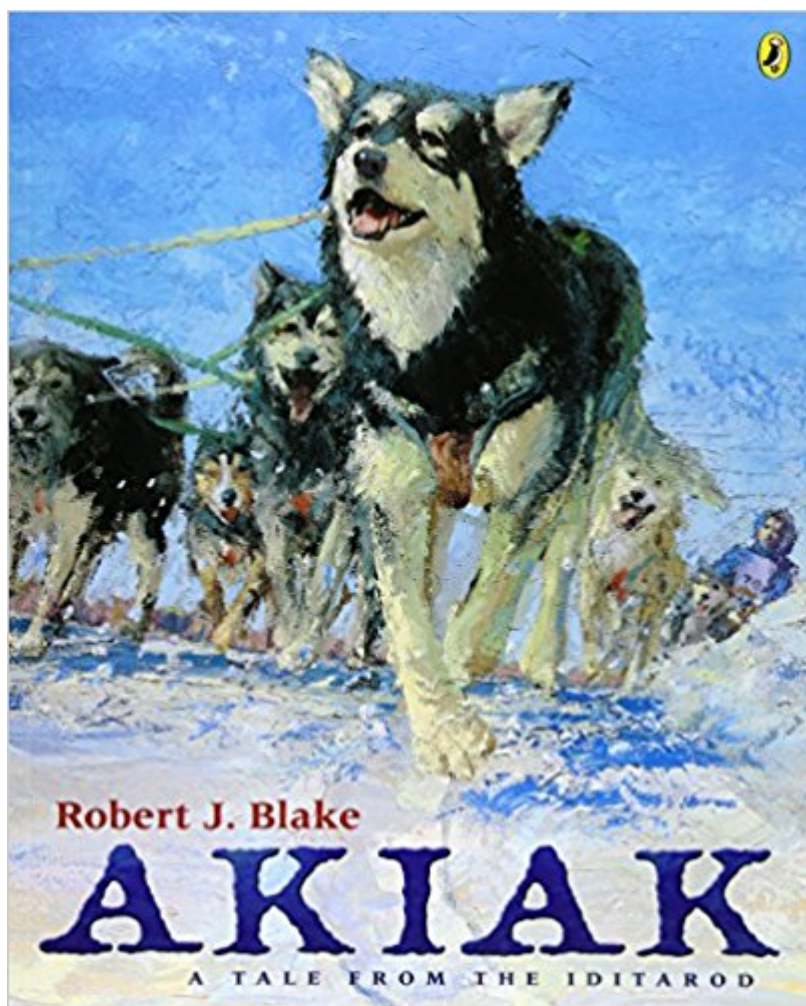


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# Akiak: A Tale From The Iditarod



## Synopsis

When she hurts her paw on the fourth day of the race, Akiak can no longer compete in the Iditarod—the famed dogsledding race through 1,151 miles of Alaskan terrain. Her musher has no choice but to leave her behind. The rules say once a dog is dropped from the race, it may not rejoin the team. But ten-year-old lead dog Akiak doesn't know the rules, and nothing will stop her from catching up to her team. Akiak has never won the race before. Will she be able to help her team win this time?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0590 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 21, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142401854

ISBN-13: 978-0142401859

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #105,887 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports](#) #666 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#) #3731 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3. Left behind because of an injury, a lead husky sets out on her own to find her team and win the race. An action-packed tale of daring, determination, and dedication. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Jack London's *Call of the Wild* to Gary Paulsen's many tales, the relationship between humans and dogs as they face the harsh northern climes has captivated readers. Recapitulating that theme is Blake's story of the 1,151-mile Iditarod from Anchorage to Nome; Mick's lead dog is Akiak, who pounds through wind and across snow, never getting lost. Then, on Day Four, ice jams

up one of Akiak's pawpads and she is taken out of the race and almost flown home. She twists free of her handler before the plane takes off, pushes through blizzards and past checkpoints, sticking to the trail and eventually meeting up with Mick; according to the rules, Akiak cannot be harnessed up again but she does prevent her mistress from taking the wrong trail before climbing aboard the sled for the ride to a first-place finish. Blake's naturalistic icy blue paintings chronicle Akiak's independent race across lone landscapes, burrowing in snowdrifts for shelter and escaping well-meaning trail volunteers. The rugged style translates well from the ocean setting of *Spray* (1996) to the untamed Alaskan terrain; the textured slathers of oil paint in repeated cold tones are perfect for icy plains, tracks in the snow, and rooftop icicles. Akiak's efforts may not constitute life-and-death drama, but young readers will cheer the heroic dog on in this satisfying outdoor adventure. (Picture book. 5-10)

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My two year old twins are really into sled dogs so this was a good story for them. They sit through the length of text on the page without a problem. The pictures are nice but a little repetitive so they start to get bored with the pictures by the end. That is the only reason I took off one star.

A beautiful malamute named Akiak is featured in this book about Alaskan sled dog runs. The story of the old malamute who literally ran herself into the snow, when she reached a point where she could not "run on that paw," Akiak is taken to a dog drop off place. The malamute's indomitable spirit shows through. Instead of waiting for the little puddle jumper plane to fly her out of the area, the curly tailed dog escapes and rejoins her team, even though the team has a lead of several hours on her. The spirited malamute brings to mind MacFadden & Whitehead's 1979 classic, "Ain't No Stopping Us Now." There ain't no stopping Akiak now - she won't give up! Readers not only race with the mushers, they run with the malamute who would not give up. Her travels and travails become those of the readers; her success will leave readers cheering with delight. The drawings in this book are masterpiece paintings and readers will come away with a good understanding of dog racing and the rules and history of this sport. A trail map has been included along with some final notes about the sport of dog racing. A masterpiece of a book!

Wonderful illustrations and a realistic story that give the feel of the Iditarod race and capture the nature of its canine competitors. The paintings of Mick, the woman musher, look like Libby Riddles, the first woman to win the Iditarod. Although the book is fiction, the story is very plausible and

exciting. I read this to a class of kindergarteners and it held their interest. Read the Author's Note at the end for some interesting info about the rules of the Iditarod.

Prior to reading *Akiak*, I knew next to nothing about the Alaskan Iditarod. The book is such a thrilling tale that afterwards, my children and I were very motivated to learn more and we followed the 2011 race back in 2011. You will root for this incredible dog in her journey to catch up with her team. Her perseverance is impressive and incredibly moving. Donna[...]

Perfect as a part of my classroom reading program.

I love this book! It is such a touching story about never giving up!

Child enjoyed the book

Great story! My students loved it!

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*Akiak* : A Tale from the Iditarod by Robert J. Blake (1997-09-22) *Akiak: A Tale From the Iditarod*  
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