

# SUMMER IN THE ARCTIC

By – Helen Tomassini, Shari Schwartz, Linda Widenmaier

Illustrated by – Pat Gangnon

Genre - Narrative

Set 11 - 221 Words

## Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

Ask the children if they have ever seen a wild animal that is not in a zoo or an animal park and ask them to tell about it. Introduce the story by saying: *This is a story about a weasel and a rabbit. I'm sure most of you have seen a rabbit, but does anyone know what a weasel is? A weasel is a small animal, like a squirrel or raccoon that likes to eat other small animals, like rabbits and mice. Now what do you think might happen in a story about a rabbit and a weasel?*



## Introduction

Hold up the book and tell the children that this is a story about two children named Geela and Kovic who live in the arctic. In this story they see a weasel and a rabbit when they are camping with their parents on the beach.

No picture walk should be necessary. Just show the first page to re-introduce the children's names. If students have read the previous book about Geela and Kovic, *Winter Day in the Arctic*, set 8, you may want to discuss what they remember about this family.

Set the reading task. *Read the story to find out what happens when a weasel and a rabbit get into the family's campsite.*

## Discussion – Book Talk

Encourage students to retell the story, highlighting the key ideas. Review the structure of a narrative. Discuss whether or not the weasel will ever catch the rabbit. Talk about why or why not.

Ask the children to consider whether or not the weasel is a bad creature for chasing the rabbit. Discuss why or why not.

Ask: *Why do you think Dad wanted the weasel out of their tent? What might happen if the weasel got stuck in the tent?*

## Creative Response – Independent Practice

Children can:

- make a four frame comic strip showing the chase between the rabbit and the weasel. (You may want to discuss what should go in each frame first.)
- imagine what the rabbit and the weasel would say to each other. Add speech balloons to the comic. Use the comic strip reproducible master.
- learn more about weasels and rabbits by searching for information on the internet.

## Read Aloud Connections

*Arctic Hunter* by Diane Hoyt Goldsmith, Holiday House, 1992.

*My Arctic* by Michael Kusugak, Annick Press, 1993.

*Northern Lights* by Michael Kusugak, Annick Press, 1993.

*The Arctic Fox* by Mary Ellis, Collins, 1998.

*The Kids Book of the Far North* (non-fiction) by Ann Love and Jane Drake, Kids Can Press, 2000.

## Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words	again, but, first, laughed, long, next, our walk, when, under, over	Clap, chant and cheer the words. Find them on the word wall and in books.
Word Families and Letter Clusters	<i>ent</i> family - tent, went, bent, sent, vent, lent, spent <i>out</i> family- shout, about, lout, clout, rout	Brainstorm word family lists for a class chart.
Structural Features of Words	<i>ed</i> - shouted, walked	Sort words into those that add a separate syllable with <i>ed</i> and those that don't.
Text Features	Irregular plural - children Print on a curved base line	Find other irregular plurals. Discuss how the appearance of print helps communicate meaning.

# Comic Strip

