

Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica

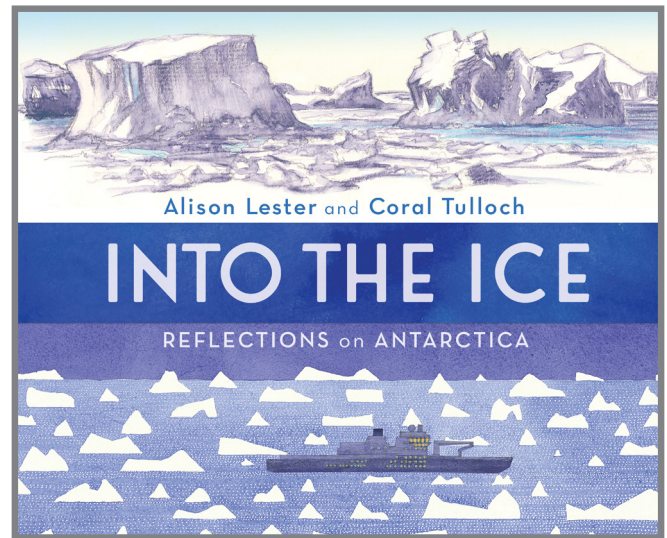
AUTHOR
ALISON LESTER

ILLUSTRATOR
CORAL TULLOCH

SCIS: 5510997

ISBN: 9781760526061

RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Go on an extraordinary journey with Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch, two of Australia's most celebrated creators, as they share their reflections on Antarctica: sketches, writing, paintings, journal entries, their own and others'. This is a book for explorers and dreamers of all ages, and for anyone who wants to be inspired by the wonder of Antarctica.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alison Lester grew up on a farm by the sea, and first rode a horse as a baby in her father's arms. Her picture books mix imaginary worlds with everyday life, encouraging children to believe in themselves and celebrate the differences that make them special. Alison is involved in many community art projects and spends part of every year travelling to remote Indigenous communities, using her books to help children and adults write and draw about their own lives.

In 2012, Alison became Australia's first Children's Book Laureate, a position she shared with Boori Monty Pryor. In 2016, she was awarded the Dromkeen Medal for her outstanding achievement in the creation of Australian children's and young adult literature, and in 2018, she became the first children's book creator to win the Melbourne Prize for Literature, for her outstanding contribution to Australian literature and cultural and intellectual life. In 2019, Alison was awarded an Australia Post Legends Award and featured on a stamp, as well as being the recipient of a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Coral Tulloch has illustrated over sixty fiction and non-fiction books for children in Australia and internationally, including *Touch the Moon* (written by Phil Cummings; published by Allen & Unwin), about the moon landing. Her books include *Antarctica: The Heart of the World* and *One Small Island*, which she created with Alison Lester. She has won the 2012 CBCA Book of the Year Award, as well as multiple Environment Awards for Children's Literature. Coral lives in Tasmania.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Where is Antarctica located? Can students find it on a map of the world?
- What animals would you expect to see in Antarctica?
- Is Antarctica a continent or country?
- Who controls Antarctica?

WHILE READING

- Use the following questions to research about Antarctica:
 - How do animals, like penguins and seals, survive in the freezing temperatures of Antarctica?
 - Why is Antarctica called a desert even though it's covered in ice and snow?
 - What are some ways scientists study Antarctica and its unique environment?
 - How is Australia connected to Antarctica, and why is this continent important for Australia?

Literary Devices

- Several devices are used in this work of creative non-fiction to bring the descriptions to vivid life; for example:
 - Metaphor: 'It is a limitless white – a cloak of light' (p 9), '...the ship is – a tiny dot of civilisation in a vast pool of water' (p 14).
 - Simile: '[they] make exquisite noises like an electronic orchestra' (p 33), 'It was as if somebody had flung a handful of golden confetti into the blue sky.' (p 34)
 - Personification: 'It was here, they said, that great clouds of mist were born from this confused meeting, forming a barrier to the south – sometimes benevolent, but also judgemental...'; (p 16) 'An aurora stretched across the sky, shimmering and dancing...' (p 57).

Discuss the effect that such language has on the reader, making them imagine in the fullest sense the immensity of the landscape.

- Invite students to describe an image in this book using language like this.
- Write a review of this book with reference to other works that deal with this place or region, and in terms of its success in utilising style to convey content.
- Write an acrostic poem using the letters in ANTARCTICA to describe your impressions of this remote place.

Visual Devices

- Examine the parts of the book and how the book and its layout are designed. Some images are on a single page but much of the book features single images running across a double page. Formats vary widely, too, from photographs, sketches, paintings and even a page featuring a timeline. This variety makes the story come alive for the reader. Which particular spread do you find most visually interesting, and why?

Science

- Create your own field journal by following these instructions:
 - Make sure you title each page and leave space for the date, location, weather, and observations on every page.
 - Divide your journal into sections: Some sections could be for sketches, others for written observations, or questions.
 - Observe! Look closely at what you see, hear and smell. Use your senses to describe your surroundings. Use prompts like: What do I see? What colours or shapes stand out? How does it feel?
 - Draw and sketch what you are observing but remember, the sketches don't need to be perfect as it's more important to notice details.

Sustainability

- How is climate change affecting the Antarctic? What impact does it have on emperor penguins and how might they become extinct as a result?
- Debate the following topic: Should humans be allowed to visit Antarctica for research and tourism, or should we ban visits to protect the environment and wildlife?

AUTHOR OF NOTES
CAROLYN WALSH