

# Delve Deeper into "Arctic Son"

A film by Andrew Walton

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Arctic Son" that premieres on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 at 10 PM (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

In "Arctic Son," the clash of tradition and modernity puts a Native father and son at odds in the village of Old Crow, 80 miles above the Arctic Circle. Stanley, Jr., raised in Seattle, drifts deeper into drinking and partying. Stanley, Sr., a remote, philosophical figure to his son, keeps the ways of his Gwich'in ancestors alive by hunting, fishing and living by his wits in the harsh arctic environment. After a lifetime apart, the two are reunited in the raw, quiet beauty of the Canadian Yukon in a story that captures the dialogue between a father and son from vastly different worlds.

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## ADULT NONFICTION

**Balzar, John.** *Yukon Alone: the World's Toughest Adventure Race.* New York: Henry Holt, 2000. Account of a *Los Angeles Times* reporter who took part in the Yukon Quest in 1998, a 1,000 mile dog sled race across the Yukon which participants claim is more grueling than the more famous Iditarod.

**Bass, Rick.** *Caribou Rising: Defending the Porcupine Herd, Gwich'in Culture, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.* San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2004. A nature writer states the case for preserving Gwich'in culture, caribou herds and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**Calef, George W.** *Caribou and the Barren-Lands.* Willowdale, Ontario: Firefly Books Ltd., 1981. A wildlife biologist demonstrates that the land of the caribou is less barren and more hospitable to life than it appears.

**Carpenter, Tom.** *The Best of North American Hunter: For the Love of Hunting.* Minnetonka, MN: North American Hunting Club, 2002. Comprehensive guide to hunting North American animals including polar bear, elk and rabbit.

**Coates, Kenneth & William R. Morrison.** *Land of the Midnight Sun: a History of the Yukon.* Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2005. An introduction to the history of the Canadian Yukon with particular emphasis on the role of the region's native peoples.

**Corneau, Guy.** *Absent Fathers, Lost Sons: The Search for Masculine Identity.* Boston: Shambhala, 1991. A psychoanalyst examines the impact of a father's absence, literal and emotional, on the transition from boyhood to manhood.

**Frank, Johnny et al.** *Neerihinjik: Johnny Sarah haa googwandak (We Traveled from Place to Place: The Gwich'in Stories of Johnny and Sarah Frank).* Fairbanks, AK: Alaska Native Language Center, 1995. True stories about traditional life in the Arctic, transcribed from tape recordings into both English and the original native language.

**Gordon, Bryan.** *People of Sunlight, People of Starlight: Barrenland Archaeology in the Northwest Territories of Canada.* Hull, Quebec: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1996. An archaeological review of human habitation of Northwest Canada since the last Ice Age.

**Graham, Angus & Lawrence Millman.** *The Golden Grindstone: One Man's Adventures in the Yukon.* Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2006. The biographical account of a Canadian's journeys across the Yukon in search of gold and his encounters with wildlife.

**Hartmier, Richard.** *Yukon: Colour of the Land.* Madeira Park, British Columbia: Harbour Publishing Company, 2005. A photographic journey through Canada's Yukon Territory.

**Hayden, Joyce & Pat Hayden.** *Victoria Faulkner: Lady of the Golden North: a Biography.* Whitehorse, Yukon: Windwalker Press, 2002. This biography of a female pioneer details her frontier life in the Yukon Territory.

**Heuer, Karsten.** *Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with an Arctic Herd.* Seattle: Mountaineers Books, 2005. A wildlife biologist follows the 2,800-mile seasonal caribou migration.

**Holt, John.** *Arctic Aurora: Canada's Yukon and Northwest Territories.* Camden, ME: Countrysport Press, 2004. An avid sports fisher's travelogue of adventures and encounters in the Yukon.

**Kister, Chad.** *Arctic Melting: How Global Warming is Destroying One of the World's Largest Wilderness Areas.* Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 2005. Interviews with scientists concerning the impact of melting permafrost, receding glaciers and disappearing native villages.

**Madsen, Ken.** *Under the Arctic Sun: Gwich'in, Caribou, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.* Englewood, CO: EarthTales Press, 2002. Follows the fortunes of the Gwich'in people, and the caribou on which they depend, from calving grounds in Alaska threatened by oil exploration to the village of Old Crow.

**McGhee, Robert.** *The Last Imaginary Place: a Human History of the Arctic World.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. An archeologist with the Canadian Museum of Civilization draws on his work with Native peoples to examine the myths and realities of life in the Arctic.

**Mestokosho, Mathieu and Serge Bouchard.** *Caribou Hunter: A Song of a Vanished Life.* Vancouver: Greystone Books, 2006. The memoir of a Native trapper and hunter living in the Arctic's vast and difficult environment.

**Mowat, Farley.** *People of the Deer.* Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2005. Chronicles life with an endangered indigenous society living on the Canadian tundra and its disastrous encounter with Western civilization.

**Nadasdy, Paul.** *Hunters and Bureaucrats: Power, Knowledge, and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Southwest Yukon.* Vancouver: UBC Press, 2003. Discusses how Native peoples' land claims are affecting their way of life.

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**Norman, Howard.** *Northern Tales: Traditional Stories of Eskimo and Indian Peoples.* New York: Pantheon Books, 1993. A collection of folktales from Native peoples in northern America.

**Penney-Flynn, Joan.** *Edge of the Wilderness: The Old Crow Village.* London: Janus, 2001. An English nurse describes the years she spent working in the Canadian Yukon with the indigenous residents of Old Crow.

**Sale, Richard & Per Michelsen.** *A Complete Guide to Arctic Wildlife.* Richmond Hill, Ontario: Firefly Books, 2006. A field guide to Arctic wildlife cataloguing the dangers posed by man.

**Stuckenberger, Anja Nicole.** *Thin Ice: Inuit Traditions Within a Changing Environment.* Hanover, NH: Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, 2007. Looks at traditional indigenous life through its art and artifacts and demonstrates the impact of climate change.

**Thompson, Judy & Ingrid Kritsch.** *Yeenoo dai' k'è'tr'ijikai' ganagwaandaii (Long Ago Sewing We Will Remember: the Story of the Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing Project).* Gatineau, Québec: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 2005. Details a project to revive the native skill of making clothes with caribou skins.

**Vyvyan, Clara.** *The Ladies, the Gwich'in, and the Rat : Travels on the Athabasca, Mackenzie, Rat, Porcupine, and Yukon Rivers in 1926.* Edmonton, Canada: University of Alberta Press, 1998. A British woman's account of her travels through northwestern Canada.

**Wallis, Velma.** *Raising Ourselves: a Gwich'in Coming of Age Story from the Yukon River.* Kenmore, WA: Epicenter Press, 2002. Coming of age story set in a remote Gwich'in community where the trials of life include living with an alcoholic mother, feeding sled dogs, chopping firewood and killing moose.

**Wynn, Graeme.** *Canada and Arctic North America: An Environmental History.* Santa Barbara, CA.: ABC-CLIO, 2007. A history of Arctic people and their cultures, and a look at the impact of new technologies on local ecology.

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## ADULT FICTION

**Kantner, Seth.** *Ordinary Wolves: A Novel.* Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed Editions, 2004. The story of a young man isolated from the Arctic village in which he lives because of his physical appearance.

**Millard, Eleanor.** *River Child.* Prince George, BC: Caitlin Press, 2002. The story of a mixed race woman of European and First Nation descent and her struggles with identity. Set against the backdrop of the Canadian Yukon and the metropolitan areas of Toronto and Vancouver.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Green, Jen.** *Step Into the Arctic World.* New York: Lorenz, 2000. An overview of various Arctic peoples' cultures.

**Kalman, Bobbie & Rebecca Sjonger.** *Life in the Far North.* New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 2004. Looks at the traditions and ceremonies of Native peoples of the Arctic region.

**Love, Ann et al.** *The Kids Book of the Far North.* Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2000. This illustrated book covers the natural and human ecology of the Arctic area.

**Maurice, Edward Beauclerk.** *The Last Gentleman Adventurer: Coming of Age in the Arctic.* Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. An account of a 16-year-old who was sent to work in an isolated trading post in the Canadian Arctic.

**Whitehouse, Patricia.** *Living in the Arctic.* Vero Beach, FL: Rourke Publishing, 2007. An overview of the ecology of the Arctic.

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**Bierhorst, John.** *The Dancing Fox: Arctic Folktales.* New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1997. Tales from Alaska, Canada, and Greenland, featuring Inuit oral history and traditions that shape the American Arctic.

**Feagan, Robert.** *Mystery at Shildii Rock.* Toronto: Dundurn Group, 2007. A 12-year-old Gwich'in boy and his friend, the son of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer, try to solve a murder mystery.

**Wallis, Velma.** *Two Old Women.* New York: Perennial, 1994. Recounts a Native American legend of two women who are abandoned by their tribe and must fight to survive in the Arctic wilderness.

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## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

**"Everything's Cool." A film by Judith Helfand and Daniel B. Gold.** Working Films, 2007. (100 min.) A documentary about the effects of global warming in America. [www.everythingscool.org](http://www.everythingscool.org)

**"Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action." A film by Roberta Grossman.** The Katahdin Foundation, 2005. (88 min.) A documentary about the battles Native American leaders are fighting against energy companies and government agencies to protect the environment in Alaska, Maine, Montana, and New Mexico. [www.katahdin.org/films/index.html](http://www.katahdin.org/films/index.html)

**"Oil on Ice." A film by Bo Boudart and Dale Djerassi.** Djerassi Films, 2004. (57 min.) A documentary about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the debate over the impacts of oil drilling in the region. [www.oilonice.org](http://www.oilonice.org)