

## My First Seal Hunt



*By James Aknaviguk*

The day I was to go on my first seal hunt with my father was a beautiful morning in spring. We put on warm clothing, loaded our sled, filled our skidoo with gas and headed out for the ocean.

On the way we stopped once in a while to look around for seals. At last we spotted one lying on the ice, enjoying the sun. We stopped and my father told me what I had to do.

I took my rifle and moved towards it, slowly and quietly. Every time it lifted its head to look around I would stay still. Every time it dropped its head to rest, I would move closer.

When I was close enough I loaded my rifle and aimed and waited for the seal to look up. As soon as it did I pulled the trigger. It lay still so I knew I had hit it. I ran over and grabbed the flippers and pulled it away from the seal hole.

My father came over with the skidoo and sled and he congratulated me on my first seal. I was very happy and excited when we arrived home.

My mother skinned the seal and scraped the fat off the skin and hung it to dry. After that she cut the seal meat up and put it into a pot, added some mix, and cooked it for an hour.

That evening, when I told all my friends that I had shot my first seal, they congratulated me.

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## **Natchiksukarama**

Ublumi tapdumanri tasva natchksuiqaarairama silanngolauqlunilu ublananni aullakniaqniqtuanni aapaagalu. Uquktunik annuraqaklunuk, kammutivuk uusiliqaklugik, skiluq uqsiqaklugu tarruimun auliakiyuanni. Apkutinni taima ilanni nutqaaluklunnuq qinniqpaktuanni natchirnik. Kii taima takuvinnuk atausiq sikumi nalamaniktuaq, pusiksuiyatakniktaq siqinikmin. Nutqaktuanni assin aapangma uqautiyanni qanuq illiurutiksamnik.

Kutivigaa tiguyupku uupaukigara, sukailuakluna ami nipaaruniluna ... puungayuukiqpaktuami. Niaqi ugaqaanaun qiniqlunni puutpaktuami saayuikluakluna. Taima nalaqonun uupaugiqpakara.

Qukliyupku kutivigaa qaryiklugu qaryiqupku itchuarutiyara ugaqtuksaq uutaqiblugu. Ugatuakmun pitiksaqiblugu. Saayuiqmum tuutara ilitchoriyara. Saayuituakmun nuutchurkiyara siitkugitkun ukuarupku amaugigaara aglumin ungasiksiliklugu.

Aapaanma qarrititgaklugik skiduqlu kammutiklu maklagiyaani quviagiplugu natchiqaktara. Aimuun tikinnamnuk kuviasuktuna illumni ami kuviaqiblugu natchuitigaa.

Amamanma natchiq amiiyuklugulu uqsuiyuklugulu amia taimasin boayaa innivinmun punktuuyuidiplugu. Siquiminmanikgamuin natchim niqaa uutkusinmun igutjuitiyaa souliklugulu taimasin igaqnik atausiq atuklugu igayaa.

Unununmun assin, ilanutgaa quluitigapgit natchiqakdumnik, maklaganni kuviaqibluna.

— Inuvialuktun