

# HACKMATAK

## 2006

### ***Pomiuk: Prince of the North***

by Alice Walsh

*Pomiuk: Prince of the North*, tells the story of a young Labrador Inuit boy who travels to the Chicago World fair in 1993. Given the name 'Prince of the North' by promoters, he is part of the Eskimo Village, one of dozens of 'living cultures' showcased at the fair. How he got there—amid all the wonders of the world like Egyptian belly dancing, Columbian Ferris Wheel, the newly invented telephone and electricity and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show—and what happens when he injures his leg, are all part of this amazing tale based on a real-life boy.

#### **Thematic links:**

Clash of cultures  
The importance of storytelling  
Inventions  
Natural resources  
Survival  
World fairs  
Indigenous peoples

#### **Activity Ideas:**

- In the past, whale oil was important worldwide. Discuss other discoveries and inventions that were important but are less so today. Why has this happened?
- Imagine you have just returned from the Chicago World fair. Write or tell about your adventures.
- Imagine you are invited to dinner with Pomiuk and his family. Write about what you ate, wore and the different customs of his culture.
- What aspects of the white man's culture did the Inuit people adopt in the story? Which were positive? Which negative?
- Discuss experiences when you have met someone different than you are or when you have been part of a minority. How did it make you feel?

