then...

The Queen turns into a Moose Hunter and then...The Queen turns into an Old Homesteader and then...

A young man is mushing in the wilderness and then...

There is an Ice Festival and then...

## STORY DETAILS

Who is telling the story?

Who are the characters?

What happens to the main character?

What are her dogs names?

Is the musher kind or does he do as he was ordered?

What did Warrior do?

Where does the story take place? When?



## SOLITARY- INTRA-PERSONAL

(works alone, discovers a personal connection to the story)

Ask questions:

“What would you do if left alone in the wilderness?”

**Do fairy tales have magic?**

**What is magic?**

Is it when things happen that you cannot explain? Alaska has a lot of extraordinary things that are real, yet hard to explain: northern lights (Aurora Borealis), days with no night, Fata Morgana (mirage of the atmosphere), days with no light, giant flowers and plants, salmon that swim 1,000 miles, earthquakes, three colors of bears, and a sourdough pot that stays alive.

## MY HEROES

The best way to honor your heroes is to make reference to them. I chose a quotation by Mark Helprin, one of my favorite authors for the dedication page of my book.

*“As long as you live and breathe, believe. Believe for those who cannot. Believe even if you stopped believing. Believe for the sake of the dead, for love, to keep your heart beating, believe. Never give up, never despair, let no mystery confound you into the conclusion that mystery cannot be yours.”*

Another favorite author of mine is J.R.R. Tolkien. When the owl flies home to the master skate maker to tell him that Snow White is safe and says, “Snow White wanders, but your daughter is not lost,” I am making a reference to J.R. R. Tolkien’s poem, All That Is Gold Does Not Glitter that he wrote for The Lord of the Rings.

I have always loved Dr. Seuss, and he once said, “To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world.” I made reference to this quote when Snow White discovers a friend in Jacob.

Who are your real life heroes?

Who are your favorite authors?



bear  
princess  
witch  
far, faraway  
angry  
queen  
deep in the forest  
ogre  
lovely  
mean  
sad  
long, long ago  
edge of a lake  
brave  
grandmother  
father  
ugly  
tall  
strong

Make up some more  
words for your list.

Put the words in the right boxes

where	who
what they look like	how they act

# YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE

Fairy tales have recognizable parts:

1. begin in an imaginary place
2. good guys and bad guys
3. a serious problem
4. three repeating actions or words
5. something magical
6. the problem is fixed
7. happy ending

Put your words into the story box. Speak or write sentences to connect the words in the boxes, and you will have a story!

Try mixing up the story a little and see if it still works. Make a nice witch, or a lovely queen, or an ugly princess, or a sad bear.

1. where	2. who (the good guys and bad guys)
3. the problem or bad thing that happened	4. the pattern of three
5. the magic	6. how is it fixed?
7. the happy ending	

## AUDITORY-MUSICAL

(sounds, rhyme, rhythm, music, acrostics )

- Create a jingle from the dog's names to remember them

## VERBAL - LINGUISTIC

(words (read out loud and written) talk your way through your thinking, word games)

- Make a Wordle from vocabulary words

- Create an acrostic from the first letter of the dogs names

## PHYSICAL - KINESTHETIC

(role playing, sense of touch (textures), speak through a sensation of how a scenario feels)

- Line up in a team of dogs in pairs, act out how it feels to be alone in wilderness
- Read out loud using voices that match characters,
- Cut the words out and arrange them in boxes on page 5
- Create a fairy tale together using page 6

## SOCIAL- INTER-PERSONAL

(learn in groups, role play, mind maps, diagrams, select a drawer, agree to disagree)

Who are the characters?

What happens?

Where does it happen?

When?

How does the character deal with what happens?

Did you find words in the story about senses?

touch \_\_\_\_\_

smell \_\_\_\_\_

hearing \_\_\_\_\_

seeing \_\_\_\_\_

tasting \_\_\_\_\_

How can you tell that this story is a fairy tale?

How do fairy tales begin?

How do they end?

What fairy tales do you know? Make a list.

Do you know any other Snow White stories?

How are they different?

How are they the same?



# ICE PALACES AROUND THE WORLD

An ice palace is a castle-like structure made of blocks of ice. The blocks are usually harvested from nearby frozen lakes or rivers. The first known ice “house” was in St. Petersburg, Russia over two hundred years ago. There were ice trees in a garden, an elephant sculpture, and even furniture made of ice. Other ice castles have been built in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Quebec City and New York.



Der Eispalast in Colorado,



I first learned about ice palaces when I lived in Leadville, Colorado. Over one hundred years ago, the town built a magnificent castle structure. They opened the doors on New Year's Day and the visitors arrived by train to ice-skate, and to enjoy the restaurant, ballroom, merry-go-round, and toboggan slide.

As I wrote the story of Snow White in Alaska, I imagined her being born in an ice castle much like the Leadville palace.

There is an amazing ice structure that you can visit in Alaska. It is the Aurora Ice Museum in Fairbanks. It is made from 1,000 tons of snow and ice, and kept at 25 degrees even in summer! When you arrive, you are given a parka to keep warm. The first thing you will see are the ice crystal chandeliers, that constantly change colors, lit up to look like northern lights. You may sip a cold drink from an ice glass, see beautiful ice sculptures and even take an ice carving workshop.



# MEET THE SEVEN SLED DOGS

## Sniffy

He's a team dog, with a good nose for trouble, and partner to Hunter.

## Ruby

She's a swing dog, partner to Warrior.

## Warrior

He's a swing dog, partner to Ruby and he protected them all from danger out on the trail.

## Hunter

He's a team dog that partner to Sniffy, and also provides for meat out on the trail.

## Fluffy

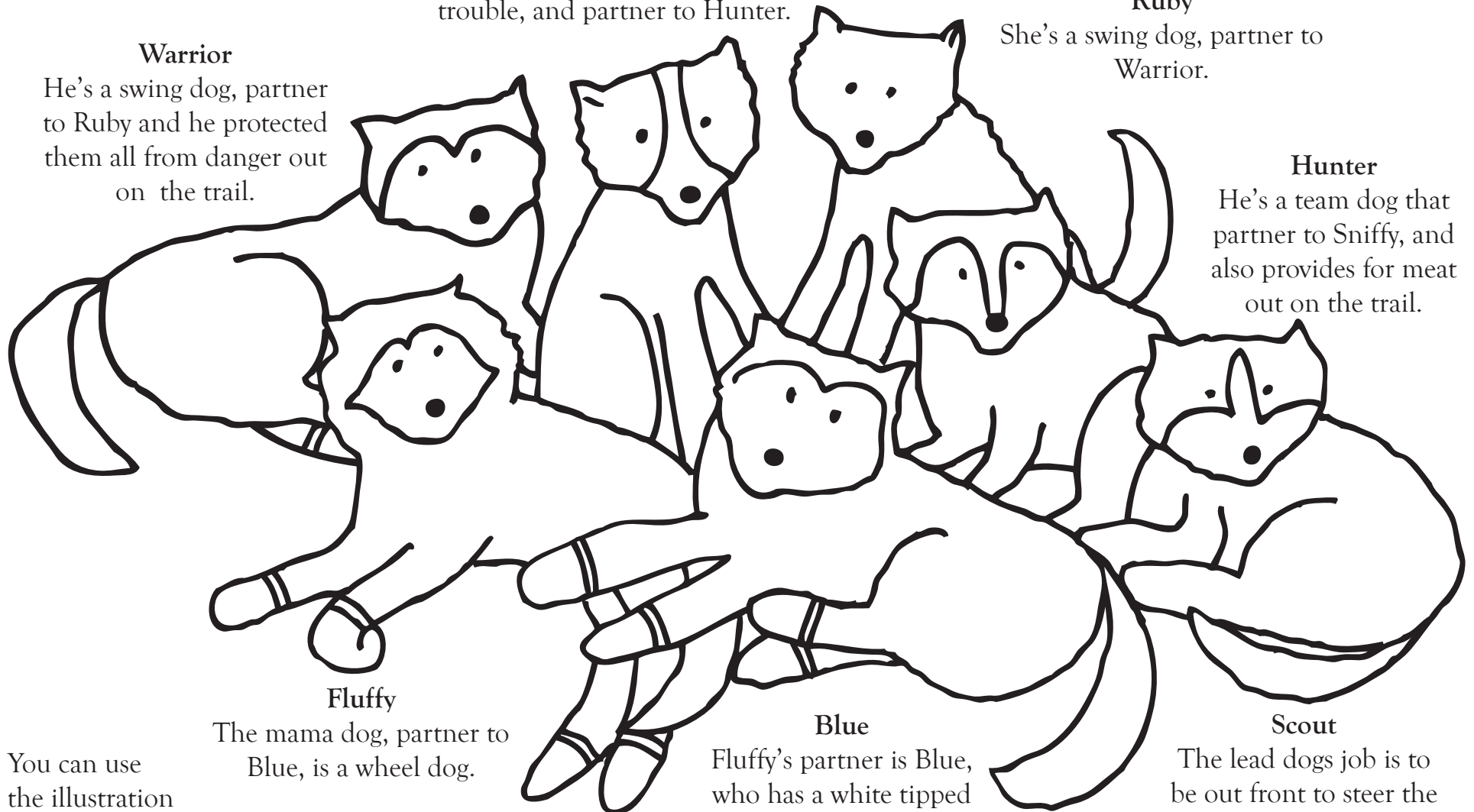
The mama dog, partner to Blue, is a wheel dog.

## Blue

Fluffy's partner is Blue, who has a white tipped tail and face with reddish fur.

## Scout

The lead dogs job is to be out front to steer the rest of the team and set the pace. Leaders may be single or double.



You can use the illustration on the cover to color the dogs.



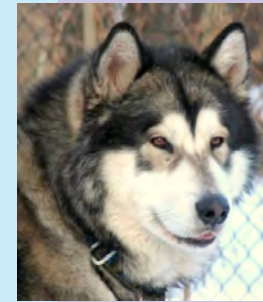
## ABOUT SLED DOGS

A common name for all northern dogs is “Husky”, but true sled dogs are usually one of three breeds: the Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky or the Eskimo Dog. All three have the endurance to go long distances and love to run. They can travel long distances on their strong legs, trot at a steady pace for days, and can handle harsh weather.

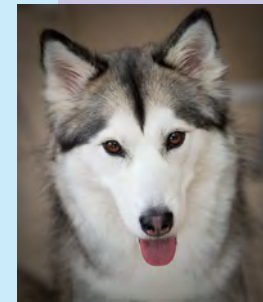
Long before the dogs raced, they were bred as working dogs to pull sleds, to hunt and guard. In 1925, during the diphtheria epidemic, sled dogs delivered the medicine to Nome, AK. It is this 1,000 mile run that inspired the Great Iditarod Race. In World War II, the dogs keen sense of smell assisted the Army’s in Search and Rescue.

One dog team may have ten different breeds, including Alaskan Husky, Chinook, Greenland Dog, Mackenzie River Husky and Samoyed.

Sled dogs have great strength for their size. They can consume 10,000 calories a day. To protect the dogs paws from scrapes, and snow and ice build up mushers tie on polar fleece booties. If the booties get a hole in them or get too wet, they must be replaced. In one Iditarod Race, a musher could use 2,000 booties!



The Alaskan Malamute has the most power of the three dogs, but runs slower. His double coat of fur keeps him warm on the trail. Sled dogs like to curl up in a ball and wrap their fluffy tails around themselves. Named for an Alaskan tribe that raised the dogs thousands of years ago for transportation.



Fur traders brought Siberian Huskies to Alaska. Husky’s eyes may be pale or dark blue, amber, green or brown. He is the fastest dog and his thick double coat protects him in the winter and reflects heat in the summer.



The Eskimo Dog is moderately fast but fearless. This Canadian dog can stand off a polar bear or musk ox. They are very hardy, suited for the harsh northern climate and can pull twice their weight - and travel 70 miles a day! The Eskimo Dog is a rarer breed but is a real worker, extremely intelligent and never forgets a command. He is loyal, tough, alert, intelligent, curious, and playful.







## WHAT IS MUSHING?

Mushing is method of transportation or a sport where you use dogs to pull a sled or cart.

The dogs are trained to respond to spoken commands, the ropes that connect the dogs are not reins like horses wear. The dogs are all hitched together and work as a team. The lead dog must be intelligent, to understand commands and guide the others. The musher always has a good connection with his lead dog.

The dogs have a natural desire to pull, but training them to pull together takes months. They practice on dry land with ropes and wagons. Pedaling is when the musher pushes the sled with one foot while the other remains on the runner. Mushers can be any age, here is Katey, my daughter in the sled, as a little girl mushing with her friends in Alaska. I dedicated this book to my daughter, "Katey, my self-rescuing Alaskan princess and Ruby her trusty sled dog."



## DOG COMMANDS

**Good Dog!** Praise your dogs often and always after following a command.

**Come** is very important, especially if you have a tangle or your dog gets loose from the team.



**Gee:** turn right

**Haw:** turn left

**Come Gee! Come Haw!** 180 degree turns in either direction.

**Line Out!** Lead dog needs to pull the team out straight from the sled; command to hook or unhook dogs into the team.

**Mush! Hike! All Right! Let's Go!** These all are ways to start the team.

**Whoa or Stop!** Stop, and hold your dog until you give the command to go.

**On By!** Use this to go straight if there are choices of direction or something to pass by on the trail (people or animals).

# THE TEAM

This line connects to the front of the sled.

Blue wheel dog

Wheel dogs are nearest the sled and musher.

Sniffy team dog

Team dogs are the power of the team, between the wheelers and the swing dogs.

Fluffy wheel dog

Warrior swing dog

Scout lead dog

Martin Buser, a winner of the Iditarod race says, "Lead dogs show signs of being leaders from puppyhood. They are usually very curious and spunky. As they get older, they show that they like to be in charge and can learn the commands very quickly."

Hunter team dog

Swing dogs are directly behind the leader and help to make the turns.

Ruby swing dog

## VOCABULARY WORDS

If you see a new word, read the sentence and look at the picture to see if you can figure out what the word means. Often there is a clue in the word, something that you recognize.

**Awe:** a powerful feeling inspired by a mix of wonderment

**Bewitched:** to be enchanted by a spell using witchcraft or magic

**Bejeweled:** decorated with or looking like jewels

**Blazing:** brilliant burst of flaming fire

**Dazzling:** shining brilliantly or to be astonished with delight

**Éclair:**

**Extraordinary:** exceptional, or beyond regular or ordinary

**Fervor:** great warmth or with intense emotion

**Homesteader:** to claim, settle and take possession of land to use as a home

**Ignite:** to cause to burn, or set fire to, or to excite

**Jerky:** salted meat that has been cut into strips, seasoned and

dried at a low heat to preserve it

**Kaleidoscope:** a tube with two or more angled mirrors, that you look into, twist the end and see bits of reflected colored glass in changing symmetrical patterns

**Mousse:** chilled dessert, especially chocolate that is made with flavored whipped cream, gelatin, and eggs

**Mosaic:** picture made with small colored tiles arranged into a pattern or design

**Musher:** someone who travels with a dog team and sled

**Shimmering:** a flickering light; a glimmer

**Smitten:** affected by love (past tense of smite)

**Roam:** to wander, walk or travel without direction

**Salmonberry:** the salmon-colored, edible fruit found on the Pacific coast of North America

**Slipknot:** a strong knot that holds tight, commonly used in rock climbing, and knitting but can be easily loosened by pulling on its own cord



# ART PROJECTS

Two of my favorite watercolor tricks are salt and Saran wrap to make the paint look like ice. Perhaps you could paint sheets of the watercolor textures, cut them up, and glue them to another big piece of paper to build a collage ice castle.

## SALT PAINTING

1. Paint the paper with a clean brush of plain water
2. Mix enough water into your watercolors to make strong color (not too watery)
3. Paint an area of the paper using several colors
4. If you have puddles, mop them up with the corner of a paper towel
5. Before the paint is dry, but still shiny wet, sprinkle small amounts over the wet area (not too much salt or it will clump together)
6. Let the paint and salt dry completely
7. Shake salt off to see the magical crystal shapes left behind

## SARAN WRAP PAINTING

1. Paint the paper with a clean brush of plain water
2. Mix enough water into your watercolors to make strong color (not too watery)
3. Paint an area of the paper using several colors
4. If you have puddles, mop them up with the corner of a paper towel
5. Before the paint is dry, but still shiny wet, tear off a piece of Saran wrap
6. Carefully lay it on your wet watercolor painting
7. With both hands, "scrunch" the wrap to make wrinkles in it
8. Leave the wrinkled Saran wrap in place until paint is dry
9. Remove the wrap to see cracks and bubbled texture

### You Will Need:

Any kind of watercolors

Brush

Water

Paper (watercolor paper is best, but it will also work on cover stock office paper)

Table salt in a shaker or small bowl  
(coarse salt or fine table salt)





# Salt Painting



# Saran Wrap





# HOW DO MIRRORS WORK?

In the story there is a magic mirror. When the King and Queen look into the mirror only the Queen's reflection can be seen. And when the mirror tells her about Snow White, she sees an image of the girl instead of herself.

Mirrors are made by spraying silver or aluminum to the back of a piece of glass and then attached to a black backboard. Light rays enter the glass and are bounced back from the silver making a light picture of you, or a mirror image.

Hold a piece of paper with your name on it in front of a mirror. What do you see? It appears to be backwards because it is repeating the image right back to you.

Did you ever see two mirrors that face each other? Sometimes you can see this in a beauty salon or store. Images of images repeat forever. It is like looking into infinity. That is kind of magical, right?



## MAKE A MAGIC MIRROR

This project will take two sessions to allow glue to dry thoroughly. Draw a border around the square or rectangular board with a pencil freehand, or place a ruler along the inside edge of the board and draw a line all the way to the edges. Now you have four corner boxes to decorate. See my magic mirror on page 17.

Talk about symmetry and asymmetry in your designs.

1. With a pencil, draw designs on your border: spirals, squiggles, dots dashes, X's, polka dots or circles
2. Holding the glue bottle like a pencil, gently squeeze and trace the pencil lines steadily.  
You want a nice even line of glue, it is OK to go back and touch up a line.
3. Also, trace a glue line around the inside edge of the border.
4. Let dry thoroughly, overnight.
5. Tear off a piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil larger than the cardboard
6. Brush a thin layer of glue over the whole front
7. Lay a piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil carefully over the wet glue and press down gently with your fingers to get the foil glued down over all of the shapes and bumps of glue lines.
8. Fold the foil over to the back of the frame (you will tape this later with masking tape).
9. With a blunt pointed pencil (too sharp and it will tear the foil) trace around all of the designs
10. Fill in between the shapes with cross hatches, straight lines, curvy lines, to create a pattern.
11. Leave the inside of the foil smooth for the magic mirror.

## YOU WILL NEED:

Elmers glue  
glue brush

heavy-duty aluminum  
foil

masking tape

blunt pointed pencil

mat board or heavy  
tag board to cut out  
your frame shape