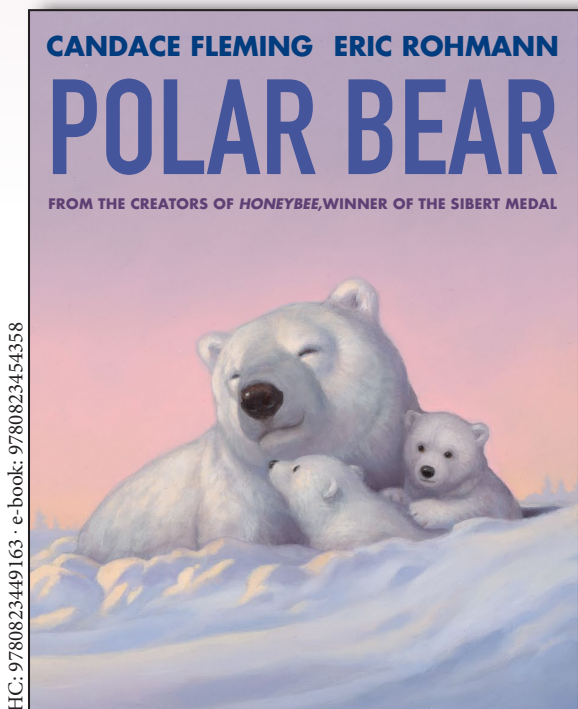


# HOLIDAY HOUSE

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



NEAL PORTER BOOKS

### *Polar Bear*

by Candace Fleming

illustrated by Eric Rohmann

“Using lyric prose that carefully avoids anthropomorphism [and] magnificent oil paintings, [this is] a majestic polar plunge not to be missed.”

—*Booklist*, Starred Review

**A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection**

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**This companion book to the authors’ Robert F. Sibert Award-winning *Honeybee* explores the life and habitat of a majestic endangered species through dramatic text and sumptuous illustration.**

As spring approaches in the Arctic, a mother polar bear and her two cubs tentatively emerge from hibernation to explore the changing landscape. When it is time, she takes her cubs on a forty-mile journey, back to their home on the ice. Along the way, she fends off wolves, hunts for food, and swims miles and miles.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Setting is when and where a book takes place. Where is *Polar Bear* set? The opening page states that it is the month of April. Take clues from the text and the illustration and describe April in the Arctic.
- What happens in the polar bear’s den in the winter? In what ways does the mother prepare her cubs for life outside the den? Look at the third illustration where the mother polar bear is standing. Why is she looking off in the distance? How does she get her cubs used to the cold outdoors?



- Describe the journey the mother polar bear and her cubs take to their home by the sea. Explain how the mother polar bear senses danger. Study the illustration of the wolf attack. How does the illustrator make the animals look fierce and angry?
- Explain how the cubs learn to hunt for food from their mother. Describe what happens when the ice melts and the mother cannot find food. How does she encourage her cubs to safety?
- Trace the life of the bears throughout the remainder of the year. Which months are the toughest to survive? At what point do the cubs separate from their mother?
- What is the book's message about climate change? How does climate change affect animals like the polar bears?
- List all the cool facts about polar bears presented in the text. Compare these cool facts to other facts found in the back of the book.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**Candace Fleming** is the author of more than thirty distinguished books for children including *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*, winner of an Orbis Pictus Honor and the Sibert Medal for most distinguished informational book, and *Cubs in the Tub: The True Story of the Bronx Zoo's First Woman Zookeeper*. Her book *The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh* received the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. She lives in Chicago.



**Eric Rohmann** is the award-winning author and/or illustrator of many beloved books for children. He received a Caldecott Honor for *Time Flies* and a Caldecott Medal for *My Friend Rabbit*. He also collaborated with Candace Fleming on *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*, winner of an Orbis Pictus Honor and the Sibert Medal for most distinguished informational book. They live in Chicago, Illinois.