

# Kali's Story AN ORPHANED POLAR BEAR RESCUE

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

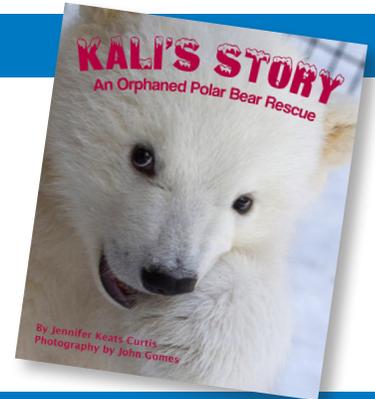
**Themes:** Arctic Animals, Zoology, Alaska, Rescue, Survival

**Book Brief:** After a young polar bear cub's mother dies, the Kali village rescues him from his den. Named after the village, Kali the polar bear embarks on a journey that takes him to the Alaska Zoo where he grows, learns new skills, and makes new friends.

**Author:** Jennifer Keats Curtis

**Photographer:** John Gomes

**Content Connections:** Social Studies, Science



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT....

**The Cover:** Where do polar bears live? What does the word orphaned mean? Ask students to predict what they think will happen to Kali

in the story based on the title and subtitle.

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through the book. How do the pictures give you clues about whether this story is fiction or nonfiction? What do the pictures tell you about Kali's original habitat?

**Prior Knowledge:** Find Point Lay, Alaska, on a map or globe. This is where the village of Kali is located.

What do students think the weather is like that far north? Have any students ever been to a zoo? Ask for volunteers to share their experiences. Do zoos do anything besides display animals for people to see?

**Vocabulary:** Arctic, orphaned

**Purpose for Reading:** As we read, we will learn how Kali went from his natural habitat to a zoo. Be prepared to *summarize* the major events that took place during his journey.



## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What do you notice about Kali's habitat?
- ◆ Why do you think Kali had to travel by airplane?
- ◆ How do the keepers protect themselves?

- ◆ Do you think there is any significance in the bowl being metal?
- ◆ How is Kali like other young animals?
- ◆ What do you notice about the new zoo habitat?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** What major events happened during Kali's journey from living in his original habitat to living in a zoo?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Is Kali's story similar to that of other animals you have read about? Do you think putting Kali in a zoo was the best option for him? Explain. What are some of the *disadvantages* of living in a zoo? Allow students to research the issue. Place them into small groups to discuss or have a class debate about whether animals should be placed in zoos. Visit <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Mammals/Polar-Bear> to learn how polar bears like Kali are being hurt by climate change. As a class, brainstorm some simple ways students can help stop climate change.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is Fundamental