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North



Synopsis

Chanelle laughed. "You'd never have the guts to get near a polar bear in real life. And you'd never travel that far. You the mamma's boy, I hear." But Chanelle is wrong. Alvin has more guts than even he realizes. And he isn't a mamma's boy. In fact, when his over protective mother goes too far, he leaves home. Where can Alvin go, though? He heads north. He will follow in the footsteps of his hero, Matthew Henson, the bold Arctic explorer. Alvin will prove that he can take care of himself. Alvin will go north to the deadly cold; north to terrifying, frozen windy expanses, where it's easy to get lost even near shelter; north to polar bears and wolves; north to himself. . . .

Book Information

File Size: 580 KB

Print Length: 364 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0060579889

Publication Date: March 26, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007P5YZSG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #694,247 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #24

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Customer Reviews

The book North, by Donna Jo Napoli, is a fantastic story of a young boy by the name of Alvin who wants to be like his hero, Matthew Henson. Henson was an Arctic explorer and led many expeditions throughout the North. Alvin lives with his mother and grandma, and for him it would be a miracle if he got the permission to walk to the other side of town, much less visit the Arctic from his home in Washington. D.C. He decides he has to run away in order to follow his dream. For only

being in the sixth grade, he discovers that there's a lot more potential in himself than he realizes when he embarks on the greatest journey of his life. When Alvin makes up his mind to leave, it's not because he doesn't love his family and wants to get away from them. It's because he feels that there's a barrier holding him back at home from the freedoms he deserves, and he needs to get past it. His adventure starts out with a train ride to New York. Getting even that far was a challenge, because tickets aren't just given out to sixth grade boys. There has to be parental consent, so Alvin's only hope was to fake a family. By a miracle, Alvin pulls it off twice. Once during the purchase of his ticket, and then again when handing it to the ticket lady. In the "Big Apple", Alvin meets a girl by the name of Hardette who gives him company and someone to talk to. They travel to Toronto together, narrowly avoiding getting Alvin sent home with a border check before arriving in Canada. The two had really begun to become close friends, and it was very hard for them to say goodbye to each other. Alvin knew it would be harder to move on without Hardette, but he knew he had to. His next goal is getting to Churchill.

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