

**Grade 4 Classes - Peacock Elementary School
Happy Valley-Goose Bay
presents**

“Homework Or Not....That Is The Question”

Cast

**004 Homework Consultants Jonathan Howe, Ashley Normore
Becky Harve, Daniel Stark**

**Canadian Parents for French Labrador Winter Carnival.....Ms Rowsell’s
Gr. 3 & 4 French Immersion Class**

Naliyuk Night in Inuit Culture Jan. 6..... Mrs. Wall’s Gr. 4 Class

**Komatik Ride (Taken from Them Days Magazine).....Mrs. Winters’ Gr. 4
Class**

Innu Caribou Hunt.....Ms Murphy’s Gr. 4 Class

Teacher Advisors

**Renee Rowsell
Yvonne Winters
Marg Saunders
Leona Wall
Bridget Murphy**

This play reflects the combined efforts of the three Grade 4 classes and one 3&4 French Immersion class and their teachers. It was hoped that by doing this play, students would become more aware of the cultures and traditions in Labrador. All that we learn in school and out cannot be measured through standardized testing.

Thanks to Brigitta Aylward and Mark Nochasak for introducing Inuktitut and Innu Amin.

FORWARD

The Concepts

Many children throughout Labrador are not aware of each others' traditions and practices particularly those of a multicultural context. This play was developed to involve 120 students in a beginning understanding and some of the language associated with that activity. The Innu and Inuit groups had visits from Innuamin and Inuktitut speakers. The French Immersion Class used their teacher as a resource for expanding their French. The English group used a 1977 Labrador Creative Arts Festival script that had been developed by Spruce Park Elementary Grade 2 classes.

The Approach

The scripts were developed independently of each other through a series of improvisational exercises that were recorded on chart paper. The script was never written down (except for the French Immersion phrases). Consequently, each time it was rehearsed, it was different. One student from each class was selected to be a member of 004 Homework Consultant Team. After some discussion, they selected to bridge the stories as a homework team because they felt that the recent emphasis on provincial criterion referenced based testing does not give the whole picture of what is important to the child.

Act 1

Scene 1

(4 consultants enter from 4 corners of stage carrying briefcases and clipboards to meet center stage - looking around)

Jonathan: We're finally here in Goose Bay. . Everyone have a good flight? Everyone have their clipboards? The 004 Homework Consultants are always prepared - that's our motto.

Ashley: What is it the School Board wants us to do exactly?

Becky: We're supposed to assess the amount of homework the children in Labrador do to ensure that sufficient attention is being paid to this important part of their education.

Daniel: Right!

Jonathan: *(Taking out notebook)* Now - first we must visit this Winter Carnival. Apparently,

all of the parents are taking their children to these Winter Carnival activities being sponsored by the Canadian Parents for French.

Becky: Whenever do they do their homework?

Ashley: Well, I guess we'll have to go to this Carnival to find out!

Daniel: Yup!

Jonathan: *(Checks watch)* We'll meet back here after we've all had a glance at this Winter Carnival to compare notes.

(All shake hands and go separate ways back to their corners looking around as they go - Ashley skipping. Gets self into Carnival)

Le Carvival D'Hiver du Labrador : Ms Rowsell's Grade 3/4 French Immersion Class

The class brainstormed activities that are part of a winter carnival experience. They then found phrases in French that supplemented their activities. The class was then subdivided into smaller groups who did improvisational work on the following storyline.

Scene 1

Girls build snowmen but get cold so they go home to get some hot chocolate from their grandmother. While they are inside two boys and two dogs come and destroy their snowmen. The girls come out and a snowball fight ensues. The grandmother hears the racket and persuades the two groups to work together to make a large snow sculpture for the contest.

L'idée principale: Même quand des personnes se battent et ne s'aiment pas, ils peuvent travailler ensemble, coopérer et faire quelque chose ensemble pour gagner un prix.

(Trois filles font un bonhomme de neige)

Fille 1: Voulez-vous faire un bonhomme de neige pour le compétition des sculptures?

Filles 2 & 3: OUI!!! C'est une très bonne idée!!!

(Les filles construisent le bonhomme de neige.)

Fille 1: La neige est très bonne pour faire des boules de neige.

Fille 3: Je suis d'accord. C'est assez collante pour faire de grosses boules.

Fille 1: Va chercher quelque chose pour les yeux.

Fille 2: Voici des roches.

Fille 1: Va chercher quelque chose pour le nez.

Fille 3: J'ai trouvé une grosse carotte pour le nez.

Les 3 filles ensemble: Quel beau bonhomme de neige! Nous allons gagner le prix pour la plus belle sculpture de neige!

Fille 2: J'ai froid.

Fille 3: Moi aussi.

Fille 1: Allons chercher du chocolat chaud. Grand-maman va préparer pour nous.

(Les 3 filles vont à l'intérieur chercher du chocolat chaud. Les 3 garçons entrent. Ils voient le bonhomme de neige et veulent l'effacer.)

Garçon 1: Ohhh regarde le bonhomme de neige que les filles ont fait. Le bonhomme de neige va mourir!!! Lance des boules de neige au bonhomme et Bowser, tu fais pipi sur lui!!!

(Les garçons détruisent le bonhomme de neige. Les 3 filles ont bu du chocolat chaud avec grand-maman.)

Fille 1: J'ai trop chaud maintenant. Allons jouer dehors encore.

(Elles vont dehors et voient les garçons qui détruisent leur sculpture.)

Les 3 filles ensemble: OHHHHH NON!!! Notre bonhomme de neige! Vous avez détruit notre beau bonhomme de neige!!

(Les enfants se battent. Grand-maman entend le bruit et vient dehors)

Grand-maman: Qu'est-ce que vous faites?!! Arrêtez de crier!

Fille 1: Mais les garçons ont détruit notre sculpture pour le carnaval! Qu'est-ce que nous allons faire maintenant?

Grand-maman: Les garçons, ce n'était pas gentil. Vous devez aider les filles construire une autre sculpture. J'ai une idée. Vous pouvez faire un igloo pour la

competition.

(Les enfants travaillent ensemble et font un beau igloo pour le carnaval.)

Scene 2

In another part of the carnival there is a immense snow castle being made. It is beautiful. When completed, the people decide to go sledding but once they hit the bottom of the slope they fall through the ice. But all is not lost! As one of them suggests, they all have a polar bear swim.

(Les enfants font un palais de glace pour le carnaval d'hiver.

L'idée principale: Il y aura une surprise pour les spectateurs. On pense que les enfants vont appeler "Au secours" quand ils tombent dans l'eau après avoir fait la planche à neige, mais ils s'amusent et ils decident de faire la natation des ours polaires.

(Les enfants construisent un palais de glace pour le carnaval)

Enfant 1: Je fais les portes.

Enfant 2: Je fais les fenêtres.

Enfant 3: Je bâtis les murs.

Enfant 4 & 5: Nous ciselons.

Enfant 6: Je mets de l'eau sur le palais.

Les enfants ensemble: C'est enfin fini!!!

Enfant: C'est tellement beau. Je pense que nous allons gagner le prix pour la plus belle sculpture!!

Enfant: Mais qu'est-ce qu'on va faire maintenant! Il fait trop beau dehors pour aller a l'intérieure.

Enfant: J'ai une idée. On peut chercher nos planches a neige et descendre la grande colline!

Enfant: Oui!!!

(Les enfants font la planche à neige quand tout à coup, ils vont sur la glace. La glace brise et ils tombent dans l'eau froide.

Enfant: "OH NON!! La glace a brisée!!! Nous sommes tombés dans l'eau!!!

Enfant: Au secours!! Au secours!!

Enfant: Les amis.....on peut faire la natation des ours polaires!!

(Les enfants nagent dans l'eau froide et s'amuseent.

Scene 3

A huge snowman is constructed by two boys. (The snowman is another actor) One of the boys wishes that the snowman could come alive. While they are inside warming up, an evil magician visits the snowman and casts a spell on him. The snowman is very destructive and chases the boys, who finally solve the problem by pouring hot chocolate on him.

(Les enfants font un bonhomme de neige pour la competition des sculptures de neige. Un enfant pense que ca serait chouette si le bonhomme de neige devient vivant.

L'idée principale: Fais attention quand tu fais un souhait

Les enfants font un bonhomme de neige. Un autre fait un igloo)

Elizabeth arrive et dit: Qu'est-ce que vous faites?

Chris: Je viens de finir un igloo! C'est tres bien fait aussi. On peut s'asseoir dedans!

Elizabeth: Oui, c'est chouette. Qu'est-ce que vous faites, les filles?

Melody & Andrea: On fait un bonhomme de neige. On vient de le finir!

Elizabeth: Il est tres beau et tres grand.

Chris: Oui! Ca serait chouette si le bonhomme de neige etait vivant. Il pourrait etre le bonhomme carnival!!

(Tout le monde ensemble pendant que le mechant professeur arrive.....do do do do do do do do do do do do!!! OH NON! C'EST LE PROFESSEUR VONDE!!!

Prof. Vonde: Vous voulez un bonhomme de neige vivant? Je peux le rendre vivant! IMPERIO!!

Tout le monde: IMPERIO!!!

(Le bonhomme est vivant et fais peur a tout le monde.)

Andrea: Qu'est-ce que nous allons faire? J'ai peur!!

Chris: J'ai un idée.....si il faisant chaud ici, il fondrait!

Elizabeth: Voici du chocolat chaud! Mettez ca sur le bonhomme de neige et il va findre!!

(Chris prend le chocolat chaud et il le reverse sur le bonhomme de neige. Le bonhomme de neige devient une grande flaque d'eau.)

Scene 4

At one end of the carnival there is a dog team race and skidoo race. The announcer gives the go-ahead and they are off. *(Children play dogteam and skidoo)* The skidoo is way in front and takes a short cut across a Lake near where a man is icefishing. They break through the ice but the man ice fishing saves them and he is invited to finish the end of the race. The dog team meanwhile, has won the race and receives hot chocolate. There is a final announcement that the ice castle has won the snow sculpture contest.

(Le concours des motoneiges et des traineaux.)

L'idée principale: Il ne faut pas toujours etre le plus rapide pour gagner une course.

Joshua announce le course: Bienvenue tout le monde a notre course des motoneige et des traineaux. Voivi Chris qui et sur sa motoneige. Voivi Kara avec son equipe de chiens. A vos marques, prtés...PARTEZ!!!

(Les 2 equipes partent)

Chris: Je suis beaucoup plus vite que l'autre equipe! Je vais traverser le lac pour gagner!
(Traverse le lac) OH NON! La glace n'est pas assez epaise!! (CRACK!) Au secours! A l'aide!! Je suis tombe dans l'eau froide!!

(Brandon, un homme qui fait le peche a glace arrive et aide Chris)

Brandon: JE VAIS TU SAUVER!!

Chris: Oh merci! Tu m'as sauve la vie! Tu veux m'aider a gagner la course??

Brandon: OUI!!!

(Les 2 amis vont sur la motoneige mais c'est trop tard. L'equipe de chiens a gagne.)

Joshua: Notre gagnant c'est Kara et son equipe de chiens!! Voice votre prix. Et le gagnant de sculptures de glace c'est l'equipe qui a fait le beau palais de glace. Merci a tout le monde qui a participe a notre carnaval d'hiver!!!

The play is performed in the middle of a large semicircle of the class of children who hold up flags and wave them. They leave the stage singing the Winter Carnival song. The play is all done in mime with children playing some of the inanimate parts and making the sounds for the whole class. (Cracking ice, arrival of the magician, etc.)

Act 2

Scene 1

(Enter from 4 corners, clipboards in hand - meet center stage - Ashley with balloon attached to clipboard. Jonathan gives her a look)

Jonathan: I hope everyone took good notes. We'll do a comparison study as a follow-up. I look forward to reading your reports.

Ashley: Oh, oh, oh! That's what I was supposed to do. Of course, oh my!

Daniel: Duh!

Becky: Those children weren't doing any homework. They were having fun. Children shouldn't be having fun. They should be doing homework!

Daniel: Right!

Jonathan: Save it for your reports please. What's next on our agenda?

Ashley: Oh, oh I know! Tonight the children are celebrating Nalijuk Night. I'm sure.....

Jonathan: Ms Normore. Please! We're here to make sure the children are doing homework. Clipboards ready?

(Ashley head down, Becky nose up, Daniel shaking head. All walk off to corners. Ashley and Daniel get candy from a Nalijuk.)

Nalijuk Night - Jan. 6 : Ms Wall's Class

This play evolved around Nalijuk Night and some Inuktitut that would be used as a result of being chased by Nalijuks. Mark Nochasak from the Inuit Curriculum Center came to a rehearsal and provided words. The framework for this play was the nursery rhyme "This is the house that Jack built." All students not in the action, formed the walls of the house. The play was mimed except for the Inuktitut. Freeze stop action was used to move from scene to scene. Although the characters were the same, actors exchanges roles during a freeze while the students recited "This is the house that Jack built. These are the Nalijuks who visited the house that Jack built."

Two Nalijuks superstitiously peer around the house trying the windows and doors and rattling their chains. The father sees them through the window and awakens the children. The children board up the windows, stuff the chimney, get dresses and head outside. (*Freeze - frame*)

"These are the children who his from the Nalijuks who visited the house that Jack built"

Children build a snowhouse. Ikki (it is cold) One of the children needs prealuks (mittens). When you see the Nalijuks, they are beside the snowhouse but the Nalijuks jump on top of the illuk (snowhouse) (*freeze-frame*)

"These are the candies which are given to the children who were scared by the Nalijuks who visited the house that Jack built."

The Nalijuks chase the children and catch one child while threatening others with their sticks and chains. The child caught starts to sing "Suvutsit Kaititsi (O Come Little Children) and the whole class joins in.

Suvutsit Kaititsi nutâvatsumuk
Atâtab panêtab Kailautanganut!
Takujattulâvut piulitlite.
Inniangutainatuk BetleHEME.

(*Tape of music is available from Tusannitut - District Ilisautiliuvik Curriculum Center, Our lady Queen of Peace School*)

Act 3

Scene 1

(*All enter from corners to meet center stage. Ashley and Daniel have bags of candy and no clipboards*)

Becky: (*Shaking head, disgusted*) There was no homework going on at Nalijuk Night! All there was was laughing and screaming and having fun!

Ashley: Oh....fun!

Daniel: Yeah!

Jonathan: *(Shaking head)* Well, we've got this far. Two down, two to go! I hope everyone is keeping good notes. The School Board is paying us for this report!

Ashley & Daniel: *(Looking at each other and nodding)* Notes, yeah!

Daniel: *(Rubbing hands together and looking at Ashley)* What's next?

Becky: Next? Next is the dog sled ride! How can the children do homework on a dog sled ride? I'm sure there must be a way.

(All leave - go to corners)

A Child's First Komatik Ride: Mrs. Winters' Class

Using the story, four storytellers were assigned to read sections of the play at points in the script. Before the narration commenced, the children formed two parallel lines facing each other to the sounds of dogs. One student was the father who tied up the dogs to the sled. Five students become dogs with different personalities - one old and lazy, one small and barky, a leader, one unco-operative.

The remaining students were mothers or children and got dressed for the adventure. Then the remaining students became the komatik, (rolling forwards or backwards to show movement) and the box. One child consistently falls out of the box. The class provided the "Hut, hut" dogteam command. The lead dog went backwards. So did the komatik and box and finally it ran up a tree. (Another child) The father was reprimanded by his wife. The play ends with the komatik going forward.

Child: I knew a lot about dogteams before I went for my first ride. My father told me how the lead dog always leads the other dogs. Where the lead dog goes, so do the others. Each dog has a name, but if you want them to start running, you don't call out their names. You either crack the whip over their heads or you cry "Hut! Hut!

Everyone: Hut! Hut!

Child: *(Laughs)* But you must be careful, even with those words, because sometimes the dogs just won't listen. When I went on my first komatik ride..... *(all the children dress up warmer and warmer)*...first of all Mom made me put on more clothes...an extra sweater, socks, my mukluks over my socks, and my mittens. All this under my big heavy parka. My parka hood is edged with fox fur so that it

protects my face from any wind and frostbite.

When I went on my first komatik ride(*the children build a komatik using props found on the stage*) the komatik had a sled-box put on, especially for me. Without this sled-box I would fall off when the dogs are going fast. The ice is very rough and bumpy. One good bump and off I would go. I put blankets in the bottom of the box to make it soft and got a fur skin to cover me up and keep me warm. It gets really cold when you can't run behind the komatik and shout.....

Everyone: Hut! Hut!

Child: When I went on my first komatik ride I snuggled down under the skins, held on to the top sides of the box tightly and waited for Dad's whip to crack. "Crack!" I was ready to go. But instead of going forwards, the dogs backed right into the shed, pushing it back, tipping it over and me out. (*Children become dogs, barking and jumping*) There was a lot of barking and shouting. The lead dog raced away. There was a big spruce tree in the direction he ran. Instead of going around it, he ran straight up the tree. The other dogs were behind him, running around trying to follow him and got all tangled up in the harness. Dad had to climb that tree to get the dog down, shouting and cracking his driver's whip all the time. Mom was standing in the doorway watching all of this. When she saw I was safe, she laughed and told Dad he had better work some more with the lead dog before going on a trip. Didn't he know yet that his lead dog wasn't going to move unless he said.....

Everyone: Hut! Hut!

Child: Not when he cracked his whip? You never crack the whip and shout.....

Everyone: Hut! Hut!

Child: Not at the same time. Dad was so mad. The lead dog hid away under the tree. Dad had to go and get him. When he brought him back I got back into the sled-box and we started again. Dad shouted "Hut! Hut!" as Mom had told him and the lead dog went off like a shot, in the right direction. I was scared at first I would fall out of the box, but it was great fun when I got used to it. So I snuggled down under my furs, protecting myself from the cold, frosty air to enjoy my first dogteam ride.

Act 4

Scene 1

(All enter from 4 corners - Ashley skipping- Daniel bouncy step)

Daniel: Last night was kinda fun!

Becky: Fun! Fun! This isn't supposed to be fun! Children are supposed to be doing homework at night. They're supposed to be learning spelling and Math. These children are not doing enough homework!

Ashley: Can't homework be fun?

Jonathan: No! No! NO! Homework can't be fun. It's physically impossible to have fun while doing homework.

Daniel: Maybe not!

Jonathan: Humph! We'll find out later.

Ashley: Tomorrow we get to go on a caribou hunt.

Becky: Caribou hunt? How are children going to do any homework or learn anything on a caribou hunt?

Ashley: I don't know but I'll see you there tomorrow.

(Daniel and Ashley eager - Jonathan and Becky shaking heads as they walk to corners)

How to be Prepared for Caribou Hunt by Ms Murphy's Class

This play took place in the forest. The children marched in as trees in rows to the beat of an Innu drum, each row representing a different group of actors so that after each scene was completed those actors went to the back of the line of trees. These trees provided sound effects and reinforced the notion of storm by swaying and creaking. The only words spoken were in Innu Amin provided by Brigita Aylward and the play was otherwise mimed. Although notes for improvement from each rehearsal were kept by the students.

SCENE 1

Son wants to go caribou hunting with his friends. His mother takes a walk in the forest and notices the weather is turning bad. She refuses to let her son go but he does anyway. *(Innu)* The

son's friend has forgotten to pack his license and they don't check their guns. They take off on skidoo. (*Students*)

SCENE 2

The two hunters see many caribou grazing in the trees. They try to shoot but realize that they have no ammunition. The caribou escape.

SCENE 3

The two skidoos have difficulty getting up the hill and one of them loses their komatik. The komatik is not lashed properly and the ice cracks underneath. One of the hunters is thrown from the komatik.

SCENE 4

This hunter gets lost. He builds a snow house. He is attacked by wolves and bears and luckily he has a radio telephone and he is saved by two wildlife officers.

The trees step forward and comment on what a disastrous trip it can be if you are ill-prepared and don't take advice. (*Innu*)

Act 5

Scene 1

(*Daniel carries in caribou horns in hunting coat*)

Becky: Mr. Howell, Mr. Howell. I got my first caribou!

Jonathan: Ms Harvey! Your job is to make sure sufficient homework is being done so that adequate learning is happening at all times. Was there homework? Was there learning? Where are your reports?

Ashley: Oh, oh, oh. I must have left mine back at the hotel.

Becky: Me too.

Daniel: Well, I have a report. I suggest that homework is not only about paper and pencils and math equations. Let's just think about all the things that the children are learning by participating in these activities. Think of all the skills they acquire by learning how to use a dog team or skidoo. Think about the skills they practise on a caribou hunt. Think about the heritage and culture they internalize as parents

pass their history at the Winter Carnival and at Nalijuk Night. These things can't be taught properly in school or by doing "homework" as we define it. Think about the relationships that develop by participating as a family in these types of activities. Homework? Yes, this is homework and it is fun!

Jonathan: Do you think the School Board will pay us for this kind of report?

Daniel: It's the truth.

Ashley: Wasn't this a great job!

Becky: Yeah!

(Shake heads and slowly exit as lights fade)