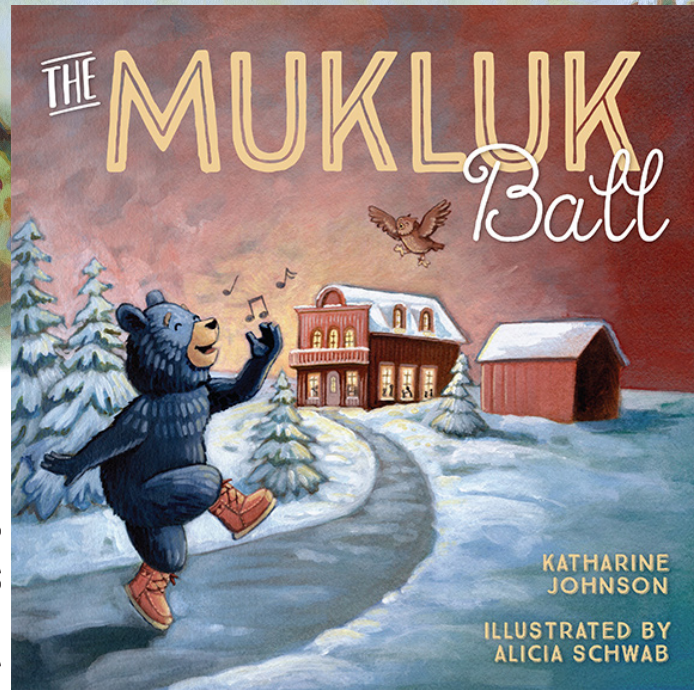


# Activity Guide



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All night he twirled  
and whirled,  
twizzled and spun.

**W**ith help from his friends, Karhu buys a pair of fancy mukluk boots and dances his way to Finn Town’s liveliest winter event, the Mukluk Ball, featuring the tango, the conga, and even the Bear Hug Twist.

“...By dint of blueberry (and bear hug) sales and an owl alarm clock, his careful plan culminates with his becoming the belle of the ball: “‘Conga time!’ Everyone lined up behind Karhu. They all shimmied and shook.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Karhu (which translates to “bear” in Finnish) is an anthropomorphic black bear who lives near Finn Town, in a setting that evokes northern Minnesota albeit in an alternate reality in which animals and humans interact as peers.”—*Kirkus*

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# Karhu's Seasons

In the story *The Mukluk Ball*, Karhu is a busy bear! In **summer**, Karhu picks berries to sell. In **autumn**, Karhu practices dancing with his friends. In **winter**, Karhu attends the dance and then sleeps. What do you predict Karhu will do in **spring**?

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**Directions:** Draw Karhu's activities during each of the seasons.

Summer

Autumn

Spring

Winter



# Calendar Extensions

1. Sing the *calendar song*, pointing to each month as you sing. Note: If you don't have your own months song, ask an adult to sing with you to the tune "Are You Sleeping?" Repeat "March, April, May" to help it fit the tune:



**"January. February.  
March, April, May. March, April, May.  
June, July, and August.  
September, October.  
November. December."**



2. Practice the concept of before/after, using a calendar visual. What month comes after June? \_\_\_\_\_ What month comes before September? \_\_\_\_\_

What month comes right after your birthday month? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Reread this sentence from *The Mukluk Ball*:

**"Karhu tore  
November from  
the calendar."**

If November is torn away from the calendar, what month is now showing on the calendar?

Use the illustration to the right to check your work.



# Calendar Extensions

4. Uh oh! Karhu dropped his calendar, and some pages fell out. Draw a line from the missing months to the empty space on the calendar on the left. Encourage students to check their work by singing the calendar song.



January	December
February	September
	October
April	July
	March
June	May
August	
November	

A dashed blue arrow points from the empty space between the October and July month boxes on the right to the empty space between the February and April month boxes on the left.

# Math Extensions

Look carefully at Karhu's poster for selling blueberries and real bear hugs. Use the information to answer the questions.



1. Blueberries cost \$2. A hug-with-your-berries costs \$5. How much more did people pay to get a hug with their berries? \_\_\_\_\_ Draw a picture to show how you found the answer.

2. Millie bought a hug-with-berries for \$5. She liked Karhu's hugs so much, she came back three more times. How many hugs did Millie get in total? \_\_\_\_\_ Draw a picture to show how you found the answer.

3. How much money did Millie spend on hugs? \_\_\_\_\_ Draw a picture to show how you found the answer.







# Plan a Dance Party!



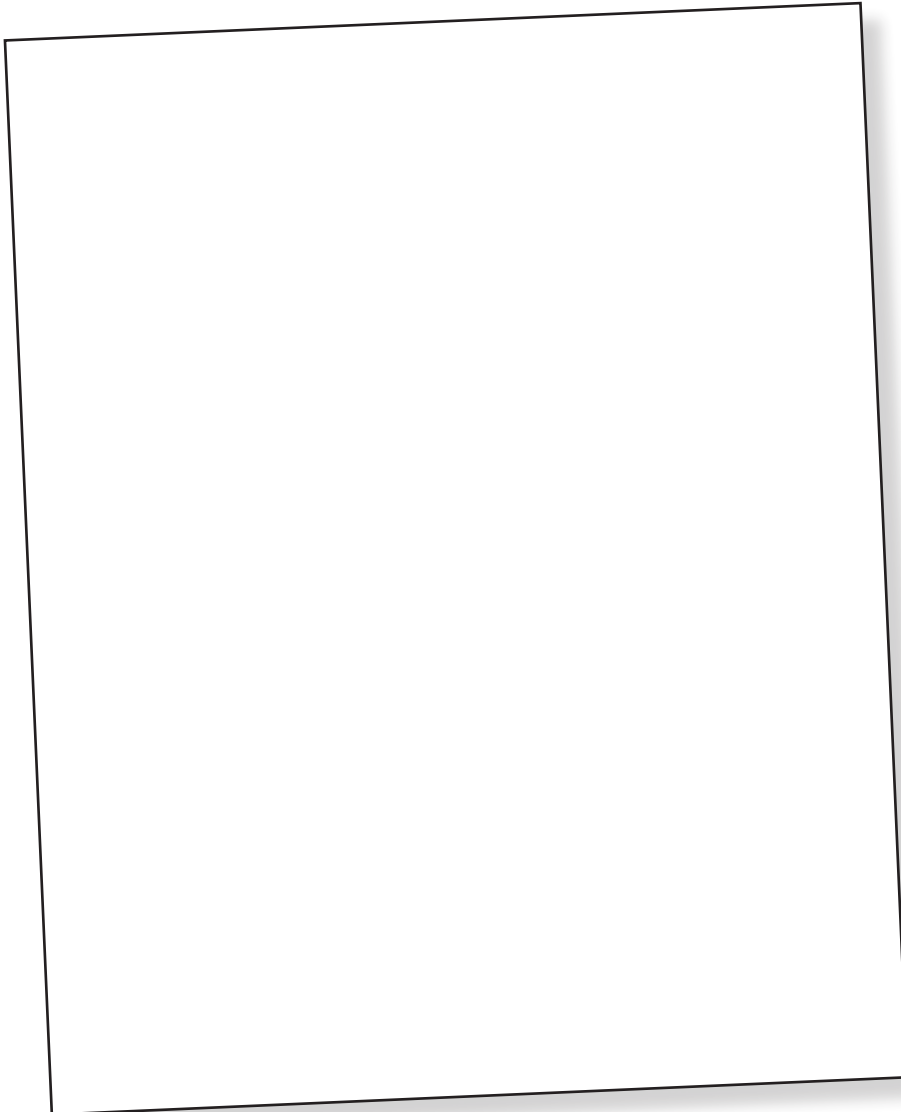
In the story *The Mukluk Ball*, special boots called mukluks are important to the community. Karhu even attends a dance where everybody wears mukluks. The theme of the dance is mukluks.

Imagine YOU are in charge of planning a dance party for your whole community!  
What is important to YOUR community?

What special theme would you choose for your dance? \_\_\_\_\_

Where would the dance be held? \_\_\_\_\_

When would the dance take place? \_\_\_\_\_



**Directions:** Create a poster inviting your whole community to your dance. Remember to include all the important information people need to know.



# Story Setting

The setting of a story shows **when** and **where** a story takes place.

Look at the last page of the story *The Mukluk Ball*. It shows Karhu sleeping inside his den as his friends ride away outside. We see **where** (inside and outside) and **when** (winter) the story takes place.

Read the words at the bottom of the page. Do they describe the **setting inside** Karhu's den, or the **setting outside** Karhu's den?

**Directions:** Cut and glue each word inside or outside his den.



icy	warm	snowy	cold	still
frigid	windy	starlit	cozy	fresh
calm	sheltered	snug	comfortable	toasty