



Michael Kusugak, Author/Storyteller

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Exciting news!!!

1. Michael has moved from Rankin Inlet Nunavut to Vancouver Island where it will be much easier and less expensive for him to travel.
2. Michael has a new book slated for release in early 2013. It is called "T is for Territories". An alphabet book about the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. It is part of the M is for Maple series published by Sleeping Bear Press. This book will be the final book in the series to complete the set on Canada. We are very excited about this book and we look forward to seeing it arrive in schools in North America.
3. Hands on Learning Sessions are also available! Michael's wife Gerry travels with him to provide these sessions. See Hands On Learning session description below.

Fees

Michael's rates for Author's Visits are \$600.00 for a half day (2 groups in a half day). Please see the group sizes in this information package. The fee for Hands on Learning is \$200.00 for a half day (2 groups). Fees do include travel costs. Please feel free to share this information with other schools and school divisions in your area.

Michael's Sessions

Author's Visits

Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak is a gifted and mesmerizing storyteller. In Inuit culture, storytellers learn their craft by listening to stories told to them as children. These stories are ancient and compelling, told over and over again changing slightly with each teller's telling. Michael was introduced to the stories by his grandmother while he was traveling by dog team living in igloos and sod huts at the Arctic Circle. He weaves these stories with stories of his life, a life of rapid change and adaptation. Michael's storytelling will transport you to another world.

Michael's sessions are usually 1 hour in length. Michael can do up to 4 sessions in a school day, 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon depending on the schedule in your area.

New Hands on Learning Sessions**

Michael's wife Gerry brings a variety of items that the children can touch, try on, try out and to experience. Items such as an Inuit drum, try on an amouti, look at and touch tools and implements, samples of fur, and clothing like, Kaamik, sealskin mitts, duffel socks, crocheted hats, and other items. What's a Qulliq (stone seal oil lamp)? Look at a scale model of a kayak to see how it is constructed and much more. With 2 or more sessions they are held in a separate area from the storytelling so that children can see items that Michael talks about in his stories. If one session is booked the Hands on portion follows the storytelling session. These sessions are included in the fee for the author's sessions.

Group Size

For author's visits and hands on learning sessions, we like the children to be grouped in grade/age levels. You can combine classes but please keep the groups in the following age ranges and group size. The younger grade groups K – 3 should be smaller, 50 – 70 per group. The older grades 4 and up can be a bit bigger with 100 children max.

Room Preparation

Author's session: Michael needs a chair, a small table and a jug, or bottle of water. It is important to have the children sitting on the floor in front of him. A library or classroom with an area large enough to accommodate the group is best. Michael asks that you avoid using the gym if at all possible.

Hands on Learning Session: Gerry needs a separate room with a large table, a chair, water, a screen or white board for showing some photographs. The gym can be used for Hands on Learning Sessions. If the requested space is not available please let us know so that we can make the necessary adjustments.

Michael's Books

Books, Awards and Accolades

In 2008 Michael won the Prestigious Vicky Metcalf Award for a body of work in Children's Literature

Writer's Trust Jurist for the Vicky Metcalf Award -Jean Little November, 17, 2008

"A dynamic linking of memory and place defines Inuit children's author Michael Kusugak picture books, short stories, and historical novel. Kusugak's stories are primarily set in the 1950s of his childhood in Repulse Bay, a small Inuit community of only 100 people, at the north end of the Hudson Bay within the Arctic Circle. Drawing from personal experience, Kusugak writes unforgettably of the lived experience of the North: the beauty of the Arctic landscape, its variety of seasonal change and animal and human activities, the close knit life of the Inuit community, the presence of mythic imagery and belief. Kusugak's voice is unique with Inuit diction and metaphor — falling stars are 'star droppings'. Kusugak writes of family love, folk tricksters, residential school, pre-contact era shamanism in a unifying spirit of place and culture, offering Canadian child and adult readers a living vision of a rich way of life." –Jean Little

A Promise is a Promise (co-authored with Robert Munsch) Published by Annick Press, 1988

- Read America Classic
- Vicky Metcalf Award

Baseball Bats for Christmas Published by Annick Press, 1990

- Greatest Canadian Books of the Century List, Vancouver Public Library
- 100 Best Books List Toronto Public Library
- Ruth Schwartz Award Finalist
- Vicky Metcalf Award

Hide and Sneak Published by Annick Press 1992

- Vicky Metcalf Award

Northern Lights the Soccer Trails published by Annick Press 1993

- Ruth Schwartz Award
- Aesop Accolade List
- Notable Book, Canadian Library Association
- Vicky Metcalf Award

My Arctic 123 published by Annick Press 1996

- Parents Council's Outstanding from a Learning Perspective Honor
- Chickadee Choice
- Ruth Schwartz Award Finalist
- Vicky Metcalf Award

Arctic Stories published by Annick Press 1998

- The Year's Best List Resource Links
- Vicky Metcalf Award

Who Wants Rocks? Published by Annick Press 1999

- Vicky Metcalf Award

The Curse of the Shaman, A Marble Island Story published by Harper-Trophy 2006

- Short Listed for the Anskohk Award in 2 categories
- Short Listed for the Hackmatack Award
- Vicky Metcalf Award

The Littlest Sled Dog published by Orca Books 2008

- Alcuin Award, Excellence in Book Design in Canada
- Vicky Metcalf Award

COMING SOON! T is for Territories published by Sleeping Bear Press scheduled for release in early 2013.

Visit Michael's website at www.michaelkusugak.com