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THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA

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presented by **citi**

What We're Watching



Greetings from The Paley Center for Media's Education Department!

Welcome to the latest installment of “What We’re Watching.” Twice a month the education department reaches out to the community with tips and ideas for consuming media with kids by highlighting different themes that connect to two selected programs, one for younger viewers and one for older viewers, each with related activities and resources.

Watching media alongside your kids is a perfect jumping-off point to making media literacy a part of your everyday lives. Familiarizing yourself with the basics is a great first step. You can [view our first newsletter about media literacy best practices archived here](#). We also recommend the [National Association for Media Literacy Education's Parents Guide](#)—it's a terrific introduction!

What We're Watching: Arctic Stories

In 1922 the very first successful feature-length documentary was made before the term “documentary” existed. *Nanook of the North* followed the struggles of an Inuk man named Nanook and his family in the Canadian Arctic. A century later, Inuit and Inuit culture have continued to be popular subjects for filmmakers around the world but for many decades, films about them were made exclusively by people outside their community. Thankfully, we now have a body of work to watch that has Inuit people driving the creative process and working both behind and in front of the camera. To honor Indigenous People's Day, we look north and focus on filmmakers telling unique stories within a boreal backdrop.

This Week's Recommendations for Younger Viewers

Katajatuuk Kangirsumi (2019)

Recommended for Grades 3+

[Watch Now](#)

This beautiful short film features Eva Kaukai and Manon Chamberland as they practice the [Inuk art of throat singing](#) in their small village of Kangirsuk. Their mesmerizing voices carry us through the four seasons of their Arctic land. Wapikoni Mobile is a Canadian non-profit that works with youth to make films that raise awareness and inform audiences about Indigenous arts, rights and cultures. The education department gave this short film an award at the 2019 [Plural+Youth Video Festival](#), and we hope you find it as beautiful as we do.

Viewing Questions

- Describe the setting of the film. What do you see there?
- What do you see people doing in the film?
- What did you notice about the camera work in the film?
- How does the music make you feel as you watch?
- What do you think it would be like to live in that environment?

Extension Activity

Learn to play a [traditional Inuit game](#). All you need is a friend to play with.

Additional Resources

[Wapikoni Mobile](#)

Read

Bedtime In Nunatsiavut by Raeann Brown

Fishing with Grandma by Susan Avingaq and Maren Vsetula

Sweetest Kulu by Celina Kalluk

Watch

[Mac and the Spirit of the Woods](#)

[Molly of Denali](#) on PBS Kids

[Mountain of SGAana](#)

[Qalupalik](#)



This Week's Recommendations for Older Viewers

Slash/Back (2022)

Recommended for Grades 7+

Available on Hulu/Shudder

A group of Inuit teenage girls discover an alien invasion in their Arctic community, and it's up to them to fight back using makeshift weapons and horror movie knowledge in this excellent directorial debut from Nyla Innuksuk, who hails from the same Arctic setting as these girls—Pangnিতurang, Nunavut. The film is both genuinely charming and action packed. It includes fun moments like (perhaps) a nod to John Carpenter's *The Thing* when we see a tentacle come out of a hole, grab, and kill a geologist early on. We think you will be hooked as soon as black alien blood splashes across Aju's hoodie. Over the course of the film these Inuit heroes save their home while gaining a deeper pride in their community, the very place and people they rescue. Exemplifying the words boldly written on Maika's jacket as she prepares for battle, "No Justice on Stolen Land."

Viewing Questions

- What is life like for the group of girls you meet at the start of the film?
- What do we learn about each of them as the movie progresses?

- What happens when they take the boat out to the cabins? How do we know something bad might happen even before they get there?
- What story does Uki tell about the mythical creature Ijiraq when they return?
- What skills does each girl bring to the fight against these evil creatures?
- What do we learn about Inuit culture through the girls and their surroundings?
- How does Maika's attitude about traditional Inuk ways change by the end of the film and why?
- How do they save themselves and the town in the end?

Additional Resources

[ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#)

Read

[Interview with Nyla Innuksuk from Inuit Art Quarterly](#)

[Learn more about Arctic Indigenous People](#)

[Learn more about Inuktitut](#)

Watch

Angry Inuk (2016)

Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner (2001)

Shadow of the Wolf (1992)

[Wapikoni Mobile Films](#)

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to us at eduny@paleycenter.org.

Happy viewing,

Rebekah Fisk

Director of Education

Carlos Pareja
Manager of Education

Photos—*Katatjatuuk Kangirsumi*: Wapikoni Mobile; *Slash/Back*: Mixtape VR/Scythia/ Red Marrow Media/Stellar Citizen



Teen Transmitters at The Paley Center for Media is an internship for New York City public high schools students.

We are proud to present the culminating projects of our last cohort—eight podcasts and one short film. Using documentary and nonfiction narrative to explore personal stories, each audio piece was researched, written, produced, and edited by members of the group. All of the projects explore topics that resonate deeply with the young producers. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

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