



# SNOW ANGEL SAND ANGEL

WRITTEN BY LOIS-ANN YAMANAKA  
ILLUSTRATED BY ASHLEY LUKASHEVSKY

# SNOW ANGEL, SAND ANGEL

## ABOUT THE BOOK

**A celebration of home, family, and finding beauty in your heritage, gorgeously illustrated by the artist behind *Antiracist Baby*.**

Claire has been surrounded by the deep blue waves of Hāpuna Beach and the magnificent mountains of Hawai'i all her life, but has never, ever seen snow. When her father drives her and her family to the top of the Mauna Kea, she can't help but be disappointed . . . it's not the winter wonderland she's always dreamed of. And that's what she wants, more than anything.

But as Claire edges ever closer to the New Year, she wonders if maybe—just maybe—she can delight in the special joys of winter in her own way—right there, on her Big Island of Hawai'i.

Includes backmatter that captures the environmental culture of Hawai'i and will teach children about the local flora and fauna and the value of being environmentally friendly.

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Grades: Preschool-3



By Lois-Ann Yamanaka  
Illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Lois-Ann Yamanaka** was born and raised in Hawai'i, where this story takes place. The author of many acclaimed novels, including *Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers* and *Saturday Night at the Pahala Theatre*, and winner of a Pushcart

Prize, Lois-Ann initially followed in her parents' footsteps and became a teacher—when she realized, as she was teaching children to write poetry, that she could learn to write creatively, too. *Snow Angel, Sand Angel* is based on some of the longings for snow she experienced as a kid.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



**Ashley Lukashevsky** is an illustrator and visual artist who uses illustration and art as a tool to strengthen social movements against systemic racism and sexism. Before moving to illustration full-time, she was the

art director at KINDLAND and the social impact designer at LA2050, an initiative to create a positive shared future for all Angelenos. Learn more at [ashleylukashevsky.com](http://ashleylukashevsky.com) or follow her on Instagram at @ASHLUKADRAWWS.

Photo credit: Lynette Romero



@RHCBeducators

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does the title make you think of?  
What is the difference between a snow angel and a sand angel?
- What is your favorite season, and why?  
How do you enjoy the season?
- If you were giving a presentation about a season, what would you create to represent spring, summer, fall, and winter?
- Claire looks to her father to teach her about where they are from. Who is someone you rely on to teach you about your history? Why?
- Claire cannot wait to experience winter, but by the end of the story, her thoughts change about winter in Hawai'i. How?
- How does Claire's attitude about Hawai'i change? How do you think she feels while watching the sunset? Why?
- After learning about the island of Hawai'i from her parents, what information do you think Claire could include in her diorama? How would your diorama differ from Claire's?
- Timbo and Claire live in the same place. Why do you think their dioramas were so different?
- Claire learns to keep an open mind when learning about winter in Hawai'i. Discuss a time when you had to be open-minded when learning something new.
- Claire learns to appreciate where she lives. What is something you appreciate about where you live?
- Claire dreams of seeing snow. What do you dream of seeing? Where do you hope to see it?



# PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES



- Use the diagram below to properly sequence events from the story.

**FIRST**

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**THEN**

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**NEXT**

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**AFTERWARD**

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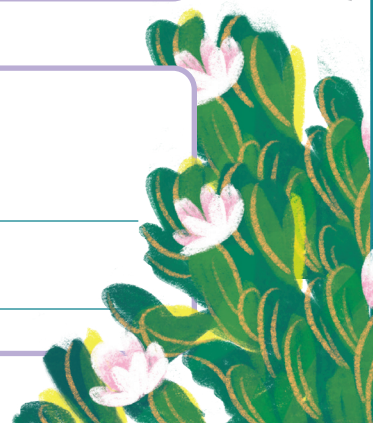
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**FINALLY**

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## PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Think about the winter you experience where you live and the winter Claire experiences in Hawai'i. Use this Venn diagram to map out similarities and differences. (If students are not familiar with Venn diagrams, they can make lists.)

**YOUR  
WINTER**

**CLAIRE'S  
WINTER**



## PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Mrs. Kurokawa asks her students to create a diorama about the seasons. This activity starts Claire on a journey to discover the many terrains in Hawai'i, from the sacred peak of Mauna Kea to the glimmering shores of Hāpuna. Have students create dioramas using shoe boxes. Dioramas should explore one of the many diverse terrains: canyons, deserts, forests, glaciers, hills, marshes, mountains, oases, oceans, rivers, swamps, tundras, and valleys. Use the questions below to help students get started.



Terrain: \_\_\_\_\_

What are the characteristics of this terrain?

\_\_\_\_\_

What plants and animals live there?

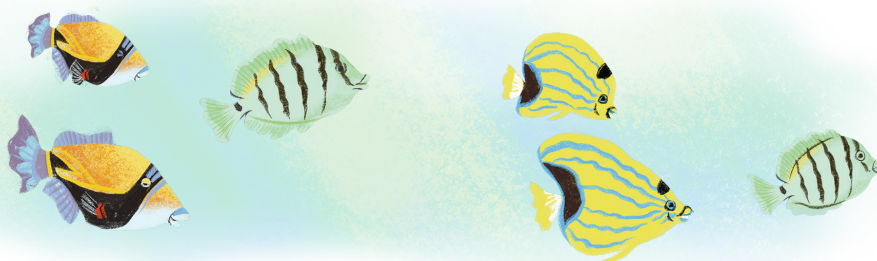
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What materials can I use to make my diorama?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES

- The story takes place in Hawai'i, which is a very special part of the world. Hawai'i is the home of the Native Hawaiian people, who have their own living language and culture; it is also the place where many plants and animals have evolved into unique species that are found nowhere else in the world. Today, Hawai'i is a place where many people and cultures come together. All of these are examples of why Hawai'i is special and diverse. Have students think about where they are from and what makes their home stand out. Is it the people, the cultures, the landscapes? Each place is unique and special. Use the questions below to encourage students to think about where they are from. Once complete, each student can create a tri-fold brochure about their home and culture. Students may share their completed projects with the class.



Where are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like about where you live?

\_\_\_\_\_

What cultures do you celebrate in your hometown?

\_\_\_\_\_

What makes your hometown special?

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you want others to know about where you are from?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the landscape like where you live? Are there pastures? Mountains? Oceans? Lakes?

\_\_\_\_\_



## PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES

- The story *Snow Angel, Sand Angel* encourages a close relationship with the land and with family. By spending quality time with her family and learning about the island of Hawai'i, Claire develops a greater appreciation for where she grew up. Ask students when they last interacted with the land (hiking, beach cleanup, picnic). Have students draw or write what they did. What did they enjoy the most about their experience? What was something new they experienced?
- Some animals and plants that Claire encounters, like the honu (Hawaiian green sea turtle) and the hinahina (endemic Hawaiian silversword), are endangered. Use this opportunity to teach about indigenous, endemic, endangered, and extinct species. Many people work hard to protect and keep flora and fauna alive. Ask students why they feel this is important.

What are some animals or plants they know of that need our protection? Encourage discussion about what we can do to help protect these remarkable species. Students can then create posters to promote protecting the species of the world.



## PRAISE FOR SNOW ANGEL, SAND ANGEL

★ **“Both Yamanaka and Lukashevsky were born and raised in Hawaii, and their affection for it shines in this beautiful homage to the Big Island. The narration includes Hawaiian names for places, fish, and plants, while the illustrations revel in their vigor and beauty. A wonderful recognition of land, culture, family, and heritage.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

**“Vivid, lively illustrations and descriptive text bring the natural beauty of the setting to life, including details about the plants, animals, and history of the area. An author’s note explains that the Big Island of Hawaii contains 10 of the world’s 14 climate zones, making this title a terrific tool for science connections, as well as a warm family story.”**

—*Booklist*



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