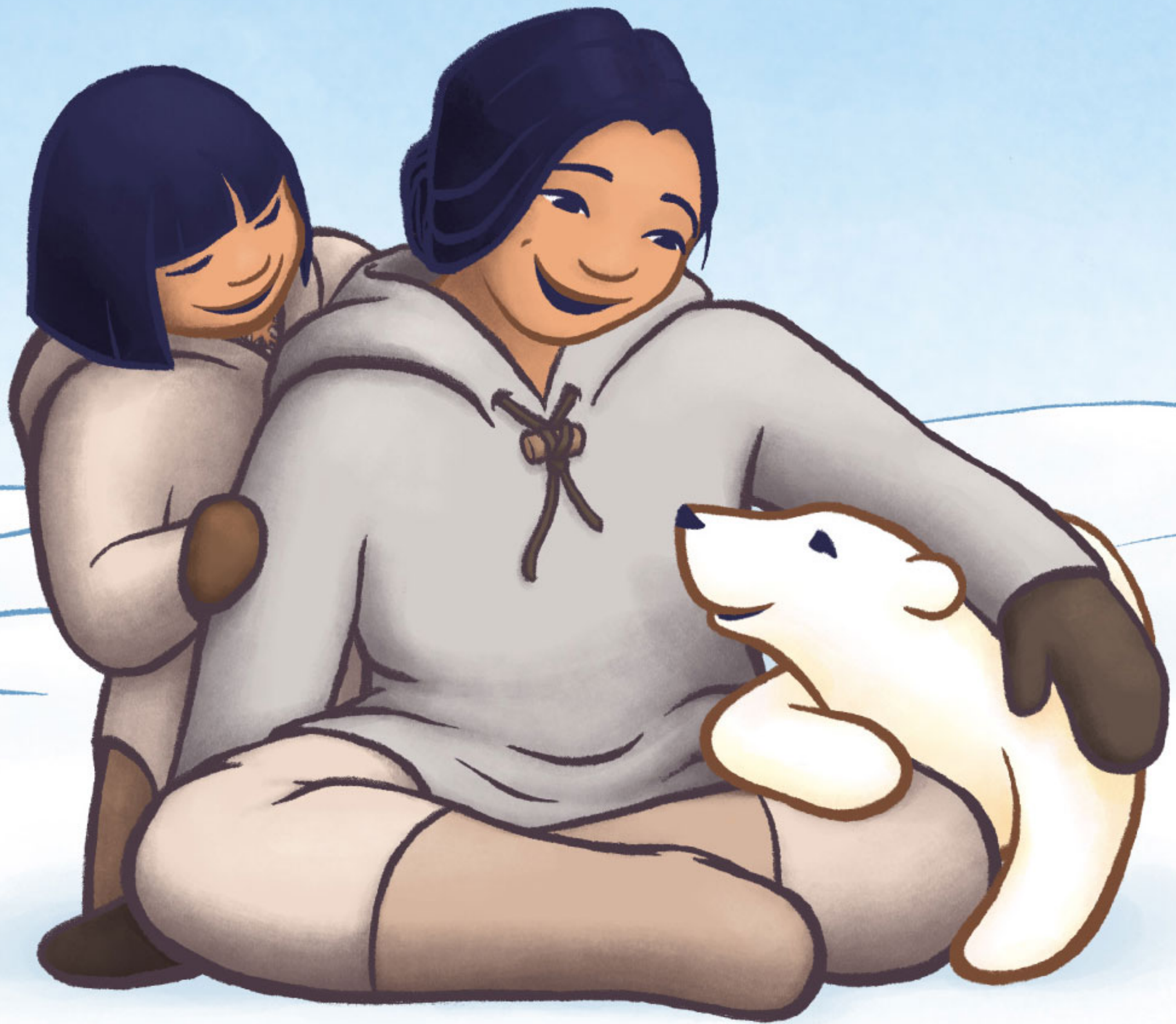


Adapted and retold by Jaypeetee Arnakak

# THE WOMAN AND HER BEAR CUB

Illustrated by Dayna Griffiths



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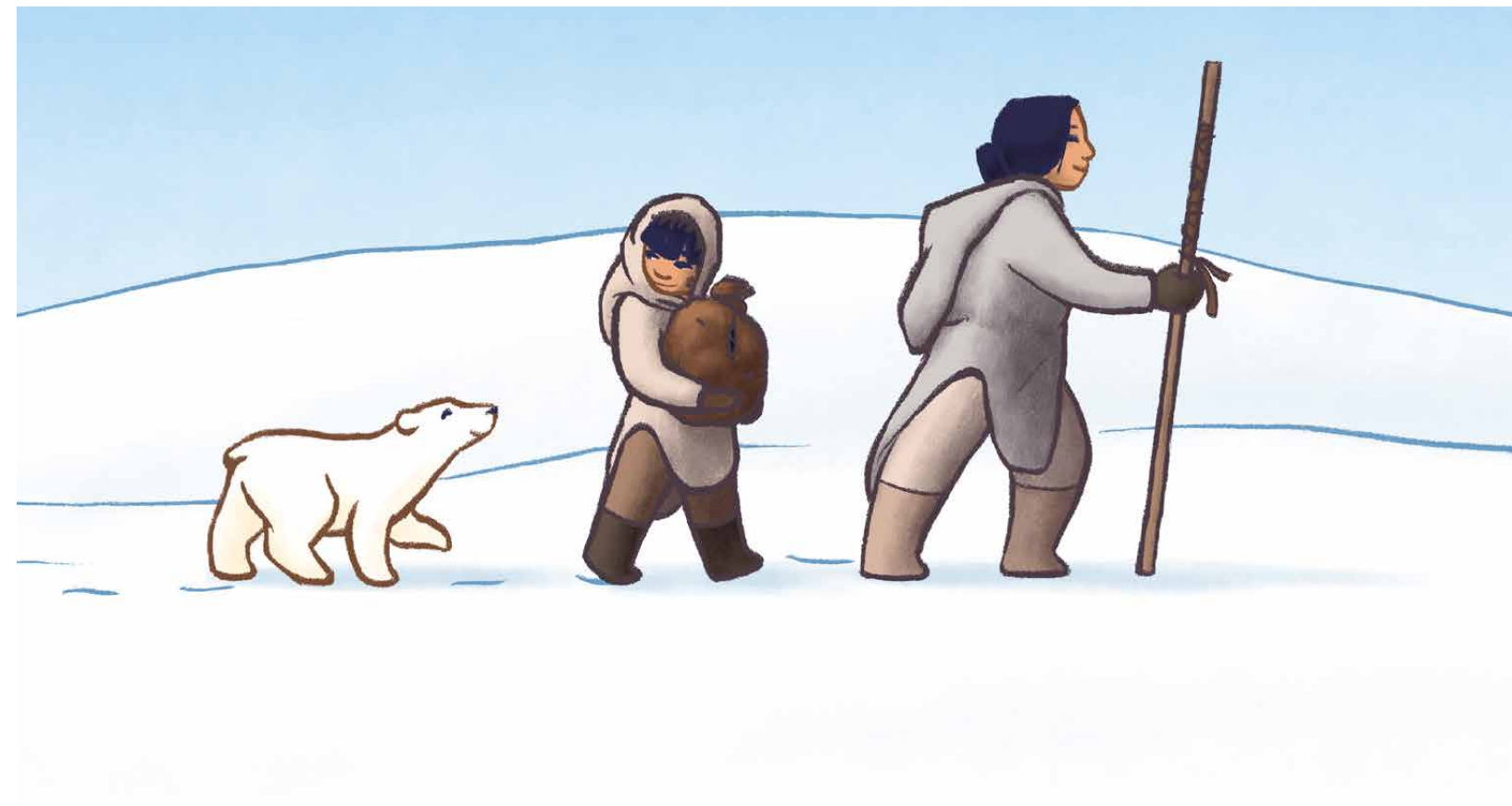
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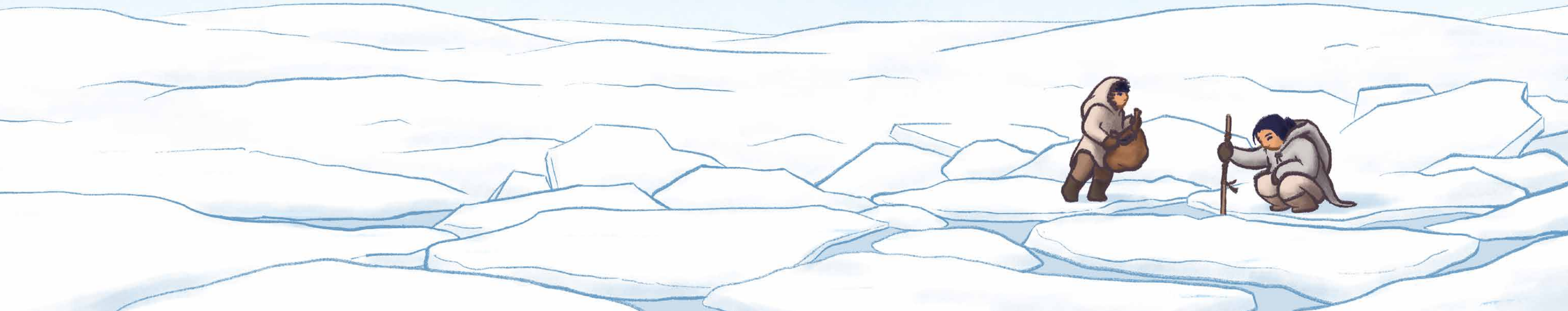


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One bright spring day, a mother and her daughter were walking along the still-frozen shoreline looking for mussels through cracks in the ice.



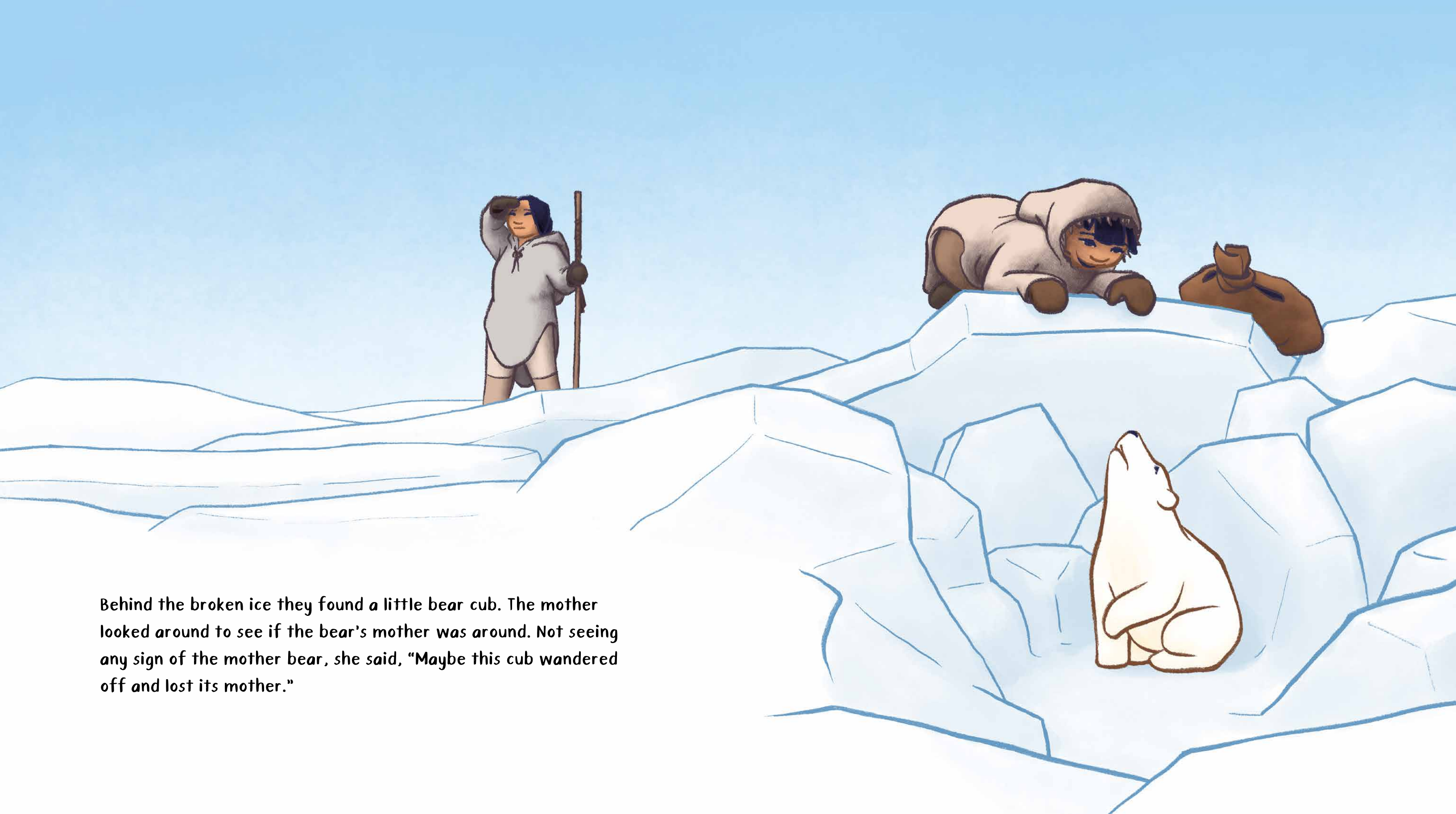
Suddenly, they heard a sad yelping sound coming from behind a broken part of the ice.

"What was that?" the little girl asked.

"I don't know," the mother replied. "Let us go and see."







Behind the broken ice they found a little bear cub. The mother looked around to see if the bear's mother was around. Not seeing any sign of the mother bear, she said, "Maybe this cub wandered off and lost its mother."

"Can we take it home?" the little girl begged.

The mother was unsure, but she said, "Let me look around and see if I can find its mother's tracks in the snow."



After looking for the mother bear's tracks and finding nothing, the woman decided that to leave the cub behind all alone was not a good idea, so she said, "Yes, I think we should bring it home with us."

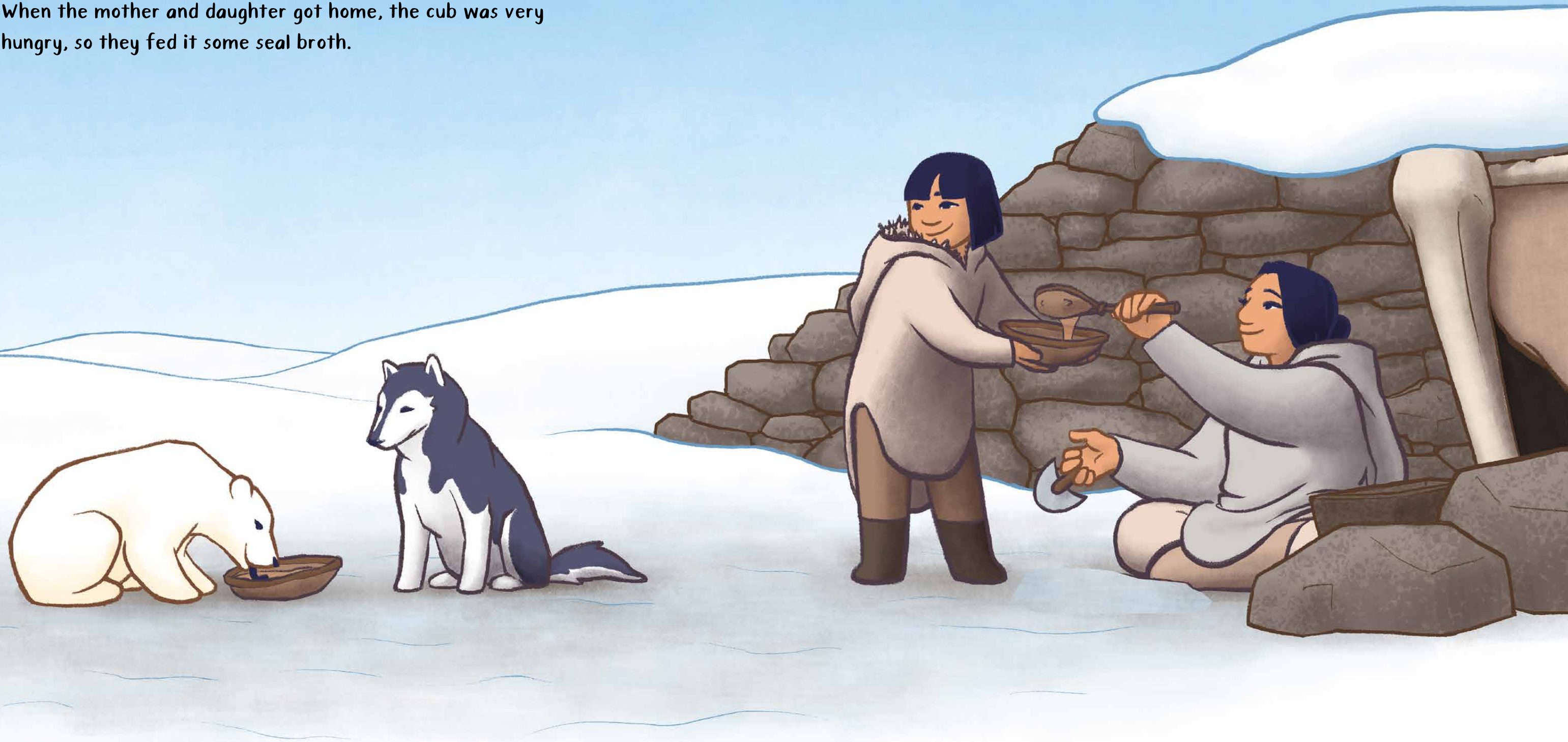






“Can we keep it?” the little girl asked. “I will call him my baby brother.”

When the mother and daughter got home, the cub was very hungry, so they fed it some seal broth.



The little girl and the bear cub played outside every day. They played many games together, and when they played hide-and-seek, the little brother bear almost always won because his sense of smell was very good.

The bear cub and the little girl were very close and loved each other like brother and sister.





One day, the mother said, "I think your brother bear is growing up so fast we might have to let him go before he becomes too big."



The little girl was sad. The bear cub tried to comfort her by nuzzling her belly.

"My mom says that you are growing up fast," the little girl said. "She says that we might have to say goodbye soon."



One day, when the girl woke up, she couldn't find her brother bear and she thought that he had wandered off, never to come back.

She began to cry, missing her brother. But when he showed up again he was carrying a seal on his back.





The brother bear was a good hunter. He always came home with a catch for his sister and mother. The mother and her daughter lived alone in their *qarmaq*, so the bear hunted for them.



The bear became big and strong and loved his family very much.

But some people in the village were afraid for their safety and wanted to get rid of the bear. The mother and the little girl were very sad.



One day, when he came back from hunting, the bear brought another bear with him. The other bear was his real mother.

The woman and her daughter knew that the bear had to go away and take care of his mother bear.





They were sad to see him go, but happy that he had found his mother bear.



## Inuktut Glossary

Inuktut is the word for Inuit languages spoken in Canada, including Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. The pronunciation guide below is intended to support non-Inuktut speakers in their reading of Inuktut words. These pronunciations are not exact representations of how the words are pronounced by Inuktut speakers. For more resources on how to pronounce Inuktut words, visit [inhabitmedia.com/inuitnipingit](http://inhabitmedia.com/inuitnipingit).

word	pronunciation	meaning
qarmaq	KAHR-mahk	a sod house

**Jaypeetee Arnakak** is a linguist, translator, and educator. He spent many years as a policy analyst specializing in Inuit culture, language and education issues. He is the editor of *Unikkaaqtuat Qikiqtaninngaaqtut*, a collection of thirty-three versions of traditional stories, transcribed and edited from oral recordings of ten Inuit elders from two High Arctic communities, Arctic Bay and Igloolik. He has also adapted several traditional Inuit stories into children's storybooks.

**Dayna Griffiths** is a multidisciplinary artist and designer, with a passion for visual storytelling and problem solving. She works primarily in the animation industry, on shows designed to entertain and educate young children, and finds joy in collaborating to develop imagery that supports a meaningful narrative.