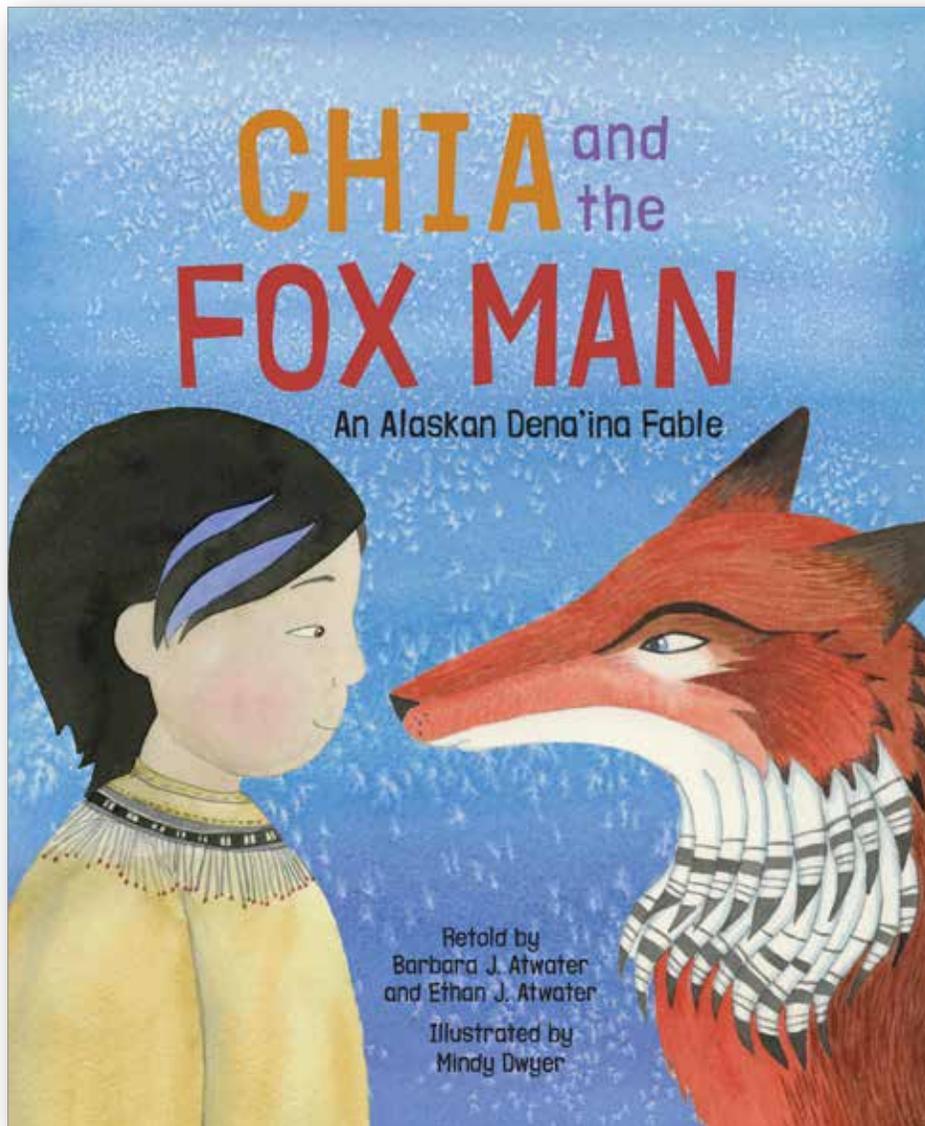


BOOK GUIDE FOR
*Chia and the
Fox Man*

Retold by Barbara J. Atwater and Ethan J. Atwater
Illustrated by Mindy Dwyer



Fountas and Pinnell Level: O
Lexile Measure: AD560L
Recommended for ages 5–7

Find more book guides at WestMarginPress.com

SUMMARY

From the same team that brought you *How Raven Got His Crooked Nose*, *Chia and the Fox Man* is a retelling of a traditional Alaskan fable from Dena'ina elder Walter Johnson.

Chia comes from a poor village where life is hard. Every day he works hard, but the village never has enough food and he goes to bed hungry. One night he investigates a strange noise and ventures out into the snow—and encounters the legendary Fox Man. Chia learns from the Fox Man how important it is to do the right thing, especially when it's hard, and in doing so the Fox Man helps the village.



About the Authors

Barbara J. Atwater is the daughter of George and Dolly (Foss) Jacko and was raised in the village of Pedro Bay, Alaska. Her great uncle, respected Dena'ina elder Walter Johnson, told her many Dena'ina fables that she felt needed to be shared. Barbara has retired from teaching but continues to educate people about the Dena'ina culture.



Ethan J. Atwater is Barbara's son and was also raised in Pedro Bay. As a lover of stories, he enjoyed listening to his great, great uncle's fables and learning about the Dena'ina people and his culture in this way. Ethan lives in Anchorage, where he attends the University of Alaska Anchorage.



About the Illustrator

Mindy Dwyer is the author and illustrator of several Alaska-inspired books, including *How Raven Got His Crooked Nose*. Her favorite stories have always been the fairy tales, where a kind of magic still dances in the shadows from an ancient world.

PRE-READING DISCUSSION

- This story is retold by mother and son Barbara J. Atwater and Ethan J. Atwater. How is a story “retold” by someone different from it being “written” by someone? What hints does that tell you about what kind of story Chia and the Fox Man is?
- Define the terms “fable”, “legend”, and “myth.” Think about some fables, legends, or myths you know already, either from books and movies or from your family.
- Look at the cover of the book. Who do you think the two main characters are? What do their physical characteristics tell you about who they are?

POST-READING DISCUSSION

- Some pages have some small words at the bottom. What language are these words in? What do each of the words mean?
- In the beginning of the book, Chia says that things in the village were not good. What are some reasons for why Chia says this?
- Chia has chores to do in the village, even though he is young. What is the purpose of chores? What are Chia’s chores? Do you have any chores you do at home?
- In the middle of the night, Chia wakes up and goes outside because he hears a noise. What turns out to be the source of the noise? What does Chia do to make the noise stop?
- After Chia stole the duguli, the Fox Man appears in Chia’s dreams. Can you find all the instances the Fox Man’s face is in the background?
- Chia realizes that taking the duguli from the Fox Man was wrong. Do you think it was hard for him to admit this? How does Chia make up for his mistake?
- How does the Fox Man help the village? Look for clues to how Chia’s life improves.
- At the end of the book, it says, “Doing the right thing isn’t always easy. But doing the right thing is always best.” Can you think of a time when you took a shortcut to something that ended up making things worse? What should you have done instead?



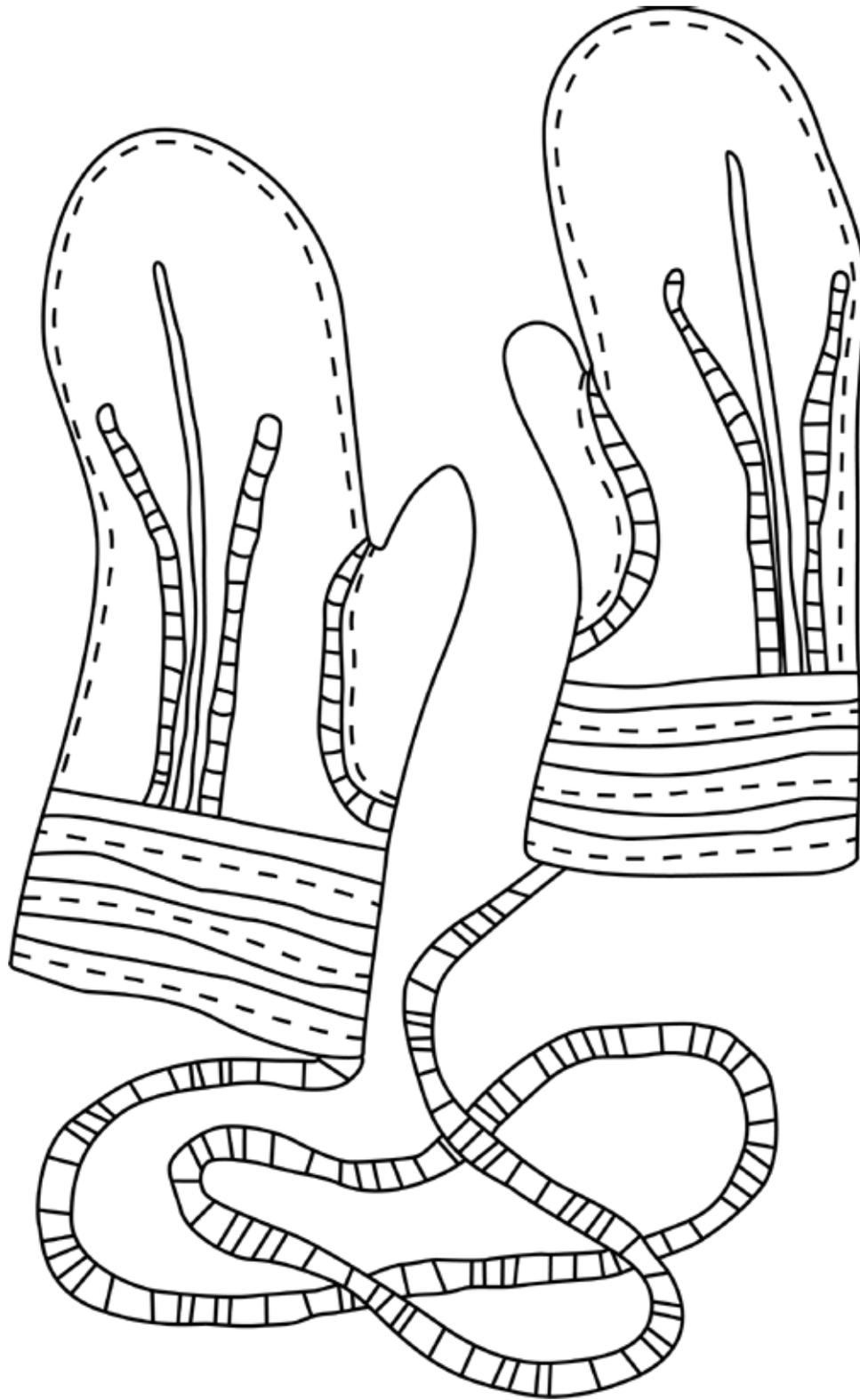
SOCIAL HISTORY

- The Dena'ina people are a native people who live in the southern part of Alaska. Look at the “More About Alaskan Dena'ina Stories” note at the back of the book and summarize a few points about who the Dena'ina people are and the stories they tell.
- What are some things you didn't know before about the Dena'ina people? How does the story of Chia share the Dena'ina culture?
- The authors were told this story from their Uncle Walter, a respected Dena'ina elder. How does passing stories down through family generations contribute to cultural history? What do these stories reveal or tell us?
- Do you know of any stories your family or an older person has passed down or shared with you? Tell the story. What does this story teach or reveal to us?

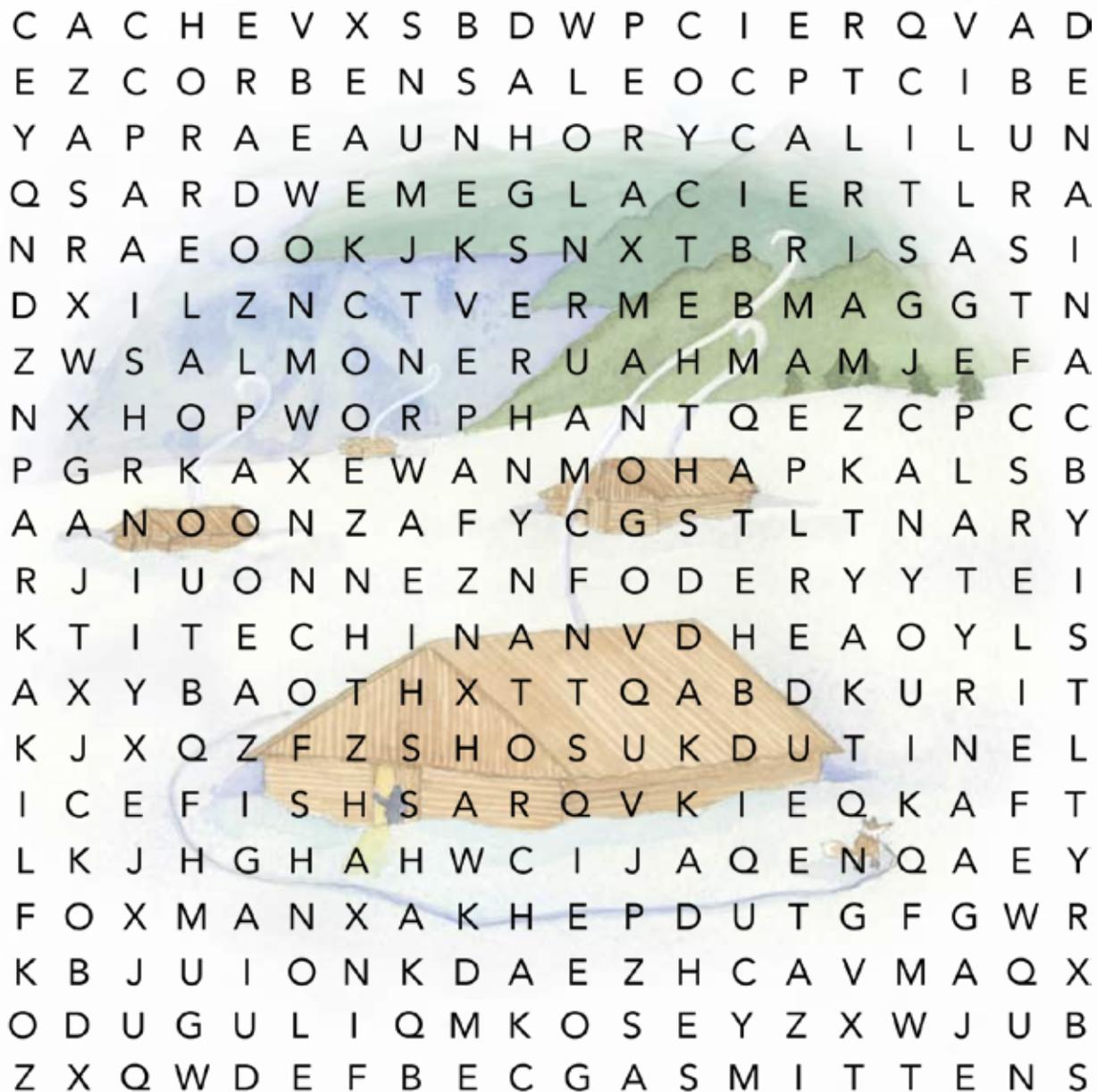


If you like this book, look for *How Raven Got His Crooked Nose*, a retelling of another traditional Dena'ina fable from the same authors and illustrator.

COLOR YOUR OWN MITTENS?



WORD SEARCH



Cache

Duguli

Ice Fish

Parka

Sukdu

Chin'an

Fox Man

Mittens

Qenq'a

Village

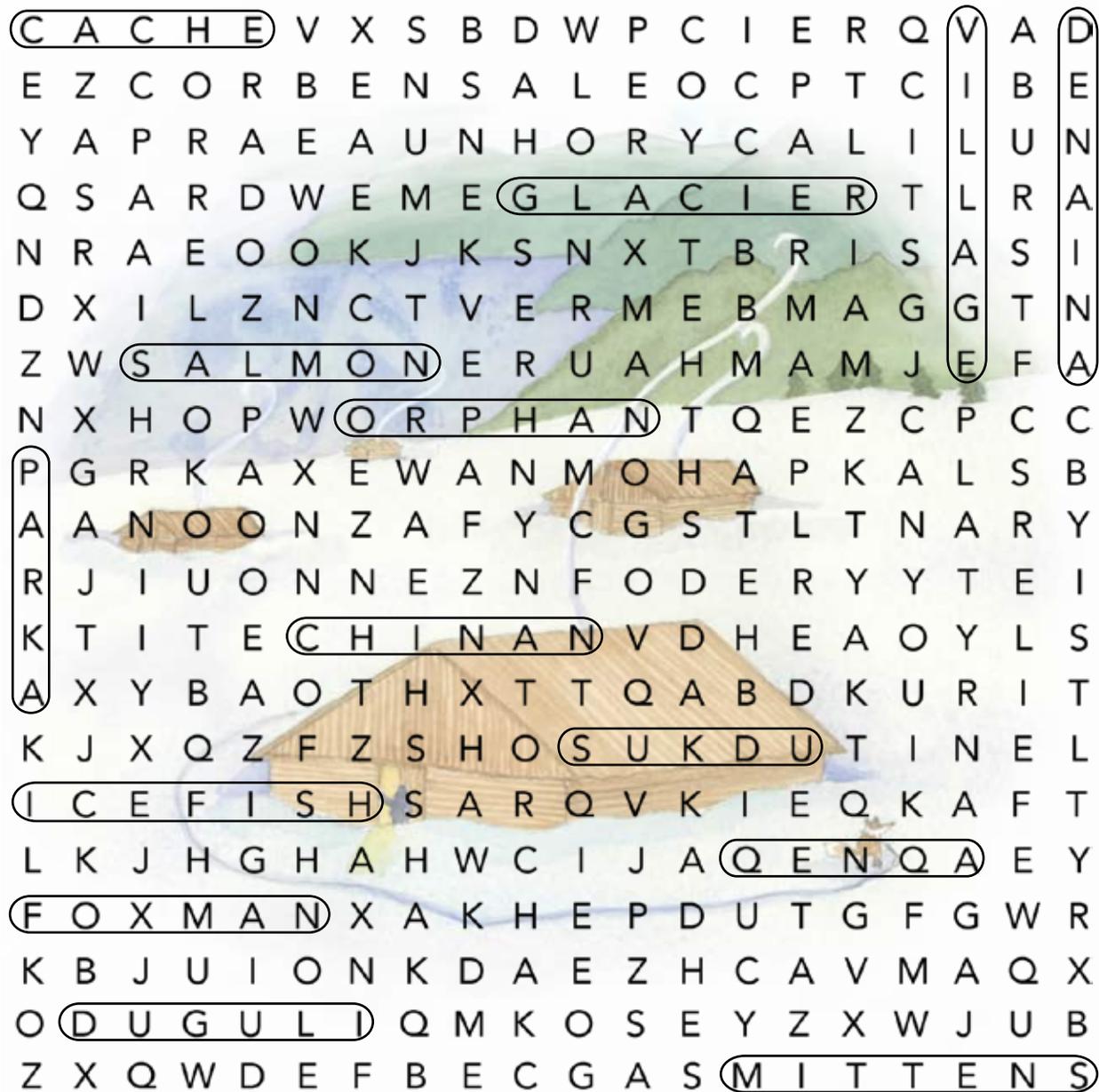
Dena'ina

Glacier

Orphan

Salmon

WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY



- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| Cache | Duguli | Ice Fish | Parka | Sukdu |
| Chin'an | Fox Man | Mittens | Qenq'a | Village |
| Dena'ina | Glacier | Orphan | Salmon | |