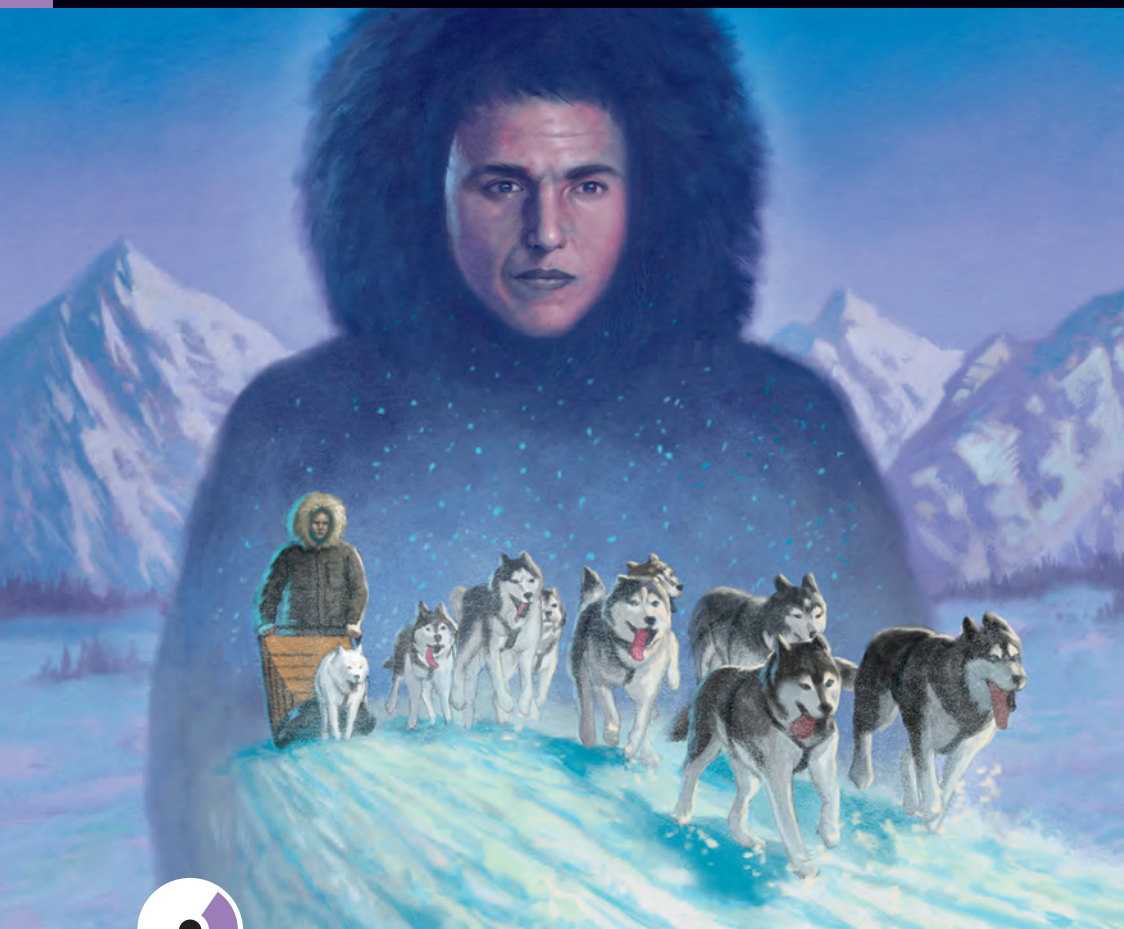


Gina D. B. Clemen

Alaska Adventure!



audio CD



Gina D. B. Clemen

Alaska Adventure!

Illustrated by Franco Rivolli



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THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.

A track number indicates that the audio can be found on the CD.

An MP3 symbol indicates that the audio can be downloaded from our website, blackcat-cideb.com.



Alaska

Alaska is the largest state in the United States of America, but it has the smallest number of people. Only about 739,000 people live there, and most of them live in the cities.

Everything about Alaska is big! Denali, also called Mount McKinley, is the highest mountain in North America: 20,310 feet (6,190 meters). The Yukon River is one of the longest navigable¹ rivers in the world: 1,980 miles (3,190 km).

About one third of Alaska is within the Arctic Circle. As you can see on the map, Alaska is a very big peninsula next to Canada. Winters in Alaska are extremely cold with temperatures that go down to -100°F (-73°C). In winter the days are short and the nights are long. In summer, daylight can last up to 20 hours, and temperatures can go as high as +100°F (+38°C).

Alaska has eight beautiful national parks that you can visit. Denali National Park and Kodiak Island Wildlife Refuge are the most famous. Kodiak Island is the home of the wonderful Kodiak bear, the largest brown bear in the world!

1. **Navigable** : you can travel on this river.

Alaska is a land of great contrasts. There are smoking volcanoes,² frozen tundra,³ huge forests and a beautiful coast on the Pacific Ocean.

The Inuit

About 14,000 years ago, people from Asia crossed the Bering Strait. Some of them stayed in Alaska and others moved slowly South to North America, Central America and South America. At that time the sea levels around the Bering Strait were lower and a land bridge made it easier to cross.

The Inuit are the first people who lived in Alaska. The Inuit also live in Canada, Greenland and around the Arctic Circle. Some people call them Eskimos, but today the Inuit prefer their own name.

In the past the Inuit lived in igloos, made of blocks of snow and ice, during the winter. In the summer they lived in tents made of animal skins. The Inuit were great hunters⁴ and fishermen, and they loved

2. **Volcano :**



3. **Tundra :** an area of very cold, flat land with no trees.

4. **Hunter :** this person kills animals for food.



A traditional Inuit igloo.

Nature. Today the Inuit are still great hunters and fishermen, but most of them live in modern houses.

History

In 1867 the United States bought the territory of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. This was called the Alaska Purchase and many Americans did not agree with it. They thought that Alaska was only a land of snow and ice. They didn't know about its many natural resources. Alaska became the 49th state of the United States in 1959.

Between 1896 and 1899 gold was discovered in the Klondike region of the Yukon in northwestern Canada. The Yukon was near Alaska, and many people traveled to Alaska. This was called the Klondike Gold Rush. Between 1899 and the early 1900s, gold was found in Nome and Fairbanks, Alaska. And there was another big gold rush.

The famous American writer Jack London (1876-1916) went to the Klondike to look for gold, but he didn't find any. He left the Klondike with no gold, but with many ideas for his best stories like *The Call of the Wild* (1903) and *White Fang* (1906).



A beautiful Alaskan landscape.

Natural Resources

Alaska has many important natural resources: oil (petroleum), natural gas and timber.⁵ The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is Alaska's biggest business. (see Dossier: *Energy and Environment*, page 33). Its fishing business is one of the largest in the United States. Alaska is famous for its excellent salmon⁶ and sells it all over the world.

Cities

Juneau is the capital of Alaska, but Anchorage is the biggest city. Juneau is the only American capital that is on an island, and you can get there only by air or by sea. Other important cities are Fairbanks, Nome, Seward, Valdez and Sitka.

Comprehension check

① Choose the correct option.

- 1 Alaska is the *smallest* / *largest* American state with the *largest* / *smallest* population.
- 2 *Most* / *About one third* of Alaska is within the Arctic Circle.
- 3 Alaska has eight *big rivers* / *national parks*.
- 4 The native people of Alaska are called *Indians* / *Inuit*.
- 5 The United States bought the territory of Alaska from *Russia* / *Canada* for *\$72 million* / *\$7.2 million* in 1867.
- 6 Most Americans thought that the purchase of Alaska was a *bad idea* / *good idea*.
- 7 Jack London was a *great American explorer* / *American writer*.
- 8 Juneau is located on a *high mountain* / *an island*.

5. **Timber** : different kinds of trees that are used to make buildings, furniture and other products.

6. **Salmon** :



The Characters



From the left to the right:
Ross Kobuk, Jim Nakodi, George Parker, Justin, Karen, Mrs Parker, Grandpa.

Before you read

Vocabulary

1 Match the words with their meaning. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1 ☐ animal shelter

2 ☐ vet

3 ☐ guys

4 ☐ pipeline

5 ☐ volunteer

6 ☐ publish

7 ☐ petroleum

8 ☐ earthquake

9 ☐ spill

10 ☐ damage

a When something is broken.

b This person works but does not want to be paid.

c A very strong movement of the earth.

d Print many copies of a newspaper or book.

e Short form for veterinarian, a doctor who looks after animals.

f Oil that is found underground or under the sea or ocean.

g A place where people look after animals without a home.

h Liquid that comes out of a container by accident.

i Informal American expression to address friends.

j A big, long tube that carries oil (petroleum) from one place to another.

Culture Spot

Thanksgiving

Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November. It's a very important holiday and people travel across the nation to be with their families at this time. It is a special day because Americans give thanks for all the good things they have. And they celebrate with a big Thanksgiving dinner. In New York City there is a wonderful Thanksgiving Day Parade. More than two million people go and see it every year, and others watch it on TV.



CHAPTER 1

November in Phoenix



It was another warm November morning in Phoenix¹ and Karen and Justin Parker were getting ready to go to school. Karen was a pretty girl of sixteen, with long brown hair, green eyes and a friendly smile. She loved animals and all kinds of modern music. She worked as a volunteer at the Phoenix Animal Shelter on Saturdays, because she wanted to become a vet. She learned many things about animals at the shelter.



track 02

Her brother Justin was a tall, handsome boy of seventeen, with short brown hair and blue eyes. He was one of the best players on the high school basketball team. He was a member of the journalism club which published the monthly school paper. He wanted to become a journalist and travel to different countries. Justin and his sister attend Washington High School.

1. **Phoenix** : a big city in Arizona.

November in Phoenix



“Karen, Justin! Breakfast is ready and on the table,” said Mrs Parker, an attractive woman of about forty. She had short blonde hair, blue eyes and wore glasses. “I’m going upstairs to take breakfast to grandpa. I’ll be back in a few minutes.” Grandpa Parker lived with the family because his wife died last year and he couldn’t live alone because he hurt his leg. So the Parkers looked after him. Karen and Justin loved their grandpa. He often told them exciting stories about his adventures at sea. He was a big, tall man of about seventy-five, with a lot of white hair and bright blue eyes.

“Good morning, guys!” said Mr Parker, a tall, thin man of about forty-five. He had brown hair, brown eyes, and a happy smile. George Parker was a petroleum engineer and he often traveled to other countries. He was an expert on oil pipelines.

“The weather report says that it’s going to be a very warm November,” said Mr Parker, drinking his coffee. Phoenix always had good weather with a lot of sunshine and very little rain.

“That means we can have Thanksgiving dinner in the garden with all the colored lights,” said Karen happily. “I love eating outdoors.”

“Thanksgiving?” said Justin, putting milk into his cereal bowl. “The only thing I can think about is our next basketball game against Lincoln High—it’s going to be a hard one.”

Suddenly the phone rang and Mr Parker answered it. As he spoke on the phone his happy smile disappeared and he looked worried. It was a long phone call and he walked out of the kitchen. Karen, Justin and Mrs Parker looked worried, too.

When Mr Parker came back to the breakfast table he was upset and said, “You kids finish your breakfast, or you’ll be late for school. And I’ll be late for work! I’ll tell you all about the phone call this evening at dinner. It looks like we’re *not* going to have a Thanksgiving dinner in our garden...”

“What’s happening?” asked Mrs Parker, Karen and Justin.

“We’ll discuss it this evening,” said Mr Parker.



CHAPTER 1

Karen and Justin ran to the bus stop and caught the bus that took them to Washington High School. They met their friends on the bus and they stopped thinking about their dad's phone call.

At 6 pm that evening the Parker family, including grandpa Parker, was sitting at the dinner table. Everyone was waiting to hear the news.

"This morning I got a phone call from my colleague, Jim Nakodi, who lives and works in Alaska," said Mr Parker. "At half past three this morning, there was a strong earthquake in Alaska."

"An earthquake!" said Karen and Justin, excitedly.

"Yes, the radio and TV stations are talking about it," said George. "Jim told me that there's a big problem on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and the company needs my help. Earthquakes damage the pipeline and there could be a terrible oil spill! It's a real emergency! I have to go and solve the problem..."

"Oh, no!" exclaimed Karen and Justin.

"What does this mean, George?" asked Mrs Parker.

"Well, Mary Ellen, it means that I have to fly to Alaska as soon as possible, and the job will probably take a few weeks," said Mr Parker, seriously. "This is the worst time of the year to work on the pipeline because of the bad weather. I'm really sorry that I won't be able to celebrate Thanksgiving with you. I'm flying to Fairbanks, Alaska tomorrow morning."

Karen and Justin had tears in their eyes, but suddenly grandpa said, "Wait a minute! Don't you kids have a Thanksgiving break of a week or more? You could fly up and celebrate Thanksgiving with your dad in Alaska!" Karen and Justin jumped up and hugged² their grandpa. "That's a great idea! Can we go, mom, dad?" "You can go if you call us *every day*," said Mrs. Parker.

2. Hug :





The Text and *beyond*

Comprehension check

1 **KEY** Choose the correct answer a, b, or c. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Karen Parker was
- a ☐ a vet at the Phoenix Animal Shelter.
 - b ☒ a volunteer at the Phoenix Animal Shelter.
 - c ☐ a basketball player on the high school team.
- 1 Justin wanted to become
- a ☐ a high school teacher.
 - b ☐ a petroleum engineer.
 - c ☐ a journalist.
- 2 Karen wanted to celebrate Thanksgiving
- a ☐ in the garden.
 - b ☐ with her friend Michelle.
 - c ☐ at the shopping center.
- 3 George Parker had to go to Alaska
- a ☐ to celebrate Thanksgiving with his colleague Jim Nakodi.
 - b ☐ to visit his grandpa.
 - c ☐ because an earthquake damaged the pipeline.
- 4 George Parker decided to go to Alaska
- a ☐ by car.
 - b ☐ by plane.
 - c ☐ by train.
- 5 Karen and Justin have to
- a ☐ call their mom and grandpa every day.
 - b ☐ dress warmly.
 - c ☐ go shopping with Michelle.

Odd one out!

2 Choose the word that doesn't belong.

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | basketball | football | volleyball | club |
| 2 | sister | colleague | brother | grandpa |
| 3 | city | town | state | village |
| 4 | Alaska | Arizona | Florida | America |
| 5 | meal | dinner | lunch | breakfast |
| 6 | vet | friend | journalist | engineer |

3 Fill in the gaps with the odd words from exercise 2.

- Karen and Justin lived in
- The Parker family ate their in the kitchen.
- Michelle was Karen's
- The city of Phoenix is in the of Arizona.
- Justin belonged to the Journalism at school.
- Jim Nakodi was George's

4 Now find the odd words in the Word Square.

X	T	S	D	O	T	H	K	L	N	I	O	B	S
A	N	C	M	F	R	I	E	N	D	E	U	O	B
M	O	A	O	A	E	X	R	W	M	L	K	P	A
E	B	D	N	L	U	T	S	O	C	T	H	F	D
R	G	F	P	M	L	N	V	S	A	L	S	M	V
I	S	B	R	A	X	E	W	D	Y	M	I	N	P
C	V	G	S	C	Y	I	A	O	E	I	E	X	K
A	W	E	V	D	O	L	E	G	D	V	T	A	H
B	I	H	R	F	K	C	A	O	U	P	S	Z	L
U	S	T	A	T	E	L	S	V	C	E	G	B	Z
E	A	I	I	K	M	R	T	A	B	U	B	D	O

T: GRADE 3

Speaking: jobs

5 George Parker is a petroleum engineer. Talk to your partner about the job you want to do. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What kind of job do you want to do?
- 2 What do you like about this job?
- 3 Where can you do this job?
- 4 How can you prepare for it?
- 5 Is it a difficult, easy or dangerous job?

Writing

6 You are Justin and you keep a diary. Complete it with the words in the box.

spill celebrate engineer idea phone call clothes
emergency upset earthquake fly immediately

Today dad received a (0) from Alaska. There was a big (1) up there and now there's an (2)! There could be an oil (3) on the Alaska pipeline. Dad has to go to Alaska (4) because he's a petroleum (5) He can solve the problem.

Karen and I are (6) because dad won't be here to (7) Thanksgiving Day. However, grandpa had a great (8) He said that we could (9) to Alaska during the Thanksgiving break. That's exciting! Karen and I will have to buy some warm winter (10) before the trip. And Karen loves shopping!

Before you read

Vocabulary

1 Match the picture with the correct word.

1 barking

3 leak

5 sled

2 parka

4 musher

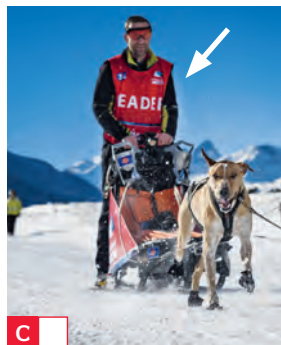
6 Inuit



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐



E ☐



F ☐