

OUR STORIES

INDIGENOUS BOOK CLUB

What I Remember, What I Know: the Life of a High Arctic Exile by Larry Audlaluk

Reflection Questions:

1. Upon reading about the author and his family's experience in the first few years of being relocated to the High Arctic, what were some of the major contrasts you observed between what the RCMP was writing about relocatees versus what Larry shared with us in his writing?
2. Inuktitut is used throughout the book. Are there any words that you found interesting or helpful to understand from the glossary during your reading?
3. What did you know about High Arctic relocatees before reading the book and what is one of the most notable things you learned about their experience after reading?
4. Larry described his first dark seasons as "a scary and overwhelming feeling that... soaked me to my innermost being in fear...". Have you experienced any natural phenomena that invoked a similar fear? What do you imagine living in darkness all day would be like?
5. How do you see the title of the book reflected in how the author is telling this story?
6. Traditionally, Inuit did not have last names and families were given "E-numbers" by the government. The author wrote, "I was Larry E9-1905. I was probably the 1905th Inuk born in district 9. It was not until 1972 that I was legally Larry Audlaluk." What do you think of this practice and how it reflected the governments treatment of Inuit at that time?
7. Larry wrote about hearing Inuktitut on the radio for the first time and how "having a line of communication to the outside world suddenly made us feel not quite so isolated." Are there things in your life that help you feel more connected to the world and to your culture at the same time?
8. In the book there are many pictures from Lindstrom Peninsula and Grise Fiord. Did these help you have a greater understanding of what life was like there? Are there any photos in particular that you are drawn to?
9. The book includes maps of the locations mentioned by the author. Did they help you while reading understand the relationship between all the different communities and settlements?
10. The author shared his experience with education both in the Arctic and in Fort Churchill Manitoba. He wrote, "Education was offered at 'no cost' to Canadians, including Inuit, yet the 'no cost' system was the most expensive: the price was a way of life lost." Where do you see this most notably in the book and Larry's experiences?