

by Ceporah Mearns & Jeremy Debicki

It's Time For BERRIES!

illustrated by Tindur Peturs



by Ceporah Mearns & Jeremy Debicki

It's Time For BERRIES!

illustrated by Tindur Peturs

Published by Inhabit Media Inc.
www.inhabitmedia.com

Inhabit Media Inc. (Iqaluit) P.O. Box 11125, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 1H0 • (Toronto) 612 Mount Pleasant Road,
Toronto, Ontario, M4S 2M8

Design and layout copyright © 2023 Inhabit Media Inc.
Text copyright © 2023 Ceporah Mearns and Jeremy Debicki
Illustrations by Tindur Peturs copyright © 2023 Inhabit Media Inc.

Editors: Kelly Ward-Wills and Neil Christopher
Art Director: Danny Christopher

ISBN: 978-1-77227-465-3

This project was made possible in part by the Government of Canada.
We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts for our publishing program.

All rights reserved. The use of any part of this publication reproduced, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, or stored in a retrievable system, without written consent of the publisher, is an infringement of copyright law.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: It's time for berries! / by Ceporah Mearns & Jeremy Debicki ; illustrated by Tindur Peturs.
Names: Mearns, Ceporah, 1986- author. | Debicki, Jeremy, author. | Peturs, Tindur, illustrator.
Identifiers: Canadiana 20230182496 | ISBN 9781772274653 (hardcover)
Subjects: LCGFT: Fiction. | LCGFT: Picture books.
Classification: LCC PS8626.E245 I88 2023 | DDC jC813/.6—dc23

Printed in Canada



by Ceporah Mearns & Jeremy Debicki

It's Time For BERRIES!

illustrated by Tindur Peturs



INHABIT MEDIA INC.

Siasi and Siloah love to spend time with their *ningiuq*. That's what Inuit children call their grandmas.

They like to visit her at her house. They like to bake with her, and they like to go to the store.

When spring arrives, they love to fish on the ice, and in the early summer, they love to dig for clams. But what they love most of all is to pick berries at the end of the summer.



When the days begin to get longer and the sun begins to shine, Ningiuq and the girls get ready to go on a trip.

"Ningiuq, can we pick berries?" Siasi asks.

"No, the berries aren't ready yet. But, we can go fishing!" Ningiuq replies.

"Yay, I love fishing," says Siloah.

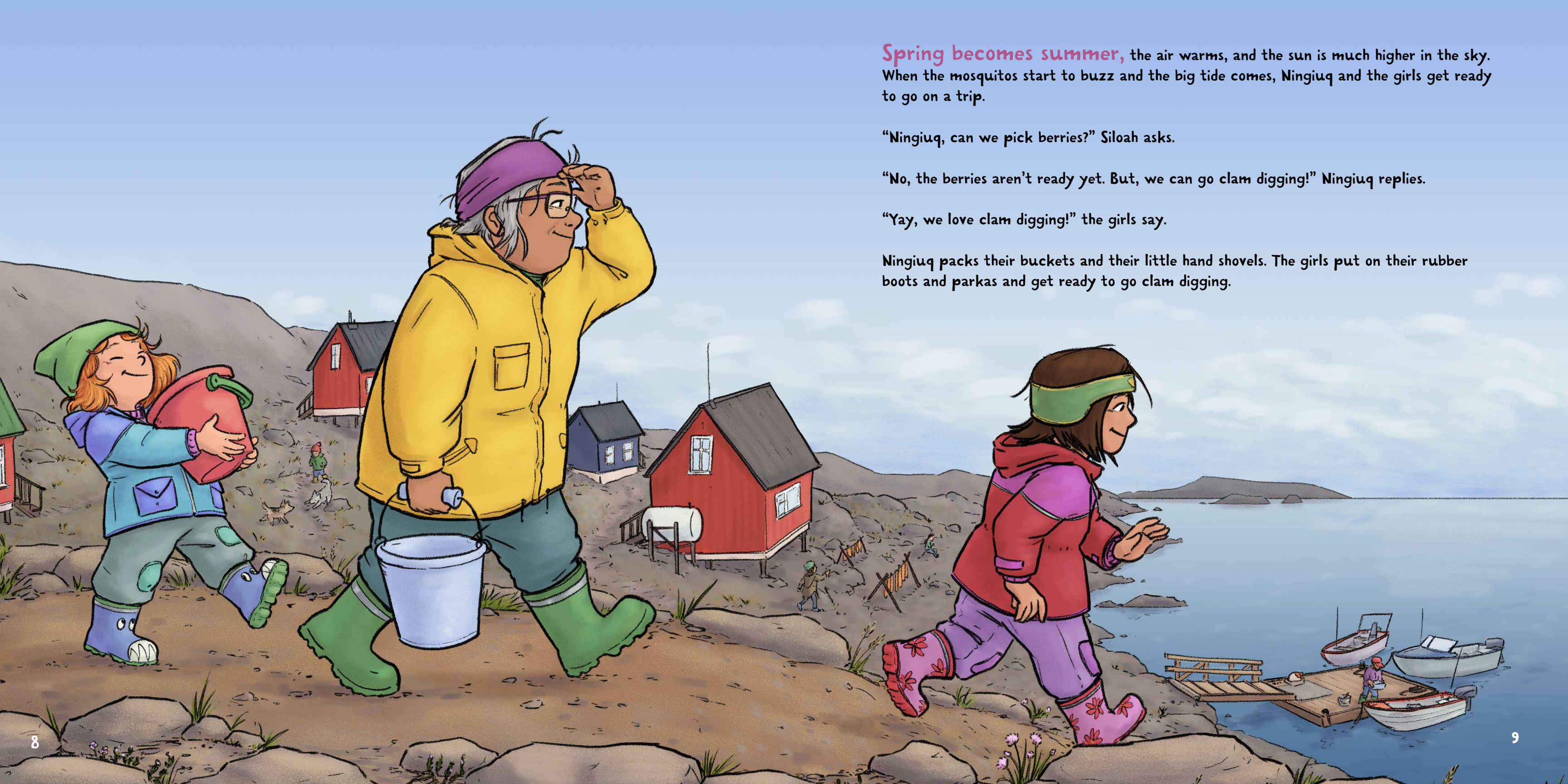
Ningiuq packs their fishing equipment into the *qamutiik* and they all put on their parkas.



Ningiuq drives the snowmobile across the fjord and up the river valley, which is called the *kuulik*. The mountains they cross are high, but nothing will stop Ningiuq! Up, up, and up they go. It's time for fishing!

They make it to the lake and jig their lines up and down, and up and down. When Ningiuq catches a fish, Siloah is so happy she jumps up and down.





Spring becomes summer, the air warms, and the sun is much higher in the sky. When the mosquitos start to buzz and the big tide comes, Ningiuq and the girls get ready to go on a trip.

“Ningiuq, can we pick berries?” Siloah asks.

“No, the berries aren’t ready yet. But, we can go clam digging!” Ningiuq replies.

“Yay, we love clam digging!” the girls say.

Ningiuq packs their buckets and their little hand shovels. The girls put on their rubber boots and parkas and get ready to go clam digging.

Ningiuq goes down to the docks and finds a boat leaving to go clam digging. Soon the wind comes across the water, and the boat goes up and down, and up and down, but nothing can stop Ningiuq! It's time to get clams! When they reach their destination, everyone climbs off the boat onto the shore.

"I found one!" shouts Siloah as she and Siasi bend down with their diggers to try to dig up the clam.

Delicious clams are everywhere, and soon Ningiuq fills her bucket.



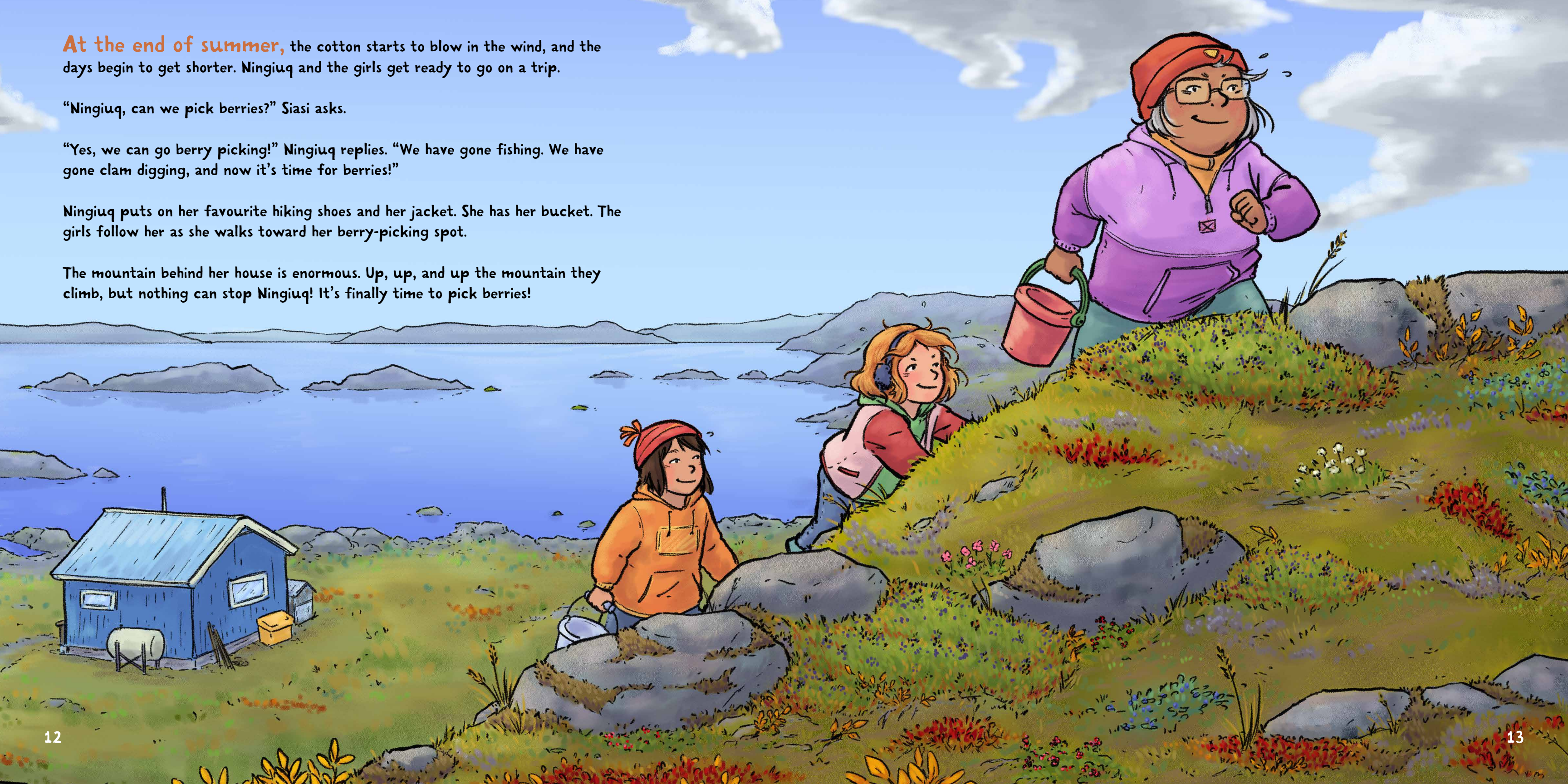
At the end of summer, the cotton starts to blow in the wind, and the days begin to get shorter. Ningiuq and the girls get ready to go on a trip.

“Ningiuq, can we pick berries?” Siasi asks.

“Yes, we can go berry picking!” Ningiuq replies. “We have gone fishing. We have gone clam digging, and now it’s time for berries!”

Ningiuq puts on her favourite hiking shoes and her jacket. She has her bucket. The girls follow her as she walks toward her berry-picking spot.

The mountain behind her house is enormous. Up, up, and up the mountain they climb, but nothing can stop Ningiuq! It’s finally time to pick berries!



“Look at all of these beautiful berries! Which ones are your favourite?” asks Ningiuq. “I love the crowberries.”

The girls eat and pick, and eat and pick. Siloah’s lips and tongue turn blue. They love all the berries!

Soon, Ningiuq fills her bucket.



The next week is windy, but Ningiuq will stop at nothing to get more berries! She bends into the wind and walks forward. Siasi and Siloah follow behind her. Beautiful berries are everywhere, and Ningiuq fills her bucket.

A few days later, the rain pours down. Ningiuq puts on her rain jacket, her rain pants, and her rubber boots. The girls get dressed and follow her.



The days are getting shorter. Ningiuq puts on her head lamp and goes into the dark to pick berries. Her light goes up and down and back and forth, but Ningiuq will stop at nothing to get berries!

Soon she fills her bucket.



It's snowing. "Oh no!" Ningiuq cries. All the berries are getting covered. Soon the snow is blowing and piling up, but Ningiuq will stop at nothing to get berries! Ningiuq and the girls walk through the snow.

"I can see my tracks!" says Siloah.

Ningiuq brushes the snow off of the plants back and forth and side to side, and soon she fills her bucket.





It is now the end of the berry-picking season. Ningiuq makes wonderful blueberry, crowberry, and cranberry jams and cheesecakes. She also bakes the most wonderful berry muffins.

Siasi and Siloah visit, and together they eat wonderful fish, clams, and berries.

"Ningiuq," Siloah says.

"Yes?" Ningiuq replies.

"I love berries."

"Me too."





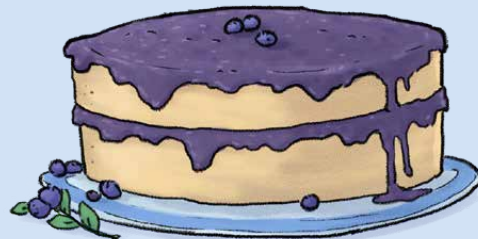
Ceporah Mearns and **Jeremy Debicki** live in Iqaluit, Nunavut, with their daughters Siasi and Siloah. Together, they love being on the land, reading, and eating yummy food that they harvest throughout the year. They hope that your favourite berry patch will be plentiful this season.

Tindur Peturs is an animator and illustrator born and raised in Iceland who moved to Canada to study animation and Canadian culture. They have a love for nature, animals, and the power of storytelling.

Inuktitut Glossary

The pronunciation guide below is intended to support non-Inuktitut speakers in their reading of Inuktitut words. These pronunciations are not exact representations of how the words are pronounced by Inuktitut speakers. For more resources on how to pronounce Inuktitut words, visit inhabitmedia.com/inuitnipingit.

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
kuulik	KOO-leek	place name meaning “a place with a river”
Ningiuq	NEEN-ghee-ook	Grandmother
qamutiik	KAH-moo-teek	sled



INHABIT MEDIA INC.
IQUALUIT • TORONTO