

## *The Shaman's Nephew: A Life in the Far North*

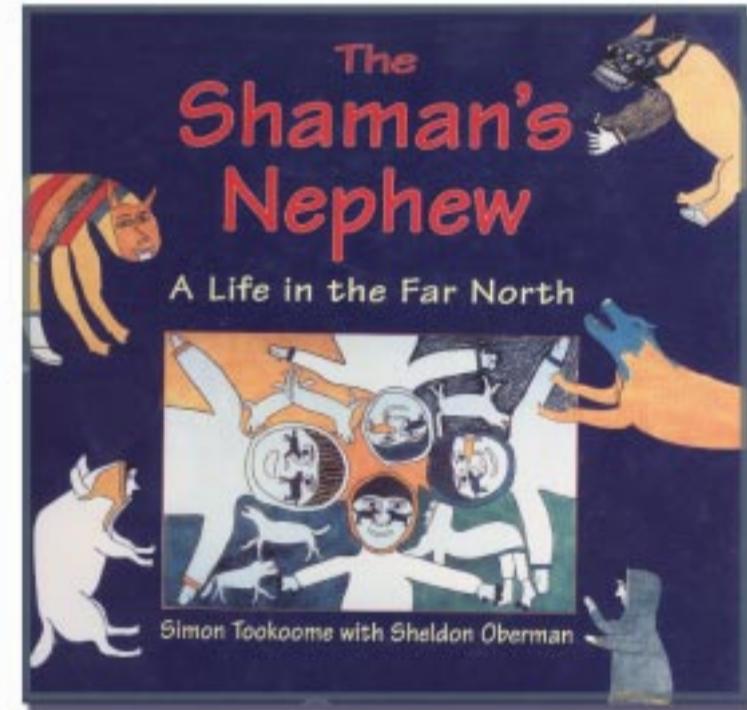
by Simon Tookoome with Sheldon Oberman

### *Difficulty Level: 1-2*

This book is about an Inuit named Simon Tookoome born in 1934. Tookoome is an artist who lived with his people in the far North Arctic. We know them as Eskimos. Eskimos name their children after an elder. It's believed that the spirit of the elder enters and shapes the child's character. He talks about the customs of his people and how they survive in the far north. The Church came and gave everyone Christian names. Tookoome's name was Simon. Simon did not have school. He learned everything from the land, sky, moon and stars. He learned to draw from a generation of great Eskimo artists. Simon drew his first picture in 1971 and sold it for \$5. Today he is the leading artist of Eskimo paintings. We recommend this book for reading and writing classes because we would learn a lot about a culture most of us don't know much about. Something that may be challenging about this book is pronouncing the names.

### **What we liked about this book**

- It's interesting, gets out attention
- It's like real life
- It's for adults
- It's for kids
- We feel comfortable thinking about the subject of the book
- It teaches about history
- It describes the place really well
- It's not depressing or sad
- It doesn't use too much slang
- It's easy to follow what's happening
- It has good size print
- The sentences are not too long
- The paragraphs are a good size
- It has pictures



### **What we didn't like about this book**

- It doesn't take place somewhere we can relate to
- The names are difficult to read