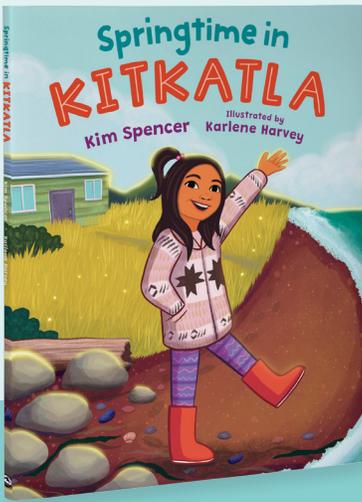


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Springtime in KITKATLA



Teacher Guide

Waaʼas and her dzi'i (grandmother) travel by fishing boat to their family's reserve of Kitkatla for spring break, to stay with her aunty. In Kitkatla, it always feels like home, and as the days pass, Waaʼas wanders the shore, enjoys traditional foods and listens to the adults speak Sm'algyax. She doesn't want to leave, but she knows she will always come back.

Themes:

Family | Belonging | Place | Culture | Community

Warm-up Questions:

1. Where is your family's favorite travel destination?
2. Do you enjoy road trips or ferry rides? If not, how do you make the most of the trip?
3. Circle your must-have travel snacks:

Pretzels

Nuts

Cookies

Fruit

Sandwich

Or write your favorite here: _____

Discussion Questions:

1. Knowing who you are and where you're from is important. It tells a story and history. Where is home for you?
2. What does the saying "The journey is the destination" mean? Do you agree with this saying? Why or why not?
3. Waaʼas feels a deep sense of belonging to Kitkatla, her ancestral territories. Why is this important for a child to learn?
4. Waaʼas' family makes a special effort to visit Kitkatla, and the community warmly welcomes them. Have you and your family experienced something similar?
5. What kinds of foods remind you of home? Are they different from your classmates?
6. Waaʼas doesn't mind quiet time away from television or the internet. She finds other enjoyable ways to spend her days. Do you and your family enjoy time spent offline?

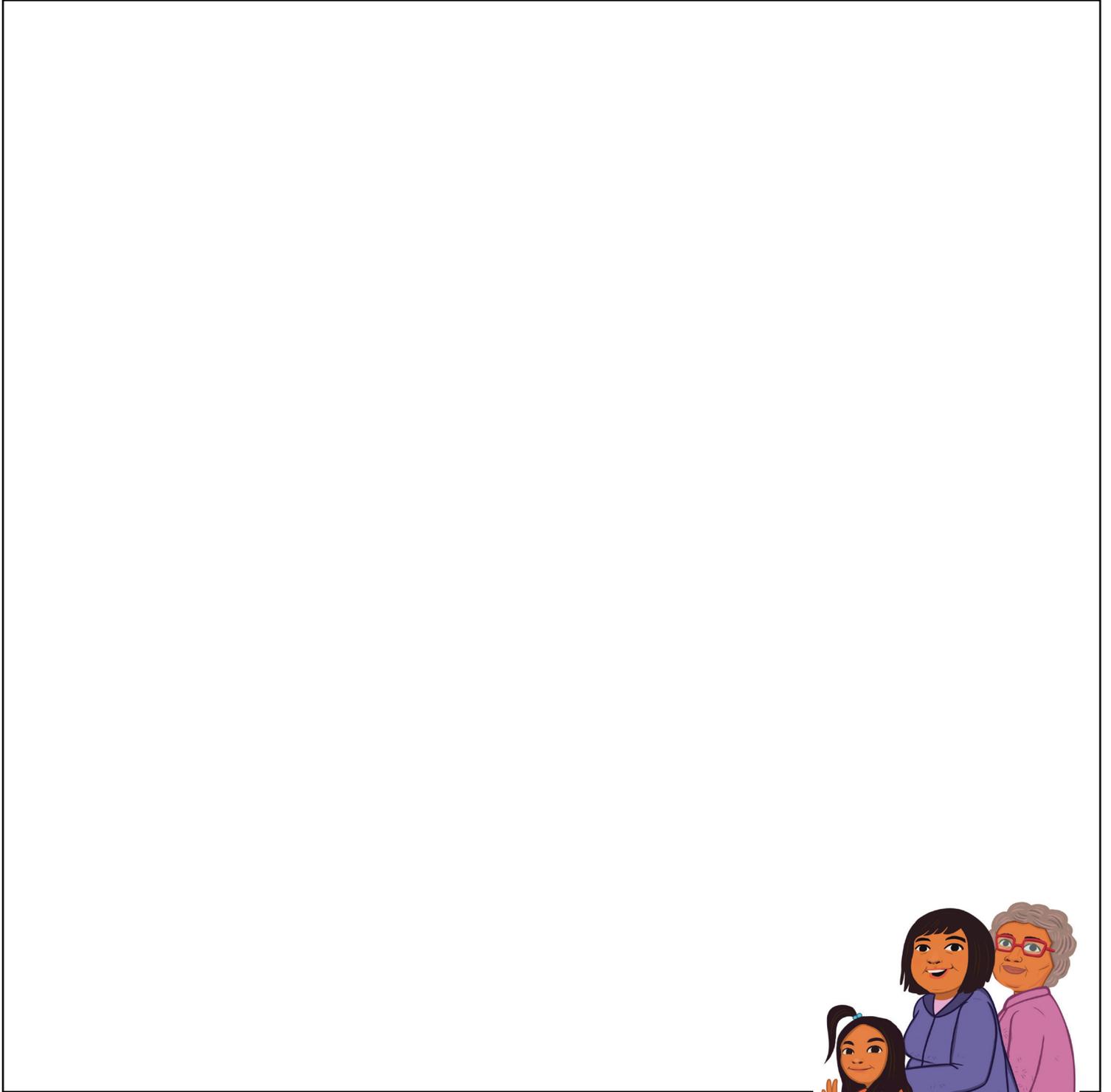


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Activities:

1. Draw your favorite family trip together or some place you would like to visit.



2. Share and discuss your drawing with your classmates.





About the author:

Kim Spencer is an award-winning, bestselling author. Her debut novel, *Weird Rules to Follow*, received a *Kirkus* starred review and was a 2023 Governor General’s Literary Award finalist. The book won multiple awards, including a 2023 TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award, a 2023 Jean Little First-Novel Award and a 2024 Pacific Northwest Book Award. It was also on the IBBY 2024 Honour List and the USBBY Outstanding International Books List in 2023. Kim is from the Gitxaala Nation and lives in northwest BC.



About the illustrator:

Karlene Harvey is T̓silhqot’in and Syilx and currently lives on the unceded and ancestral home territories of the x̣ẉṃəθḳẉəỵəm (Musqueam), Ṣḳẉx̣ẉú7mesh (Squamish) and ṣəlilẉətaɣ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. They studied at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, earning a BFA in visual arts. When they are not making art, Karlene enjoys exploring rocky West Coast beaches with their daughter, learning their T̓silhqot’in language, and spending time in their garden.

