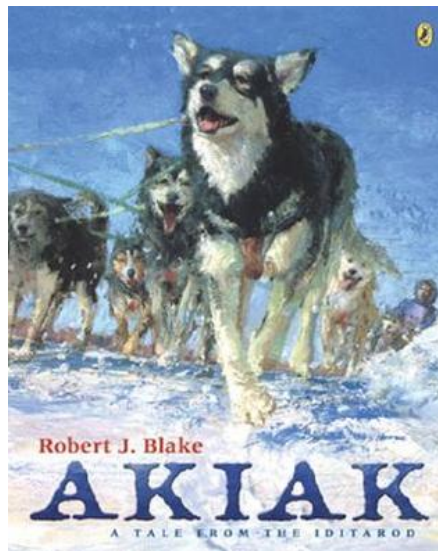




Akiak: A Tale From the Iditarod

Robert J. Blake

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When she hurts her paw on the fourth day of the race, Akiak can no longer compete in the Iditarod?the famed dogsledding race through 1,151 miles of Alaskan terrain. Her musher has no choice but to leave her behind. The rules say once a dog is dropped from the race, it may not rejoin the team. But ten-year-old lead dog Akiak doesn?t know the rules, and nothing will stop her from catching up to her team. Akiak has never won the race before. Will she be able to help her team win this time?

Akiak: A Tale From the Iditarod Details

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Author : Robert J. Blake

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From Reader Review Akiak: A Tale From the Iditarod for online ebook

Cheryl says

At the age of 10, Akiak is an older sled dog. She has run in several Iditarod races, but has never been part of a winning team. This is her last chance. On the fourth day of the race, Akiak's paw is bruised by ice and her owner has to remove her from the team. Dogs who are injured in this race are taken back to the starting point to be treated. But Akiak's determination to race results in her making an escape from the care facility to pursue her team as they attempt to win the race. As spectators realize what is happening, they begin to cheer her on. Will she finally achieve her dream? Robert Blake brings to life the excitement and danger associated with this world famous race in this wonderful tale of courage and perseverance.

Colette says

What a great story about a dog with heart. Love the paintings, too. Good intro to the Iditarod for kids.

Sierra Kisiday says

The suspense mounts with Akiak's surprise reappearance, then peaks in sweet victory at the finish line. Blake's thickly brushed oil paintings depict the hardship of the journey, as snow takes on many faces: it's a docile white beard in a dog's fur, a disorienting force in a blinding storm and, in many a landscape spread, a vast expanse of cornflower blue and violet. Here, narrative and artwork pull equal weight to give readers a memorable ride.

Katherine says

"Akiak" is an inspirational story about a dog who refuses to give up during a dog sled race. This book has interesting illustrations that appear to be paintings. I personally like illustrations that are clear and bright and these appear to be a bit blurry making it harder to decipher the pictures. This is a fairly long story for a picture book, so it would be more appropriate for an advanced reader.

Brandy says

This is a heartwarming tale about an Alaskan Husky who is the leader of their sleigh team. The dog becomes slightly injured and is left behind to be taken to a warm safe place until the Iditarod Trail is complete. The dog, however, is determined to stay with his pack and charges forward resulting in a happy ending.

My kindergartner really liked this story and the illustrations really helped hold his attention.

Sidney Cook says

Robert J. Blake did an excellent job when he wrote Akiak: A Tale from the Iditarod. This is a hybrid book that highlights a dogs courage, and different facts about the famous Iditarod race. This book can be enjoyed by children who love dogs, and boys might like the non-fiction part of the story. It's a book that has many wonderful features. The illustrations are done very well. It's a captivating story.

Janie Johnson says

My Grandson Aeeverie and I read this book together. This is a story about a dog sled team and the leader, Akiak, hurts her foot and can no longer lead the team.

This book had a lot of great illustrations in and a cute and exciting plot. It kept Aeeverie's attention the whole time while reading it. Very well done.

Laura says

Blake, Robert J. Akiak. (1997)

Annotation: This story is about the lead dog of a sledding team for the Iditarod named Akiak. When Akiak is forced to sit out of the race because of an injured paw, she escapes the handler that is suppose to take her home and follows the trail until she meets back up with her team 4 days later.

Themes: survival, dogs, the Iditarod, dedication

Ways to use: you could use this book to talk about different sports, or to talk about good characters traits, characterization

Recommended age: 7- 14

Kaelin Miller says

I read this book in elementary school. It was an interesting story about a sled dog. The dog Akiak is a true racer at heart. Such a good dog!

Donna Mork says

Wonderful book about the Iditarod Race. About persistence and following the rules.

Patricia says

This is a wonderful story! It literary brought me to tears! It is the story of Akiak, a 10 year old dog who has raced the 10-day Iditarod many times before as the lead dog. When she is injured on the fourth day her musher must send her home. Akiak, a determined and proud dog, refuses to leave and escapes from the handlers and races off to catch up with her team that are ten hours ahead. Alone in the vast snow she follows along familiar trails. Word has spread. At first people try to catch her in the check point towns and then they leave food out for her. Finally, on day ten she meets up with her team. She leads the disoriented team to the correct trail and then jumps on the sled (according to the Iditarod rules) and they end up victorious. This is a heartwarming story of a very courageous and spirited dog. If you love dogs you will love this story. It is suitable for all elementary grades. I was a Reading instructor last year to a girl in third grade and I contacted her and told her about this book. She loved the Iditarod and often wrote about it in her journal! Two others teachers wanted to use this book to read in conjunction with The Call of the Wild when they heard me talking about it.

Hope Irvin Marston says

Excellent "bleed off the page" artwork gives picture book readers a realistic view of this grueling trail.

Louise (A Strong Belief in Wicker) says

Great story about dog courage and perserverance. I was hoping that it was based on a true story but a quick google doesn't support that hope. Akiak is a 10 year old dog having her last crack at winning the Iditarod Sled race in Alaska (Akiak is also the name of a small town in Alaska). She is injured on the 4th day, and forced to retire hurt. She is meant to be flown back to Anchorage, but Akiak has other plans and she just wants to get back to her team. An inspiring story, everyone in the story was cheering for Akiak, andI was cheering for Akiak in the end too.

Jade says

I was astonished by this book

Volkert says

We recently added "Akiak" to our elementary school library collection, because one of our primary classes was following this year's Iditarod. It instantly became a popular title, and several other classes have thoroughly enjoyed it as a read-aloud.

I can see "Akiak" becoming an annual tradition, right before the first "mush" of the famous Alaskan sled-dog race.

In frosty clear language, accompanied by his museum-quality oil paintings, Robert Blake, presents a day by day account of Mick's team, initially led by 10 year-old Akiak, until she "can't run on that paw." Akiak is left at a dog drop, but refusing to be flown out, she breaks free to chase after her team, many hours behind.

In this "incredible journey," students get a taste of the Alaskan's passion for this unique sport, learning about the hardships and rules of the race along the way. The trail map on the end papers would be helpful for those wanting to turn this into a simple geography lesson.

This excellent story works on many levels. This is worth reading, even if you're just looking for a heartwarming dog story!
