



My Ittu

The Biggest, Best Grandpa

By Laura Deal

Illustrated by
Thamires Paredes

My Ittu

The Biggest, Best Grandpa



"To the Grandmas and Grandpas near and far,
whose love knows no boundaries. We love you."

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Maniq's mom leaned toward the kitchen window, looked out, and gave a friendly wave. As the snowmobile buzzed off toward town, Maniq burst through the front door with a frozen fish in her arms, her cheeks rosy from the snowmobile ride with her *ittu*.



"Mom!" Maniq called happily. "Ittu said to give this to you. He caught it a few hours ago! I just love spending time with my *ittuqpaiaq*. He is the best at ice fishing, and he gave me the very biggest fish!"

Maniq warmed her hands and hung her outdoor gear to dry.

"I had so much fun with Ittu today on the snowmobile!" Maniq continued. "I'm the luckiest kid ever to have an ittu like him. . . ."



Ever since I was a baby,
Ittu loved me so much!



He has always been very
big and **strong**.
And I have always been
very little.





My ittu is the **best** and **bravest** hunter.

He could wrestle even the largest wild animal and win!
Even the biggest, grumpiest polar bear.



My ittu is **very generous!**
He shares food that he has hunted with
everyone.

He can walk through fierce blizzards to
make sure people have delicious food
to eat.

My ittu knows that sharing
is important.



My ittu is **so tall** that sometimes I think he is one of the biggest giants—like the ones from his stories!

I bet he could wade through oceans, holding me up high on his shoulders, to see over the very highest of mountaintops.

My ittu can lift just about anything, even a snowmobile.

Maybe even *two* snowmobiles!

And *five* full jerry cans!





No one can cut *mattaag* like my ittu. He takes care
to do it just the **right way**.

He patiently teaches me how to handle a blade of my own.



My ittu can drive a boat *SO* fast
that no other boat can keep up!

He can almost make it to Hawaii and back in one afternoon!



My ittu loves his family and, oh boy, does
he have **lots!**

He must have one hundred kids and grandkids,
and he loves every single one of them!

That is a lot of love for just
one ittu. . . .





As Maniq sat down at the kitchen table, eagerly digging into the snack her mother had prepared, her mother smiled.

"You know, Maniq, even though your *ittuqpajaaq* is big and strong and brave and taller than most," she said, giving Maniq a small hug, "your *ningiuq* always says his heart shines bright, just like he is a little boy again, when you two are together."

Maniq really liked imagining that.



Glossary of Inuktitut Words

Inuktitut is the word for Inuit languages spoken in Canada, including Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. The pronunciation guides in this book are 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	Definition
ittu	EE-too	grandpa; old/elderly man
ittuqpaajaaq	ee-took-pah-YAHK	big grandpa
Maniq	MAH-neek	Inuktitut name; moss used to light an oil lamp
mattaag	maht-TAHK	whale skin
ningiuq	NEENG-ee-ook	grandma; old/elderly woman



Laura Deal lives in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and is originally from Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia. For her, writing has always been an important means of expression. Her Northern-based storybooks are written with the hope that children who live in the North, like her daughter, can relate and see a little bit of themselves within their pages. Laura is the author of *The Ugly Place*, *In the Sky at Nighttime*, and *How Nivi Got Her Names*, which is also available as a short film.

Thamires Paredes lives and works as a freelance illustrator in Brazil and is passionate about telling stories through her art. For ten years her main focus has been editorial illustration, books, and advertising. She has a special affection for illustration for infants and young children.



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