

## THE EXPLORER'S DAUGHTER KARI HERBERT

### SUBJECT VOCABULARY

memoir a form of autobiography

### GENERAL VOCABULARY

**narwhal** a species of whale, famous for the long single tusk on its head

**kayak** a type of canoe

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Kari Herbert's father was a polar explorer. She lived as a child with her family in northwest Greenland in the Arctic. She was so fascinated by the place that she returned there later as an adult to write about it.

The book from which this extract is taken is partly a **memoir** and partly a travel book, giving the reader information about this strange and beautiful place, its people and its animals. She found that the way of life of the Inughuit people of Greenland was changing due to the impact of the modern world. However they still retained aspects of their traditional way of life, such as hunting for food and driving teams of dogs.

A major part of the extract is an account of a hunt for **narwhal**. Hunting is a very emotive issue and many conservationists argue that whales should be protected. Kari Herbert's feelings on this topic are divided. She sympathises with both the narwhal and the hunters, who face incredible danger. They hunt in **kayaks** in water so cold that they would die quickly if their kayak overturned.



▲ The Inughuit of the Arctic understand the intelligence of the narwhal.

### BEFORE YOU START READING

1 Do some research.

- ▶ Find some information about Kari Herbert. You can visit her website.
- ▶ Find out as much as you can about the Inughuit people (sometimes spelt Inuit and formerly known as Eskimo) and their way of life.
- ▶ Find pictures of narwhal and information about them.