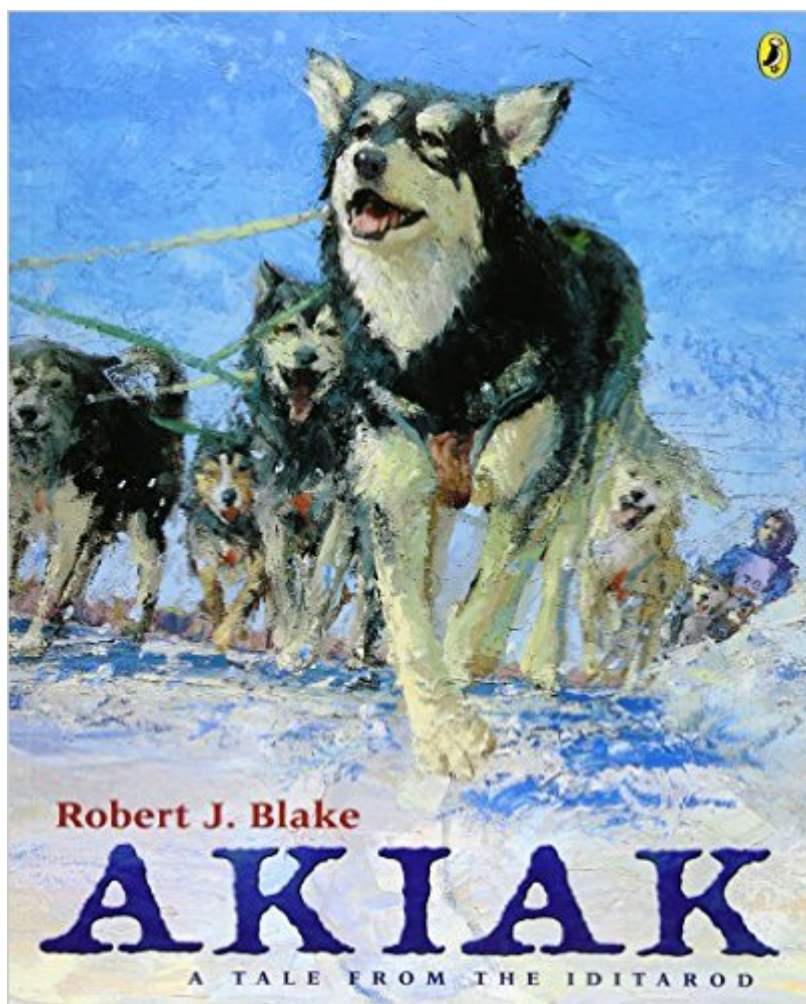


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# Akiak: A Tale From The Iditarod



## Synopsis

When she hurts her paw on the fourth day of the race, Akiak can no longer compete in the Iditarod—the famed dogsledding race through 1,151 miles of Alaskan terrain. Her musher has no choice but to leave her behind. The rules say once a dog is dropped from the race, it may not rejoin the team. But ten-year-old lead dog Akiak doesn't know the rules, and nothing will stop her from catching up to her team. Akiak has never won the race before. Will she be able to help her team win this time?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0590 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 21, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142401854

ISBN-13: 978-0142401859

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #66,531 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports](#) #519 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#) #3233 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

We recently added "Akiak" to our elementary school library collection, because one of our primary classes was following this year's Iditarod. It instantly became a popular title, and several other classes have thoroughly enjoyed it as a read-aloud. I can see "Akiak" becoming an annual tradition, right before the first "mush" of the famous Alaskan sled-dog race. In frosty clear language, accompanied by his museum-quality oil paintings, Robert Blake, presents a day by day account of Mick's team, initially led by 10 year-old Akiak, until she "can't run on that paw." Akiak is left at a dog drop, but refusing to be flown out, she breaks free to chase after her team, many hours behind. In this "incredible journey," students get a taste of the Alaskan's passion for this unique sport, learning about the hardships and rules of the race along the way. The trail map on the end papers would be

helpful for those wanting to turn this into a simple geography lesson. This excellent story works on many levels. This is worth reading, even if you're just looking for a heartwarming dog story!

A beautiful malamute named Akiak is featured in this book about Alaskan sled dog runs. The story of the old malamute who literally ran herself into the snow, when she reached a point where she could not "run on that paw," Akiak is taken to a dog drop off place. The malamute's indomitable spirit shows through. Instead of waiting for the little puddle jumper plane to fly her out of the area, the curly tailed dog escapes and rejoins her team, even though the team has a lead of several hours on her. The spirited malamute brings to mind MacFadden & Whitehead's 1979 classic, "Ain't No Stopping Us Now." There ain't no stopping Akiak now - she won't give up! Readers not only race with the mushers, they run with the malamute who would not give up. Her travels and travails become those of the readers; her success will leave readers cheering with delight. The drawings in this book are masterpiece paintings and readers will come away with a good understanding of dog racing and the rules and history of this sport. A trail map has been included along with some final notes about the sport of dog racing. A masterpiece of a book!

I strongly advise parents to adopt this book as one of their all time favorites. It explains an American tradition that most of us are unfamiliar with. The paintings alone are worth the cost of the book. Mr. Blake has used true artistry to describe the trama of the Iditarod. We Loved It!

My two year old twins are really into sled dogs so this was a good story for them. They sit through the length of text on the page without a problem. The pictures are nice but a little repetitive so they start to get bored with the pictures by the end. That is the only reason I took off one star.

My kids thoroughly enjoyed this story of the dog who refused to give up when it becomes injured during the race and runs the Iditarod trail alone. The pictures are absolutely beautiful as well. There is plenty of action and suspense, and my children beg to hear it every night!

My grandsons loved reading this book. It is a keeper! I would highly recommend this to any parent or grandparent to give to your child/grandchild. It would also make a nice addition to any school library or a birthday gift for any boy or girl 8-12 yrs. old.

My third grader studied/followed the Iditarod in school. This is a great childrens story about an

unsung hero of the race.

*\*SPOILER ALERT\** I think the theme is survive because when Akiak was getting on a plane but it turned over from the snow storm. The theme is shown when Akiak travels for four days but the people who was in a house gave Akiak some food and rest. I recommend this book because it's exciting to see what happens next. It's amazing to see what the dog can do and how smart he is on the front. It shows how far the dog went trying to catch up with his team.

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