A Promise Is A Promise
By Robert Munsch and Michael Kusugak

Story Summary
In spite of her mother’s warning about the sea monsters called Qallupilluit, Allushua goes fishing alone on the sea ice. When Qallupillut captures Allushua she escapes by promising to bring her brothers and sisters to the sea creatures. With the help of her mother, father, brothers and sisters Allushua and her family are able to protect one another from being captured by the Qallupilluit.

WITS Connection
Talk It Out
Seek Help

Learning Outcomes

Social Responsibility Expectations

Solving Problems in Peaceful Ways

☐ Listens actively; if prompted, considers and can explain to others’ point of view.

☐ Identifies and explains simple problems or issues.

☐ Begins to choose ideas to fit a specific situation.

☐ Predicts consequences of own and others’ behaviour.

☐ Looks for opportunities to help others and knows the value of asking adults for help to deal with problems.

Contributing to the Classroom and School Community

☐ Learns about being in a community that includes and values everyone.

☐ Willing to contribute ideas when appropriate.
Language Arts
(For descriptions see appendix)

Kindergarten Objectives: 4, 5
Grade One Objectives: 1, 2, 3,
Grade Two Objectives: 2, 4, 7
Grade Three Objectives: 2, 3, 5

Pre-Reading Activities and Resources

• To understand the pronunciation of the characters’ names listen to A Promise Is A Promise read my Robert Munsch http://www.robertmunsch.com/playstory.cfm?bookID=43

• Pronunciation Guide
• Inuktitut Alphabet
• Inuktitut Words
• Printable map, flag and flower of Nunavut

Pre-Reading Questions

• Why is the girl dressed in the clothing shown on the cover of the book?
• Based on the clothing you see the girl wearing where do you think the story takes place?
• What is the girl doing on the cover of the book?
• What can you do on ice?
• What is dangerous about ice?
• What is a promise?
• What does it mean to break a promise?
• What do you think the girl will need to Seek Help about?
Post-Reading Questions

• What promise was broken in the story?
  Allashua promised to go to the lake and not the ocean to fish.

• What happened after the promise was broken?
  The Qallupilluit tried to drag her into the ocean. Allashua made a promise to return with her brothers and sisters.

• How do you think Allashua felt when she talked it out with her parents?
  She felt less afraid and more relieved and hopeful.

• What three important details did Allashua admit to her parents?
  She went to the ocean, she called the Qallupilluit nasty names and she promised the Qallupilluit to take her brothers and sisters back to ocean.

• How did Allashua's parents help her keep her promise?
  Her mother distracted her with a dance.

• Why would parents tell their children that monsters live under the ice?
  They said this to protect them from the cracks in the ice.

• How did Allashua's brothers and sisters help solve this problem?
  They trusted their mother to help them solve the problem.

• Do you think Allashua could have fixed this problem on her own?
  She could not do this without getting hurt or possibly hurting her brothers and sisters.

• What does Allashua learn about promises?
  Sometimes you need help to keep a promise.

• Do monsters really live under the ice?
Post-Reading Activities

• To illustrate the behaviour of ice when it has cracks take two pieces of tissue paper approximately 20 x 27 inches. Make a single cut with scissors in the middle of one paper. Ask two volunteers to hold the one piece of tissue paper without the tear. Place something small and relatively heavy (such as a stapler) in the middle of tissue paper without the cut. Ask two volunteers to gently hold the tissue paper with the tear so that the tear is barely visible. Place the same object on the paper and watch the object fall.

• Draw a picture of the creatures that live below the ice and above the ice.
• Student make finger puppets to retell the story.

• Give students the refrain of the Qallupilluit, "a promise is a promise " which they can read aloud together as the story is reread.

• Compare the Qallupilluit with other mythical creatures such as the unicorn, the gryphon, the pegasus, the sphinx and faeries. Ask students to create their own mythical creatures using through drawings or sculpture.
  -What are the supernatural powers of this creature?
  -What does it like to eat?

• Sometimes when we are in danger we have to make quick decisions. Allashua escaped from the Qallupilluit by promising them her brothers and sisters. Which caused an even bigger problem. Ask students to describe a problem they have faced and how they solved it. In small groups have students role play the problem and three alternative ways to solve the problem. The rest of the class votes on which was the best solution.