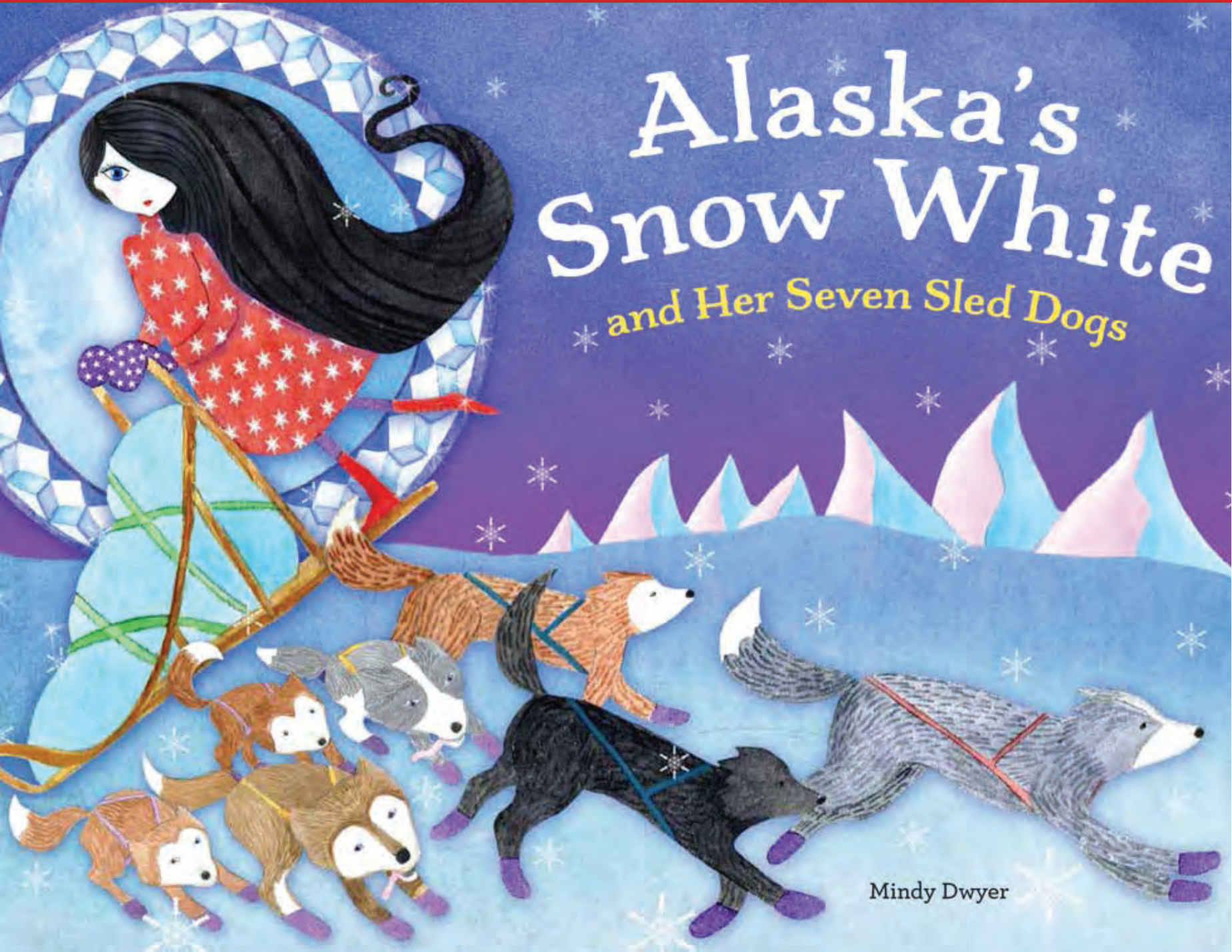


# TEACHER RESOURCE



MINDY DWYER

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

The author and the illustrator are the same person in this book. Often one person writes the story and another person creates the pictures. Many people work on a story before it becomes a book. Editors check the spelling and grammar, art directors make sure the pictures help tell the story and go on the right page, and designers put the book together so it can be printed.

### **Have you read any other books by Mindy Dwyer?**

You can find all of her books on [www.mindydwyer.com](http://www.mindydwyer.com).



### **Is this story a fairy tale?**

A fairy tale is a short story that features magic or enchantments with fantasy characters and happiness as a theme at the end.



### **What happens?**

A princess, named Snow White is born in an ice castle high in the mountains. She learns to defend herself from the dangers of an evil Queen, finds a home in Alaska's wilderness, makes a friend and together they bring back the annual Ice Festival.

### **What the story is about:**

Abandonment (Snow White is sent away after her mother dies), courage (she makes her own way in the wilderness), and perseverance (she never gives up and there is a happy ending).



## SO MANY WAYS TO LEARN

One classroom has a variety of learners; seers, thinkers, talkers, listeners, movers, socials, solos! It is easier for everyone to remember what they learn when different parts of the brain are engaged. I divided the following exercises into two main groups: Visual, Logical, Solitary Learners and the Auditory, Verbal, Physical, Social Learners.

### VISUAL

#### SPATIAL

*(using pictures, color coding, mind maps)*

- Assign a color to each dog's name as a way to remember them
- Draw with markers on a big piece of paper to show how the dogs are paired up as a team
- Use the fairy tale structure on page 6 to outline your own story

### LOGICAL

#### MATHEMATICAL

*(reasoning, systems diagram or how things are connected, list making, asking why, flashcards, sequencing)*

- **What happens next?**

A princess is born and then...

The King married again and...

Snow White lives with the Master Skate Maker and...

The magic mirror speaks to the Queen and...

Snow White is out in the wilderness and then...

The Queen turned into a Fur Trapper and then...

The Queen turns into a Moose Hunter and then...

The Queen turns into a Homesteader and then...

A young man is mushing and then...

There is an Ice Festival and then...

- **Story details**

Who is telling the story?

Who are the characters?

What happens to the main character?

What are her dogs names?

Does the musher do as he was ordered?

What did Warrior do?

Where does the story take place? When?



## SOLITARY-

### INTRA-PERSONAL

(works alone,  
discovers a personal  
connection to the  
story)

#### Ask questions:

“What would you  
do if left alone in the  
wilderness?”

Do fairy tales have  
magic?

What is magic? Is it  
when things happen  
that you cannot  
explain?

Who are your real life  
heroes?

Who are your favorite  
authors?

## HEROES

The best way to honor your heroes is to make reference to them. I chose a quote by one of my favorite authors for the dedication page of my book.

*“As long as you live and breathe, believe. Believe for those who cannot. Believe even if you stopped believing. Believe for the sake of the dead, for love, to keep your heart beating, believe. Never give up, never despair, let no mystery confound you into the conclusion that mystery cannot be yours. -Mark Helprin*

Another favorite author of mine is J.R.R. Tolkien. When the owl flies home to the master skate maker to tell him that Snow White is safe and says, *“Snow White wanders, but your daughter is not lost,”* I am making a reference to J.R. R. Tolkien’s poem, All That Is Gold Does Not Glitter.

I have always loved Dr. Seuss, and he once said, *“To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world.”* I made reference to this quote when Snow White discovers a friend in Jacob.

## ALASKA MAGIC

Alaska has many extraordinary things that are real, yet hard to explain: northern lights (Aurora Borealis), days with no night, Fata Morgana (mirage of the atmosphere), days with no light, giant flowers and plants, salmon that swim 1,000 miles, earthquakes, three different colors of bears, and a sourdough pot that stays alive.

bear

princess

witch

far, faraway

angry

queen

deep in the forest

ogre

lovely

mean

sad

long, long ago

edge of a lake

brave

grandmother

father

ugly

tall

strong

Make up some more

words for your list.



Cut these words out and put them in the right boxes

where	who
what they look like	how they act

# YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE

Fairy tales have recognizable parts:

1. begin in an imaginary place
2. good guys and bad guys
3. a serious problem
4. three repeating actions or words
5. something magical
6. the problem is fixed
7. happy ending

Put your words into the story box. Speak or write sentences to connect the words in the boxes, and you will have a story!

Try mixing up the story a little and see if it still works. Make a nice witch, or a lovely queen, or an ugly princess, or a sad bear.

<b>1. where</b>	<b>2. who (the good guys and bad guys)</b>
<b>3. the problem or bad thing that happened</b>	<b>4. the pattern of three</b>
<b>5. the magic</b>	<b>6. how is it fixed?</b>
<b>7. the happy ending</b>	

## AUDITORY MUSICAL

(sounds, rhyme, rhythm,  
music, acrostics)

## VERBAL LINGUISTIC

(read out loud, talk  
your way through your  
thinking, word games)

## PHYSICAL KINESTHETIC

(role playing, sense of  
touch (textures), speak  
through a sensation of  
how a scenario feels)

## SOCIAL

**INTER-PERSONAL** (learn  
in groups, role play, mind  
maps, diagrams, select a  
drawer, agree to disagree)

Did you find words in the story about senses?

touch \_\_\_\_\_

smell \_\_\_\_\_

hearing \_\_\_\_\_

seeing \_\_\_\_\_

tasting \_\_\_\_\_

- Create a musical jingle from the dog's names to help remember them
  - Make a Wordle from the vocabulary words
  - Create an acrostic from the first letter of the dogs names
  - Line up in a team of dogs in pairs
  - Talk about how it feels to be alone in wilderness
  - Read out loud using voices that match the characters
  - Cut the words out and arrange them in boxes on page 5
- 
- Create a fairy tale together using page 6

How can you tell that this story is a fairy tale?

How do fairy tales begin? How do they end?

What fairy tales do you know? Make a list together.

Do you know any other Snow White stories?

How are they different? How are they the same?

# ICE PALACES AROUND THE WORLD

An ice palace is a castle-like structure made from blocks of ice harvested from nearby frozen lakes or rivers. The first known ice "house" was in St. Petersburg, Russia almost three hundred years ago. They built ice trees in a garden, an elephant ice sculpture, and even furniture made of ice. Ice castles have also been built in Alaska, Canada, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, Switzerland, China, and Sweden.



Der Eispalast in Colorado.



I first learned about ice palaces when I lived in Leadville, Colorado. As I wrote the story of *Alaska's Snow White*, I imagined her being born in an ice castle much like the Leadville palace.

Over one hundred years ago, the town built a magnificent ice castle, opening the doors on New Year's Day. The visitors arrived by train to ice-skate, and to enjoy the restaurant, ballroom, merry-go-round, and toboggan slide.

There is an amazing ice structure that you can visit in Fairbanks, Alaska, called the Aurora Ice Museum. It was made with 1,000 tons of snow and ice, and kept at 25 degrees even in summer! When you arrive, you are given a parka to keep warm. The first thing you can see are the ice crystal chandeliers, that constantly change colors, lit up to look like northern lights. You may sip a cold drink from an ice glass, see beautiful ice sculptures and even take an ice carving workshop.





# MEET THE SEVEN SLED DOGS

## Sniffy

He's a team dog, a partner to Hunter and his fur is grey. He has a white stripe on his head and white tip on his tail.

## Warrior

He's a swing dog, partner to Ruby. He is reddish brown with a white face and tip of his tail.

## Ruby

She's a swing dog, partner to Warrior. Her fur is all black.

## Hunter

He's a team dog that is a partner to Sniffy. He is brown with a white face.

## Fluffy

The mama dog, partner to Blue, is a wheel dog. She has thick fluffy dark red fur and a white tip on her tail.

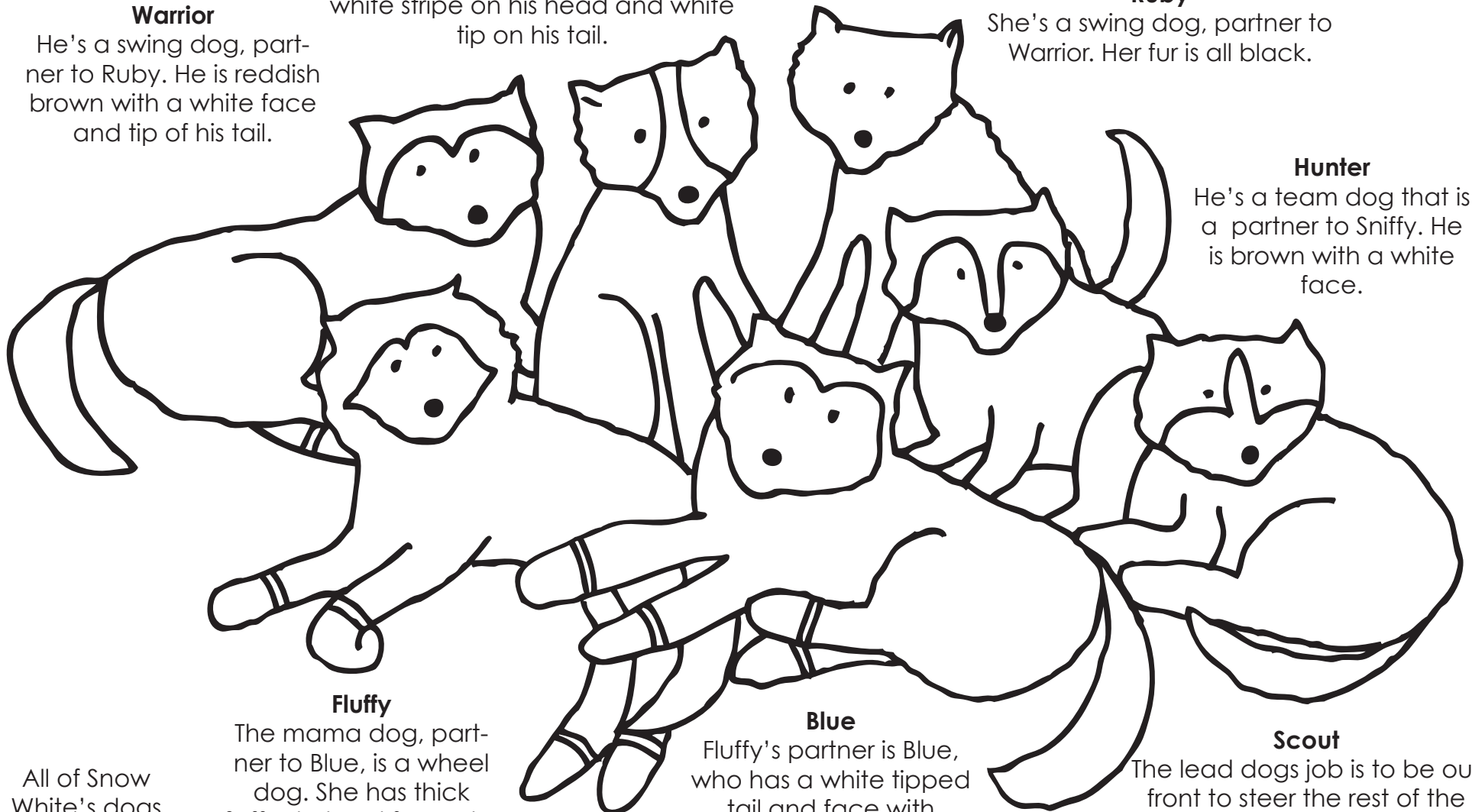
All of Snow White's dogs wear purple booties.

## Blue

Fluffy's partner is Blue, who has a white tipped tail and face with reddish fur. Color him with one blue eye and one green eye.

## Scout

The lead dogs job is to be out front to steer the rest of the team and set the pace. Color him grey with the tip of his tail and snout white.



# ABOUT SLED DOGS



Last summer I had the pleasure to met Dr. Jerry Vanek, an international sled dog veterinarian. He has served in over 100 races and expeditions over four continents, and presented more than 230 lectures and publications on sled dogs and sled dog medicine to veterinarians, technicians, mushers, children, and the public around the globe.

Dr. Vanek has been a musher since his teens and a former sprint race competitor. He still drives dogs whenever he can. Most of these sled dog photos were provided by Dr. Vanek, who also corrected my descriptions about the various types of sled dogs, and in particular the story about the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and it's connection to the famous Diphtheria Serum Relay Race to Nome, Alaska over ninety years ago.

Thank you, Jerry!



Northern sled dogs are often called “Huskies.” But sled dogs can be any type of dog that pulls a sled. The most common breeds of northern sled dogs are the Alaskan Husky, Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky, Samoyed, Canadian Inuit Dog, and its close cousin, the Greenland Husky. All have the endurance to travel long distances and they love to run. They can handle harsh weather and trot at a steady pace for days on their strong legs.

Long before huskies raced, they were working dogs: pulling sleds, carrying packs, hunting, herding, and guarding. Ninety years ago, during a diphtheria epidemic in Nome, Alaska, sled dogs delivered life-saving serum over 600 miles from Nenana, Alaska, to Nome. Today, the 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race commemorates the original diphtheria Serum Run to Nome. In wartime sled dogs helped the Army with Search and Rescue missions.

Sled dogs have great strength for their size. They can consume as much as 10,000 calories a day when racing hard. To protect the dog's paws from scrapes and ice buildup, mushers tie on durable cloth booties. If the booties get a hole in them or get too wet, they must be replaced. In one Iditarod Race, a musher could use 2,000 booties for 16 dogs!



The Alaskan Husky is a mixture of dog breeds that have been bred by the Athabascan people of interior Alaska as well as white settlers and trappers for centuries. They come in all colors and their ears can stand upright or be floppy. However, beneath their fur coats they all have very similar bodies bred for top speed and endurance. They are the most popular breed of sled dog for modern racing.



The Alaskan Malamute is very powerful, but he runs slower than the Alaskan Husky. His double coat of fur keeps him warm on the trail and sheds snow and ice, especially when he curls up in a ball and wraps his fluffy tail around himself. The name comes from an Alaskan Inupiat tribe that raised the dogs thousands of years ago for transportation.





A Siberian Husky's eyes may be pale or dark blue, amber, green, or brown. He is faster than the Malamute and also has a thick double coat which protects him in the winter and reflects heat in the summer. Fur traders brought these huskies to Alaska from eastern Siberia where the Chuchki people used them for mushing and for herding reindeer.



The Canadian Inuit Dog is from Arctic Canada and its very close cousin, the Greenland Husky, comes from the island of Greenland. They are moderately fast but fearless, and can stand off a polar bear or musk ox attack. They are very hardy, can pull twice their weight, and travel 70 miles a day! They are loyal, tough, alert, intelligent, curious, and playful. They have been the working dogs of the Inuit for 4,000 years.





The Samoyed is the oldest and most beautiful of the sled dogs. They were used by the Samoyede people of northern Siberia for hunting, hauling, and herding for 4000 years. Later, they were the first dogs used for polar exploration. Today, because of their lovely white fur, they are bred more for showing and so have lost much of their speed, strength, and skills in harness. However, a few dedicated mushers still use them as sled dogs and continue to prove their ancient value in mushing history.

## DOG COMMANDS

**Good Dog!** Praise your dogs often and always after following a command.

**Come!** This is very important, especially if you have a tangle or your dog gets loose from the team.

**Gee!** Turn right

**Haw!** Turn left

**Straight ahead!** Don't turn

**Come Gee! Come Haw!** Turn the team around 180 degrees in either direction.

**Line Out!** A command for lead dogs to pull the team straight out from the sled so the musher can hook or unhook dogs into the team.

**Okay! Hike! All Right! Let's Go!** These are commands to start the team.

**Whoa!** Stop and wait until you give the command to go again.

**On By!** Use this command to pass on the trail (a slower team, people, or animals).



## WHAT IS MUSHING?

Mushing is method of transportation or a sport using dogs in harness to pull a sled or cart or a person on skis or a bicycle.

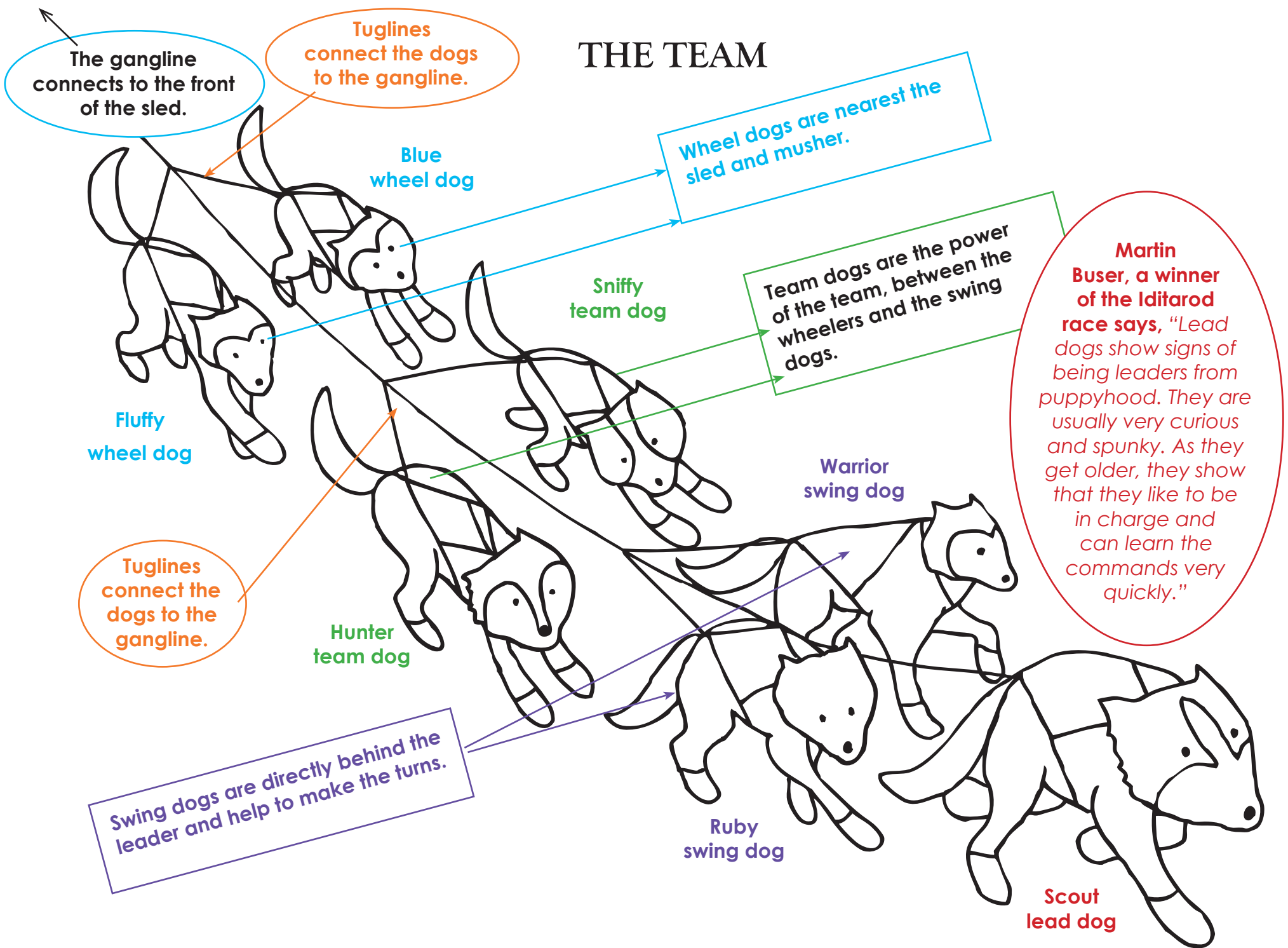
The ropes, called ganglines, tuglines, and necklines, connect the dogs together and they work as a team. Sled dogs are trained to respond to spoken commands. They do not wear reins like horses. The lead dog must be intelligent to understand commands and guide the other dogs. The musher must always have good communication with his lead dogs.

Sled dogs have a natural desire to pull, but training them to pull together takes months. They practice on dry land with carts, bicycles, and wagons.

Mushers can be of any age and gender. My daughter is in the sled mushing with her friends in Alaska. Her dog, Ruby, is pulling the sled. I dedicated this book to her and to Ruby.



# THE TEAM



**Martin Buser, a winner of the Iditarod race says,** "Lead dogs show signs of being leaders from puppyhood. They are usually very curious and spunky. As they get older, they show that they like to be in charge and can learn the commands very quickly."

## VOCABULARY WORDS

**If you see a new word, read the sentence and look at the picture to see if you can figure out what the word means. Look for a clue in the word, something that you recognize.**

**Awe:** a powerful feeling inspired by a mix of wonderment

**Bewitched:** to be enchanted by a spell using witchcraft or magic

**Bejeweled:** decorated with or looking like jewels

**Blazing:** brilliant burst of flaming fire

**Dazzling:** shining brilliantly or to be astonished with delight

**Éclair:** an oblong pastry made with a light dough, filled with whipped cream and topped with icing

**Extraordinary:** exceptional, or beyond regular or ordinary

**Fervor:** great warmth or with intense emotion

**Homesteader:** to claim, settle and take possession of land to use as a home

**Ignite:** to cause to burn, or set fire to, or to excite

**Jerky:** salted meat that has been cut into strips, seasoned

and dried at low heat to preserve it

**Kaleidoscope:** a tube with two or more angled mirrors, that you look into, twist the end and see bits of reflected colored glass in changing symmetrical patterns

**Mousse:** chilled dessert, especially chocolate that is made with flavored whipped cream, gelatin, and eggs

**Mosaic:** picture made with small colored tiles arranged into a pattern or design

**Musher:** someone who travels with a dog team and sled

**Shimmering:** a flickering light; a glimmer

**Smitten:** affected by love (past tense of smite)

**Roam:** to wander, walk or travel without direction

**Salmonberry:** the salmon-colored, edible fruit found on the Pacific coast of North America

**Slipknot:** a strong knot that holds tight, (commonly used in rock climbing, and knitting) but can be easily loosened by pulling on its own cord



# ART PROJECTS

Two of my favorite tricks to make watercolor look like ice are salt and Saran wrap. To make an ice castle collage, paint whole sheets of the watercolor textures, let them dry and cut them up into squares as blocks of ice. Glue them onto a big piece of paper in the shape of an ice castle.

## SALT PAINTING

1. First, paint the paper with plain water using a clean brush
2. Mix enough water into your watercolors to make strong color (not too watery)
3. Paint an area of the paper
4. If you have big puddles, mop them up with the corner of a paper towel
5. Before the paint is dry and still shiny wet, sprinkle small amounts of salt over the wet area (not too much salt or it will clump together)
6. Let the paint and salt dry completely
7. Shake or brush the salt off to see the magical crystal shapes left behind

## You Will Need:

**Any kind of watercolors**

**Brush**

**Water**

**Paper (watercolor paper is best, but it will also work on cover stock office paper)**

**Table salt in a shaker or small bowl (coarse salt or fine table salt)**

## SARAN WRAP PAINTING

1. First, paint the paper with plain water using a clean brush
2. Mix enough water into your watercolors to make strong color (not too watery)
3. Paint an area of the paper
4. If you have big puddles, mop them up with the corner of a paper towel
5. Before the paint is dry and still shiny wet, tear off a piece of Saran wrap
6. Carefully lay it on your wet watercolor painting
7. With both hands, "scrunch" the wrap gently to make wrinkles in it
8. Leave the wrinkled Saran wrap in place until paint is dry
9. Remove the wrap to see cracks and bubbled texture



# Salt Painting





# Saran Wrap





# HOW DO MIRRORS WORK?

In the story the Queen has a magic mirror, which reflects surprising images.

Mirrors are made by spraying silver or aluminum to the back of a piece of glass that is then attached to a black backboard. Light rays enter the glass and are bounced back from the silver making a light picture of you, or a mirror image.

Hold a piece of paper with your name on it in front of a mirror. What do you see? It appears to be backwards because it is repeating the exact same image right back to you.

Did you ever see two mirrors that face each other? Sometimes you can see this in a beauty salon or store. Images of images repeat forever. It is like looking into infinity. That is kind of magical, right?



See the next page for how to make your own magic mirror.



## YOU WILL NEED:

white glue

glue brush

heavy-duty  
aluminum foil

masking tape

blunt pointed pencil

cut mat board or  
heavy tag board into  
squares or rectangles

## MAKE A MAGIC MIRROR

This project will take two sessions to allow glue to dry thoroughly.

1. Draw a border around the square or rectangular board with a pencil freehand, or a ruler along the inside edge of the board drawing a line all the way to the edges. You have four corner boxes to decorate. Talk about symmetry and asymmetry in your designs.

2. With a pencil, draw designs on your border: spirals, squiggles, dots dashes, X's, zig-zags, polka dots or circles.

3. Holding the glue bottle like a pencil, gently squeeze and trace the pencil lines steadily. You want a nice even line of glue, it is OK to and touch up a line.

4. Also, trace a glue line around the inside edge of the border.

5. Let dry thoroughly, overnight.

6. Tear off a piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil larger than the cardboard.

7. Brush a thin layer of glue over the whole front.

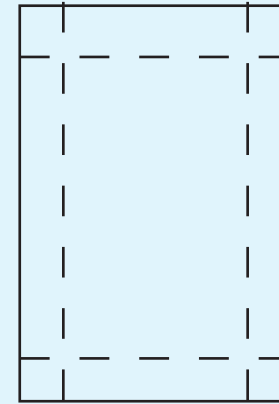
8. Lay a piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil carefully over the wet glue and press down gently with your fingers to get the foil glued down over all of the shapes and bumps of glue lines.

9. Fold the foil over to the back of the frame (you will tape this later with masking tape).

10. With a blunt pointed pencil (too sharp and it will tear the foil) trace around all of the designs.

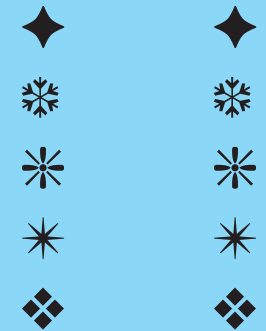
11. Fill in between the shapes with cross hatches, straight lines, curvy lines, to create a textured pattern.

12. Leave the inside of the foil smooth for the magic mirror, or glue a picture inside the frame.



## SYMMETRY

(same left & right)



## ASYMMETRY

(different)

