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# Immi's Gift



## Synopsis

Way, way up north in a snow-covered, frozen world, a young girl breaks a hole in the ice and fishes for her supper. But instead of a fish, at the end of the line is a small, brightly painted wooden bird. She ties it onto her necklace, next to a small white bear. Day after day her fishing pole brings up more colorful surprises from the swirling sea under the frozen ice. She decorates her igloo with the colorful treasures and animals come from far and wide to visit with her and share stories of faraway lands. On the last day she visits the fishing hole she drops the small bear from her necklace into the water. Faraway, a young boy walks along a beach in the hot, hot sun. He throws something colorful into the water. Then something catches his eye. There washed up on the beach is a small wooden bear. ... Karin Littlewood has crafted a simple, affecting story of how individuals around the world connect and even enrich each other's lives. Her beautiful, full-spread watercolor illustrations colorfully depict the story's shifting locations from the frozen Arctic to the tropical shoreline, and the vast and diverse world that exists below the sea.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 560L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 11.1 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #998,460 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #158 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Polar Regions](#) #10154 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#) #13985 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2â "When Immi, an Inuit child, goes ice fishing, she is surrounded by a world of white. Hoping to catch just one more fish, instead she pulls up a brightly colored wooden bird, its vivid appearance

in sharp contrast to the ice and snow swirling around her. She adds it to her necklace, next to a small white bear. On the days that follow, she fishes out other brightly colored objects and hangs them in her igloo until it is awash in color. Various polar animals are attracted, and Immi snuggles with them while they share stories of faraway lands. When the snow begins to melt, Immi departs, but before she goes she throws her small white bear into the ice-fishing hole. It is later retrieved from tropical waters by the boy who has been tossing his brightly colored creatures into the waves. The painterly illustrations done in colored pencil, watercolor, and gouache capture Immi's frozen world, and her little flight of fancy seems logical escapism for anyone living even briefly in such isolated and lonely circumstances. This might be a jumping-off point to discuss how the imagination can provide relief and comfort, but it's an additional purchase. Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

When fishing in an expansive white landscape, a young Inuit finds a colorful wooden bird on the end of her line. Each following day brings a new talisman. As Immi strings them up around her igloo, the rainbow of objects attracts curious animals—polar bears, foxes, wolves, hares—who join Immi in her Igloo, share supper, and help her fill those long dark nights with stories of faraway lands. • Then Immi's igloo begins to melt, and before she moves along with her sled, she drops a polar-bear pendant from her necklace into a hole in the ice. Eventually, it finds its way across the ocean to a faraway tropical beach, where a young boy also throws a treasure of his own into the sea, wondering where it will go. Littlewood, whose artwork has been nominated for Britain's Kate Greenaway Medal, contributes a serviceable text that doesn't shine as brightly as her skilled, appealing watercolor-and-pencil illustrations. A warm story that emphasizes the interconnectedness of all beings on earth. Preschool-Grade 2. --Andrew Medlar

Stunning illustrations!

This is one of my favorite children's books. All three of my kids love it! Particularly good right before Christmas...

Great book! My grandson loved it.

Giving this book to one of my grand daughters for christmas this year as "the annual christmas

book". I love the story and I know she will enjoy it.

Little Immi is a child of the far north, cold frozen land of Alaska. She is a native Inuit. Her people fish for their sustenance and little Immi is learning young to fish. One day while out fishing she catches a beautifully carved and painted bird. She is filled with joy at this beautiful gift from the water. On subsequent days she catches other beautiful treasures. At the end of the story, she decides to "gift" the sea with one of her very own Inuit treasures. Ultimately, the Inuit treasure is caught from the sea by a Pacific Islander. This beautifully told and illustrated story is charming. There is sweet innocence and true joy. There is also an underlying story of bonding across the distances imposed by water, land, or cultures. "....as Immi was about to go, she stopped and put her hand to her necklace. She took the small bear and gently dropped it into the water." The illustrations alone are what I consider "keeper quality." But combined with the effortlessly and beautifully simple told story, it makes for a perfect book for the child's home bookshelf or libraries at school and city. **DISCLOSURE:** I received a complimentary copy of Immi's Gift from Peachtree Publishers in exchange for my review. Opinions expressed are solely my own and I received no compensation for this review.

"I had written her story and drawn her again and again, but this little girl I knew so well did not have a name. Then I came across the Inuit name Immi and knew it was right for her. It was only much later that I found out Immi is short for Immiayuk, meaning echo, a word that seems very fitting for this story." - Karin Littlewood, author and illustrator of Immi's Gift  
Alone in a frozen white land, Immi breaks a hole in the ice to fish for her supper. Having already caught a few fish, she thought she try to get one more--in case anyone comes around (which they hardly did). Much to her surprise, Immi finds a painted little wooden bird at the end of her fishing line. This delightful discovery leads Immi to find more colorful items at the end of her line--a red flower, a purple feather, a green leaf and an orange starfish. Soon, Immi's igloo was the brightest thing in the land! Immi's Gift, written and illustrated by British watercolorist Karin Littlewood, conveys an unusual tale of a solitary girl finding a host of colorful objects through her frozen fishing hole. Inspired by these unexpected items, Immi then drops her own beloved pendant--a white bear from her necklace--into the icy water. What results is a cross-cultural exchange--albeit a bit fantastical one--that inspires wonderment in both children and adults alike. This book would make a delightful gift for children; rather than a straightforward tale (like most children's books), Immi's Gift (Peachtree Publishers) invites speculation and conversation, which would make it a great book for parents or caregivers and children to share together. For example, why is Immi alone? Where are her parents? How does she

survive the arctic conditions? Where might she, and the little boy, live in the world? Beautifully painted by veteran artist (but first-time author) Littlewood, the gentle story of Immi's Gift would make a wonderful addition to any child's library.-- Janet Boyer, author of Back in Time Tarot

"Immi's Gift" is a beautiful illustrated story about the surprising gifts a child of the far frozen north receives from her fishing hole in the ice. Though her igloo is lonely and she longs for company, she decorates the ice walls with many small colorful bits of treasure that she finds with her fishing pole in the sea. Thus a little red bird, an orange starfish, a green leaf and a purple feather find their way to her ice igloo's walls. Because her igloo is the brightest in the land, she begins to receive many wondering visitors, attracted by the brightness. Many animals of the Arctic come and stay for supper and fill the long dark nights with stories of faraway lands. The visiting animals make Immi very happy, and they are happy too. One day the ice begins to melt and Immi knows it is time to leave her home on the ice. One last thing remains for her to do. She takes her own little carved white wooden bear and drops it in the ice hole, a gift to the sea which has been so generous to her. Little does Immi know that very far away, in a warmer place, a boy who has been gifting the sea with small bright treasures will find her little white bear on the shore. "Immi's Gift" is a beautiful tale of interconnectedness, perfect for children ages 4-8.

This story illustrates how colorful and mysterious friendship is and how wonderful the imagination can be. The idea that two children can share little trinkets via the ocean, that one can connect in that fashion with someone else in the world, is reminiscent of the message in a bottle and that's why this story works so well. We have all often wondered who would receive a message if we sent it, maybe we've even tried. How awesome that Karin Littlewood makes it happen in her story. - Biblio Reads Children's Book Review

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