

White Wolf

original text by Stephen Whitt

adapted by Jessica Fries-Gaither

You are running across the **tundra**, chasing a white rabbit called an arctic **hare**. An icy wind blows, but you aren't cold. For you, this is a beautiful summer day. You are an arctic wolf.

You were born two summers ago in a **litter** of four. Your mother, father, and older brothers and sisters took care of you, protected you, and played with you. They taught you how to hunt.

Now you are two years old. That means you are an adult. You chase your own food, play with your younger brothers and sisters, and sleep in the sunlight with your **packmates**.

Sometimes you follow the **pack** leaders on a group hunt. You might run as much as five miles without stopping to eat, rest, or drink.

Your pack might find a herd of musk oxen. You will hunt them even though they weigh 2,000 pounds and have dangerous curved horns and sharp hooves. You must find food for yourself and your pack.

Life as a wolf isn't easy. Hunting is dangerous. You go hungry if you cannot find food. In winter, you huddle with your packmates to stay warm and eat whatever you can find. You may live for only seven to ten years.

But now it is summer. You are chasing a hare through the bright sunshine, ready for your next meal.

Flesch-Kincaid RL = 3.3

Glossary

arctic hare – a rabbit that lives in the Arctic

litter – a group of baby animals born at the same time

pack – a group of the same kind of animal that lives and hunts together

packmates – animals in the same pack

tundra - a flat, treeless plain