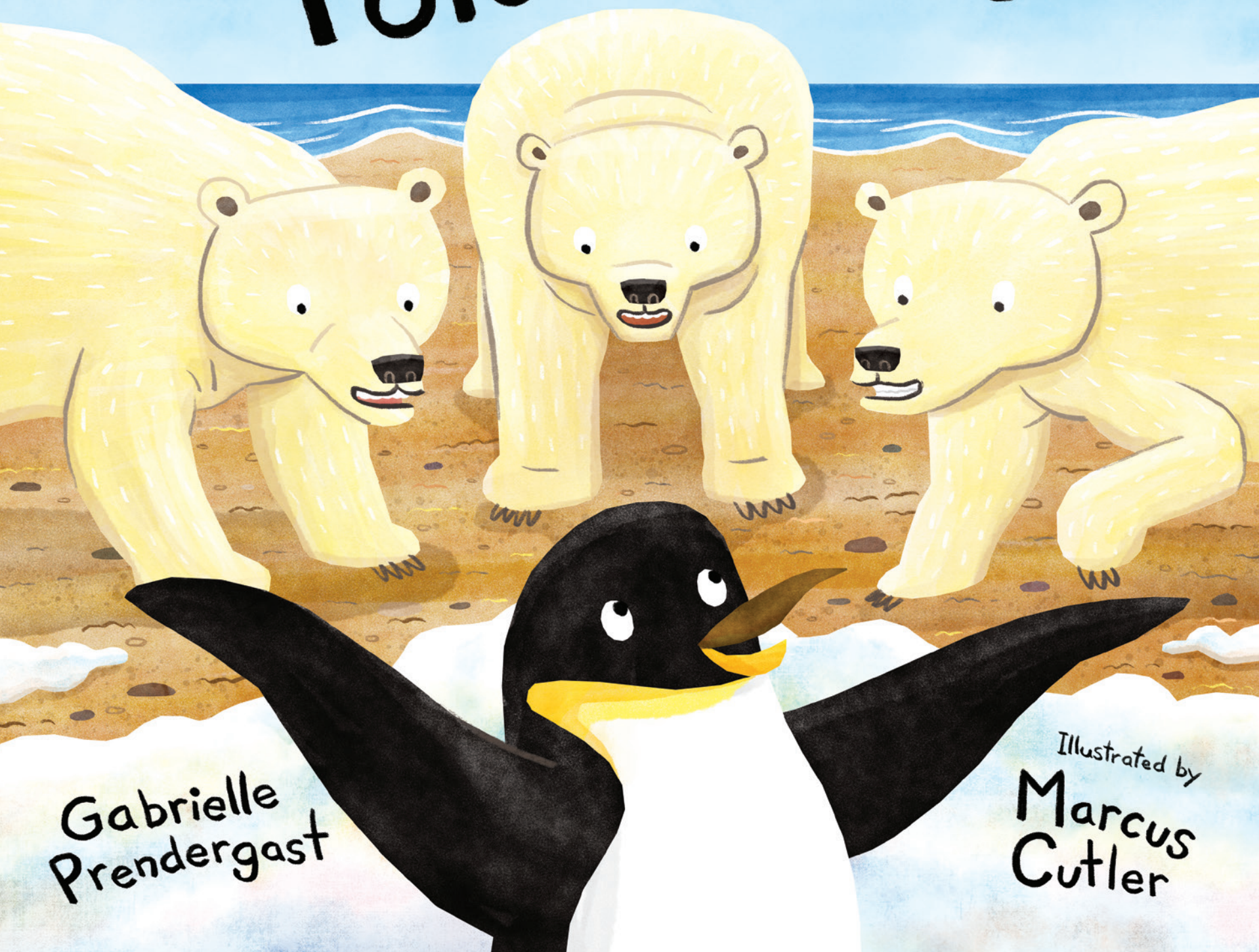
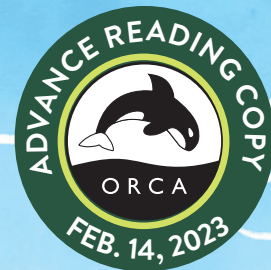


Dear Polar Bears



Gabrielle
Prendergast

Illustrated by
Marcus
Cutler

DEAR POLAR BEARS, WE ARE WRITING TO INVITE YOU TO A VERY COOL PARTY!

POLAR BEARS AND PENGUINS live in similar climates, but they never, ever meet. What if they had a party together? The penguins of Antarctica write a letter inviting the polar bears of the Arctic to join them at the South Pole to celebrate their longest day of the year. But how will the polar bears get there? It's such a long journey—will they make it in time? What will they bring? And what will happen when they finally arrive?

Dear Polar Bears combines a playful story of friendship with humorous imagery depicting the differences between Earth's polar regions. With fun facts about penguin and polar bear species, the distance between the poles and the summer solstice, this will be the most exciting party thrown by penguins you've ever attended.

Gabrielle Prendergast is an award-winning writer, teacher and designer. She has written many books for young people, including *If Pluto Was a Pea*, the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize winner *Zero Repeat Forever* and the Westchester Award winner *Audacious*. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her family.

Marcus Cutler is a freelance children's illustrator. His work has appeared in books, magazines, apps and more, and he has worked with a variety of clients, including *chickaDEE Magazine*, *OWL Magazine*, Macmillan Publishers and Parks Canada. He is the illustrator of the Lark Ba Detective series, *The Owl and the Two Rabbits* and *The Walrus and the Caribou*. Marcus lives in Tecumseh, Ontario.

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Publication February 14, 2023

FINAL BOOK WILL BE A HARDCOVER

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This is an advance reading copy of the uncorrected proofs and is not for sale. Changes may be made to the text before publication, so **all quotations for review must be checked against the final bound book.**



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Dear Polar Bears

Author: Gabrielle Prendergast

Illustrator: Marcus Cutler

February 14, 2023

The penguins of Antarctica are writing to invite the polar bears of the Arctic to a party at the South Pole in this humorous picture book.

Format:	Hardcover	PDF	EPUB
10 x 10"	9781459833005	9781459833012	9781459833029
32 pages	\$21.95		

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Playful and informative, illustrating the diversity of the arctic and the differences between the North and South Poles, while hinting at the effects of climate change.
- Simple text, written in epistolary style, is accompanied by humorous imagery to prompt discussion and further learning about travel, environmentalism and endangered species.
- This is author Gabrielle Prendergast's second picture book to blend scientific facts with playful imagery, following *If Pluto Was a Pea*.
- Illustrator Marcus Cutler infuses his artwork with delightful details and humor.
- Includes facts about penguin and polar bear species, the distances between the Earth's poles and Antarctica's longest day of the year (the summer solstice).

Photo credit by Erika Forest



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gabrielle Prendergast is an award-winning writer, teacher and designer. She has written many books for young people, including *If Pluto Was a Pea*, the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize winner *Zero Repeat Forever* and the Westchester Award winner *Audacious*. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her family.



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- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca newsletters

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Dear Polar Bears



Gabrielle
Prendergast

Illustrated by
Marcus
Cutler

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



Things here in Antarctica are okay.
A little warmer than usual.





We are writing to invite you to a party!
It will be on December 21
at the South Pole.

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If you want to bring something,
you could bring gifts for our children.
They like all kinds of toys.



The party will be during the day,
so it may go on for weeks!

We know it's a long journey.
And you will have to travel through some unfamiliar places.
Hopefully the humans will be helpful
or at least steer clear of you.



But you may have to find somewhere
to cool down on the way.





Try not to get lost.
Just keep heading south.



Eventually you'll find us.





We look forward to seeing you soon.
Sincerely,
The Penguins.



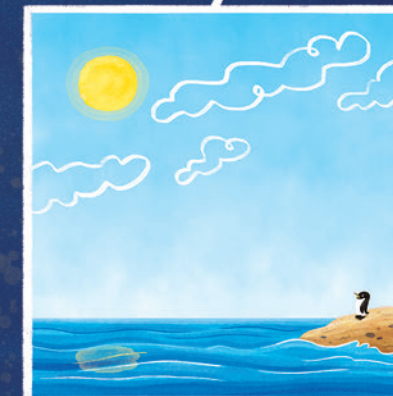
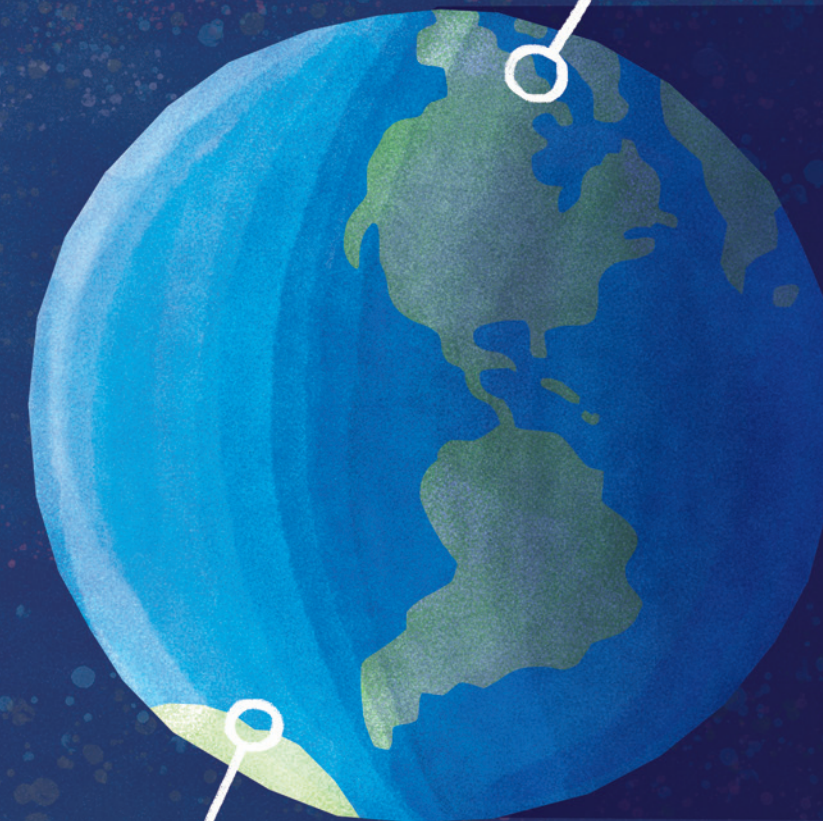
There are eighteen different species of penguins, and only seven of them are found in Antarctica. Only one species, the Galápagos penguin, is ever found wild in the Northern Hemisphere.

Polar bears, on the other hand, are truly Arctic animals and are a single species, *Ursus maritimus*. They range all over the Arctic and are found in the United States (in Alaska), Canada, Greenland, Norway (in Svalbard) and Russia.

The North Pole (the very tippy top of the world) is 12,430 miles (20,004 kilometers) from the South Pole. Polar bears never range farther south than James Bay in Canada, but from there they would still have to travel more than 10,000 miles (16,093 kilometers) to get to the penguin party in Antarctica. The polar bears from Svalbard would have to travel more than 11,500 miles (18,507 kilometers).

Because the earth spins on a tilted axis as it travels around the sun, we have seasons, and in those seasons the hours of daylight vary. In winter the days are shorter and in summer they are longer. The longest day is the summer solstice. In the Northern Hemisphere the summer solstice is around June 21. In the Southern Hemisphere it's around December 21. Around December 21 the South Pole is pointed almost directly at the sun, and the days near that date have sun all day long! The same thing happens at the North Pole and the northern polar regions around June 21.

The word *Arctic* comes from the Greek word for bear, *arktos*. So *Antarctic*, or the opposite of *Arctic*, means “not the bear”!



Due to human activities and climate change, both polar bears and penguins are at risk of losing their homes. If you'd like to learn about helping polar bears and penguins, please visit worldwildlife.org/species/polar-bear and worldwildlife.org/species/penguin

To Sophie.

—G.P.

For Gemma, Andrew and Tilly,
and the times we get together.

—M.C.

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