The Land of the Midnight Sun

Story by Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Scott Mattern
**Green Words and *Challenge Words:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drawing (1)</th>
<th>*City (1)</th>
<th>*Lives (1)</th>
<th>Winter (3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drawn (1)</td>
<td>*Capital (1)</td>
<td>*Office (2)</td>
<td>Saw (4)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>*Grandma (5)</th>
<th>Shawl (6)</th>
<th>Crawled (7)</th>
<th>Awful (8)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawn (5)</td>
<td>*Reindeer (7)</td>
<td>Straw (7)</td>
<td>Sounds (8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Coldest (6)</td>
<td>Fawn (7)</td>
<td>Raw (8)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Summer (10)</th>
<th>Shining (11)</th>
<th>Shared (12)</th>
<th>*Opened (12)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midnight (11)</td>
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**Red Words to practice every day:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old (1)</th>
<th>Warm (6)</th>
<th>Some (8)</th>
<th>Does (10)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Work (2)</td>
<td>Even (6)</td>
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Challenge Words are starred (*). Explain how underlined words are used in the story.
Erik Nilsson lives with his mom and dad in Stockholm. Stockholm is the capital of Sweden. It is a big city. Parts are old and parts are new. Erik has drawn a map of Stockholm. Here is his drawing.

Where does Erik live? [Erik lives in Stockholm, Sweden.]
Is Stockholm a small city? [No, it is a big city.]
What is Erik holding? [Erik is holding a map that he drew of the city.]
Here is a drawing of Erik’s home. It is in the old part of the city. His mom and dad work in the new part. Each day, they drive to their office.

Point to Erik’s house. Is it in the old part of the city or the new part? [Erik’s house is in the old part.]
Where do his mom and dad work? [Erik’s mom and dad work in the new part.]
How do his mom and dad go to work every day? [They drive to work.]
Sweden has lots of lakes. In the winter, Erik goes skating on the lake. Here is Erik’s drawing of the lake with ice on it.

What can Erik do on the lake in the winter? [He can go skating.]
In the winter, even the sea has ice on it. Once, Erik saw a big ship stuck in the ice. Here is his drawing. When the ice melted, he saw the big ship leave.

Here is Erik’s drawing of the sea. What is in the sea? [Ice is in the sea.]
What happened to the ship in this picture? [It got stuck in the ice.]
When did the ship leave? [The ship left when the ice melted.]
In May, Erik’s mom and dad took him to visit his grandma and granddad. They live a long way from Stockholm. Their home is in the Arctic. It has a big lawn, and it is near a lake.

Where did Erik go? [Erik went to visit his grandma and granddad.]
Where do his grandma and granddad live? [His grandma and granddad live in the Arctic.]
What is near their home? [A lake is near their home.]
The Arctic is the coldest place in Sweden. It is even cold in May. Erik’s grandma made him a shawl. It kept him warm when they had a picnic on the lawn.

Is the Arctic a warm place or a cold place? [The Arctic is a cold place.]
What did Erik wear when they were having a picnic? [Erik wore a shawl.]
Point to the shawl.
One day, Erik ran to his grandma. He said, “A baby reindeer is on the lawn!”

“A baby reindeer is a fawn,” said his grandma. “Let’s go see it.”

The fawn had lost its mom. Erik’s grandma made a straw bed for the fawn so it stayed warm. The fawn crawled onto the straw to wait for its mom.

What did Erik find? [a baby reindeer] What do you call a baby reindeer? [a fawn]
Why did Erik’s grandma make a straw bed for the fawn? [It could stay warm while it waited for its mom to come back.]

△ Make a Prediction: What else will Erik see and do in the Arctic?
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
One day, Erik’s granddad took him to the lake near his home. Erik likes to eat the fish they catch in the lake.

Granddad said, “We eat lots of fish. We even eat some raw!”

Erik made a face. He said, “Raw fish! That sounds awful. No raw fish for me!”

What did Erik do on the lake? [He went fishing.]
What is raw fish? [Raw fish is fish that is not cooked.]
Erik said, “That ‘sounds’ awful.” What does “sounds” mean here? (T-P-S) [seems]
The Arctic has lots and lots of trees. Erik’s granddad cuts trees and ships them to Stockholm. Here is a drawing Erik made of his granddad cutting a big pine tree.

What is Erik’s granddad doing in this picture? [He is cutting a pine tree.]
All day and all night in the summer, the Arctic sun shines. This is why it is called the Land of the Midnight Sun. But in the winter, it is night all the time. The sun does not rise at dawn!

How is summer different in the Arctic? [The sun shines all day and all night.]
How is the winter different? [The sun does not come up. It is dark all the time.]
Erik said, “I like to see the sun at midnight in the summer. I like staying up all the time!”
But Erik needed to sleep. He crawled into bed and slept while the sun was shining at night.

Could Erik stay up all the time?  [no]
Why not?  (T-P-S)
In the fall, it was time to go back to Stockholm. School opened. Erik was glad to see his pals at school. He shared his drawings of the Land of the Midnight Sun with his class.

What did Erik bring with him to school? [He brought his drawings of the Arctic, or the drawings of the Land of the Midnight Sun.]
Model: **Name one thing that Erik does in Stockholm.**

[Erik goes skating on the lake in the winter. / Erik sees ships stuck in the ice on the sea. / Erik can see a ship leave when the ice melts.]

Model: Write the answer on the blank line.

- Erik has **[drawn]** his home.
- In **[winter]**, Erik goes ice skating.
- Big ships get stuck in the ice on the **[sea]**.

1. **How do you know that Stockholm is cold in the winter?**
   [The sea freezes. / Ships can get stuck in the ice. / The lake freezes, and Erik can skate on the lake.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

   - Erik’s mom and dad drive to their **[office]**.
   - Stockholm is a **[city]**.
   - Erik made **[drawings]** of ships.

Model: **What did Erik do with Grandma and Granddad in the Arctic?**

[Erik and Grandma had a picnic on the lawn. / They saw a fawn. / Grandma made a straw bed to keep it warm. / Erik went fishing with Granddad.]

1. **Think about all the things Erik did. Which would you like to do?**
   [I would like to... / I would not like to...]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

   - Erik saw a **[fawn]**.
   - Grandma made a **[straw]** bed for it.
   - Erik wore a **[shawl]** to keep warm.

Model: **Would you like to live in the Arctic? Tell why or why not.**

[I would like to live in the Arctic because... / I would not like to live in the Arctic because...]

1. **Why is the Arctic called the Land of the Midnight Sun?**
   [The sun shines at midnight in the summer.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

   - In the Arctic, the sun was **[shining]** at night.
   - Erik **[crawled]** into bed.
   - Erik **[shared]** his drawings with his pals.
Reading Roots, Level 4

The Land of The Midnight Sun

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