



**characters**



**kimik**



**inuk**



**panik**



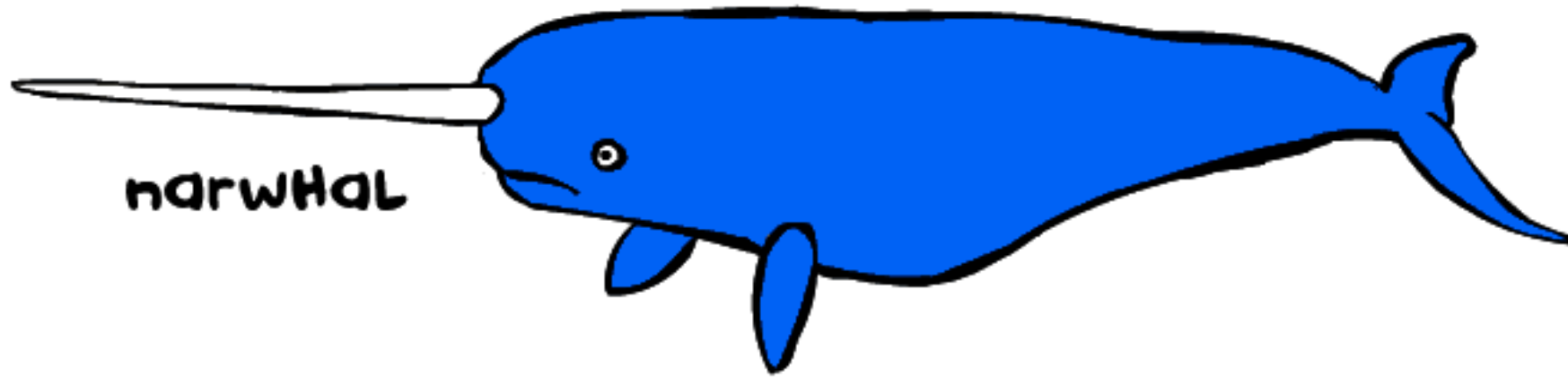
**ukpiik**



**tayara**



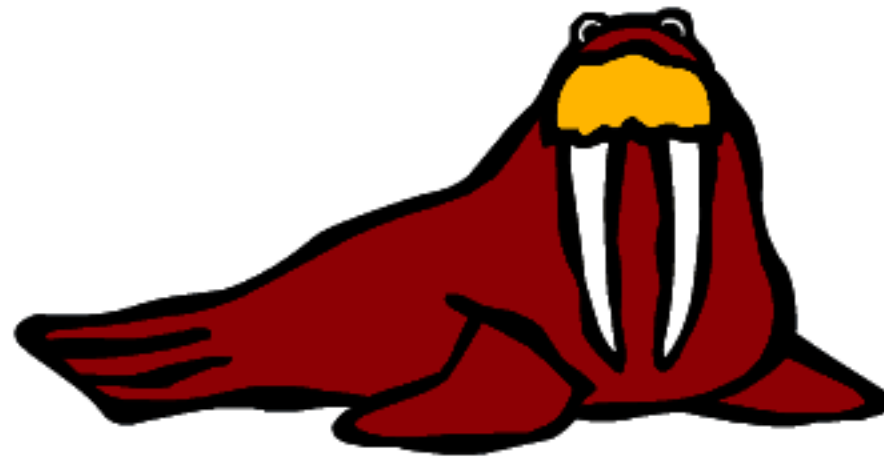
**orca**  
**(akina)**



**narwhal**



**ARCTIC WOLF**



**walrus**  
**(naartok)**



**Polar Bear**  
**(nanuk)**

# Inuk



Inuk is an eight-year-old Inuit boy with some extraordinary powers. Even though he loves playing with other kids his age, Inuk is truly unique. Not only can Inuk understand the language of all the different birds and animals in his Arctic homeland, Inuk is also in close touch with ancient Inuit spirits and is destined to become a Shaman. Together with his best friend Kimik, who just happens to be a sled dog, Inuk experiences a variety of adventures, each of which plays a special role in his education and moves him ever-closer to his destiny.

Although proud of his powers, Inuk doesn't flaunt them. He doesn't boast about his special capabilities, and the only people in his village who know about his powers are his mother Atana; his father Akanaki; and the Shaman Tayara, who knows Inuk's destiny best of all.

Inuk knows his powers are a great gift. He is absolutely delighted to be able to communicate with the ancient spirits and his animal friends. He dreams of one day becoming a great Shaman like Tayara, and never doubts that he already shares Tayara's knowledge.



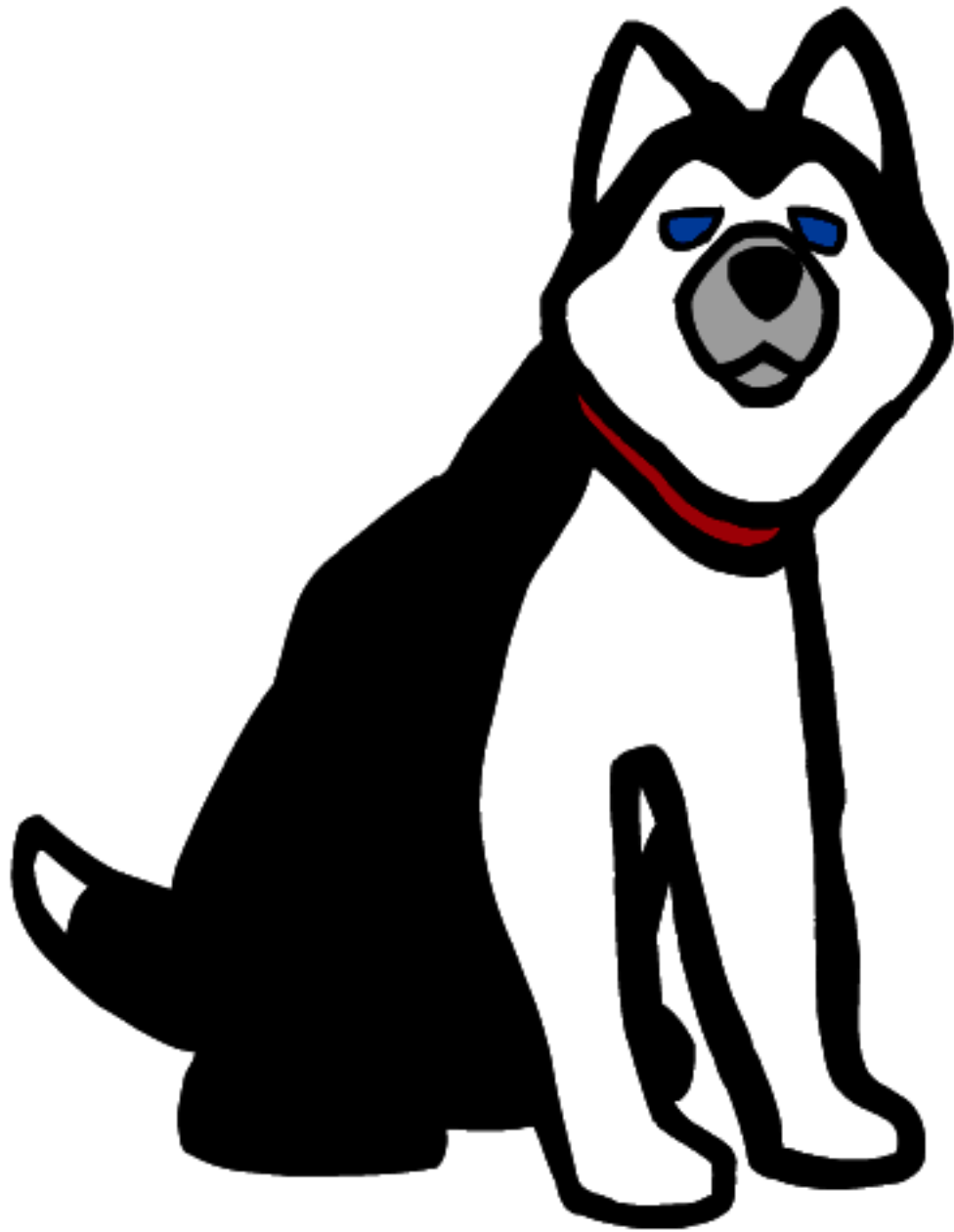
# Panik



Inuk's little sister Panik is about two years younger than her brother, but at least twice as energetic. Panik's boundless optimism sometimes gets her into trouble and her tendency to neglect her responsibilities and find herself in awkward situations. Panik is curious by nature, and is insatiably interested in discovering the way things work. Usually, however, she ends up sticking her nose in where it probably doesn't belong.

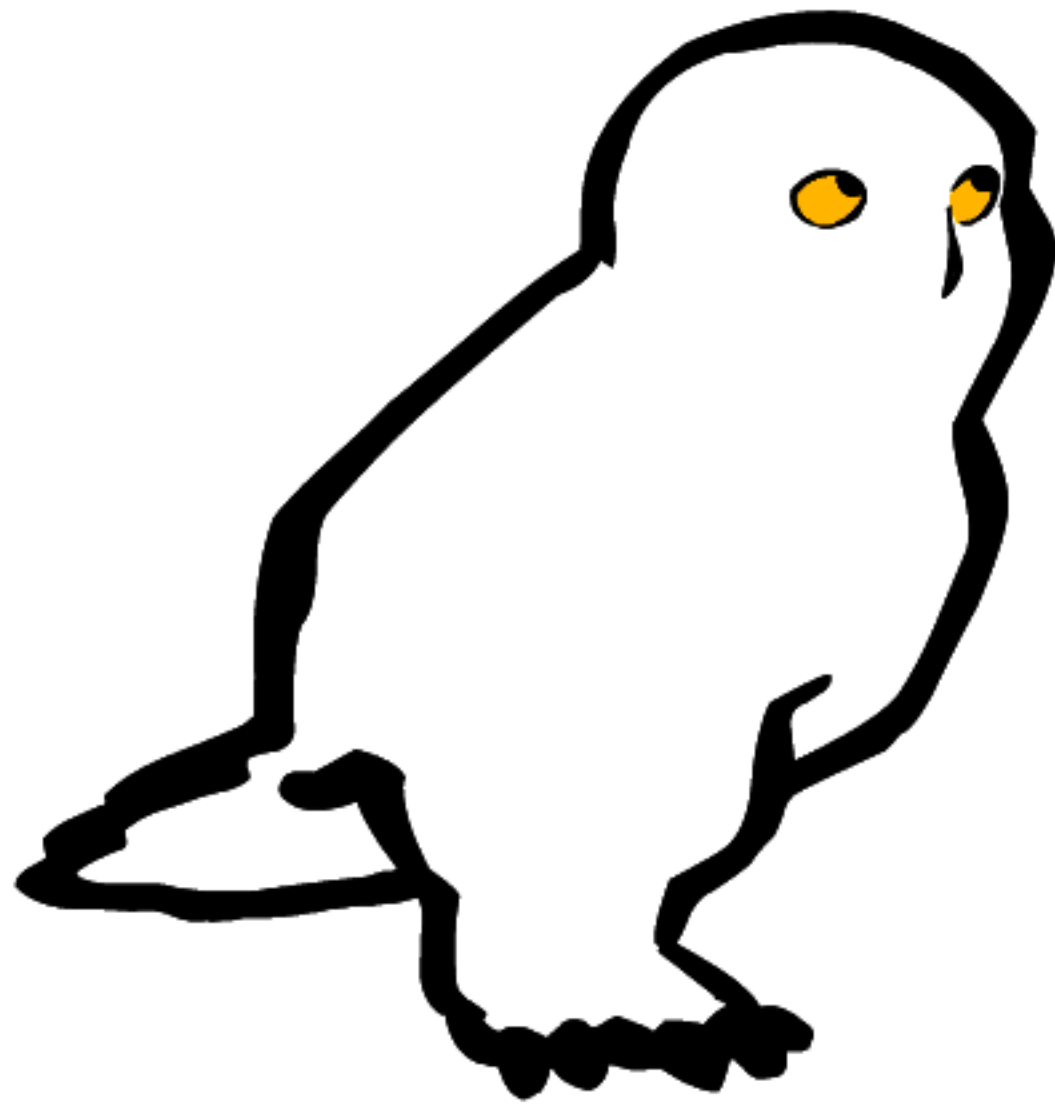
Unlike her older brother, Panik is not destined to be a Shaman. Panik is an artist. She paints, sculpts, makes music and tells stories, showing equally great talent in each.

# Kimik



Inuk's best friend Kimik is one of the village sled dogs. Close to Inuk from the time of young Shaman's birth, Kimik acts like an older brother. Speaking from greater experience, it is Kimik who cautions Inuk to take care of himself and provides useful help and advice. A born leader, Kimik has one major weakness: he hates it when others make fun of him. Even so, it would be nearly impossible to find a dog more devoted to his friends. Kimik will do anything and everything to help and protect Inuk in his journey through life.

Kimik is also a father! He and Akaya, his mate, have three cute puppies to call their own.



# UKPIK



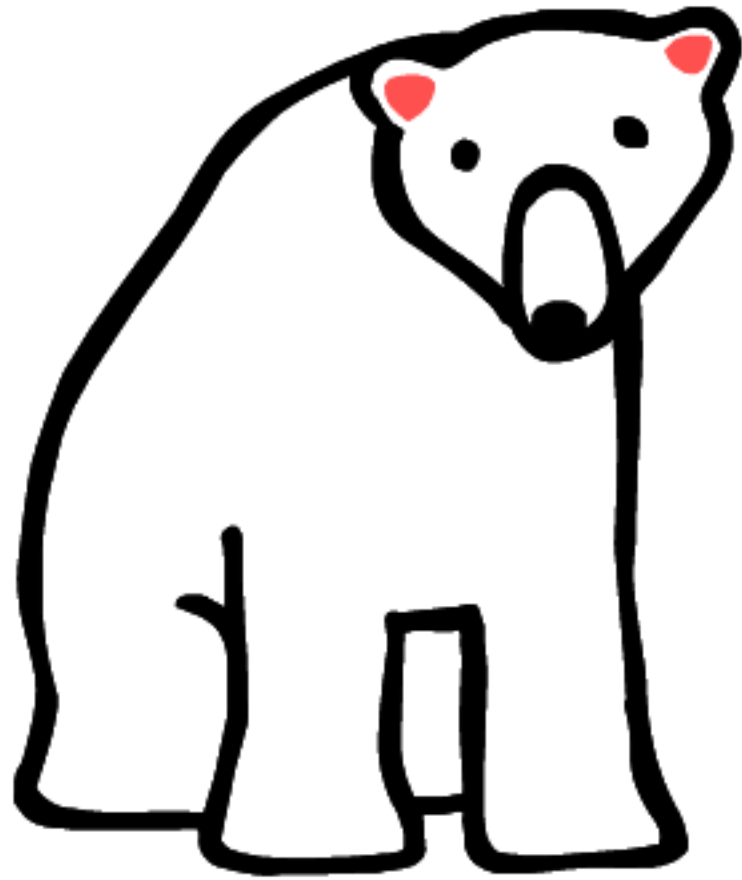
Ukpik is a snowy owl and helps serve the aging eyes and ears of Tayara, the Shaman. Ukpik is a little lazy and likes people to know how difficult his job is, but he really spends most of his time sleeping. He flies awkwardly, but won't admit it, always having an excuse for his bungled landings that, he insists, have nothing to do with lack of talent. For all his faults, however, Ukpik is always there to help Inuk and his friends. An improbable hero, Ukpik often finds a unique solution for each problem.

# Tayara



Tayara is the village Shaman and Inuk's self-appointed mentor. More than anyone else, Tayara knows the destiny in store for Inuk. Capable of communicating with the ancient spirits and with Ukpik, the snowy owl, Tayara is gifted with multiple powers, yet he knows that Inuk has much greater potential as a Shaman.

Tayara does not like people to waste his time, but he is also very gentle and has a good sense of humour. He loves to dance and tell stories. All the villagers love to hear his stories and legends told around the campfire.



## nanuk (Polar Bear)

The universal symbol of the Great North, the polar bear is the largest carnivore on the planet. The polar bear's vision and hearing are about the same as a human's, but its sense of smell is particularly acute. A polar bear can detect the air holes of seals beneath 90 cm of snow or ice! While the seal represents its main source of food, the polar bear is also happy with a meal of walrus, fish, birds and other small mammals.

In addition to being very warm, the polar bear's white fur provides excellent camouflage. Hunters say that the great bear hides its black nose and muzzle with a white paw when approaching its prey, making it invisible on the snow-covered tundra.

The polar bear is an excellent swimmer. Thanks to its enormous, oar-like paws, the polar bear swims incredibly quickly and keeps its eyes open when underwater.

*Polar Bear is **NANUQ** in Inuktitut.*

**Keywords:** polar bear, nanuq, white bear.

# naartok (walrus)

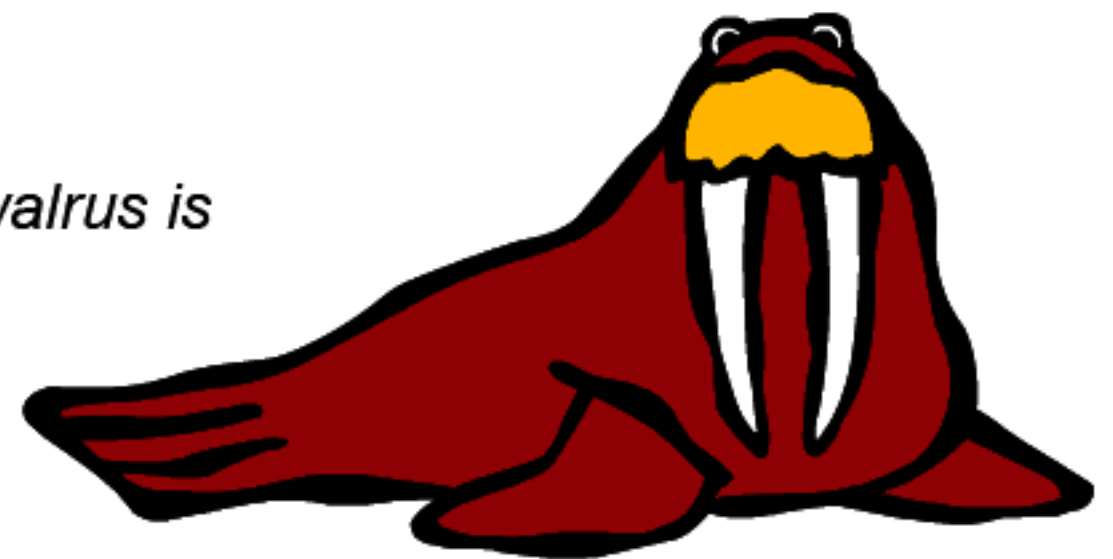
Scientists call the walrus by a funny name: “sea horse with walking teeth.” Scientists used to think that those big teeth were used to scrape the sea bottom in search of food, but that’s not true. Other than using his big tusks to defend himself, the walrus uses them as hooks to hoist himself up on to ice floes.

The walrus has very bad vision. To find food, it uses its long, mustache-like whiskers covering its lips. Like a cat’s whiskers, the walrus’ mustache is extremely sensitive and helps it find clams, sea worms and other sea crustaceans.

The walrus is an excellent swimmer, but its tremendous bulk makes it awkward on dry land, and it moves very slowly. Walruses tend to stay in groups.

*Walrus is **AIVIQ** in Inuktitut. In the series Inuk, the head walrus is NAARTOK, which means fat in Inuktitut.*

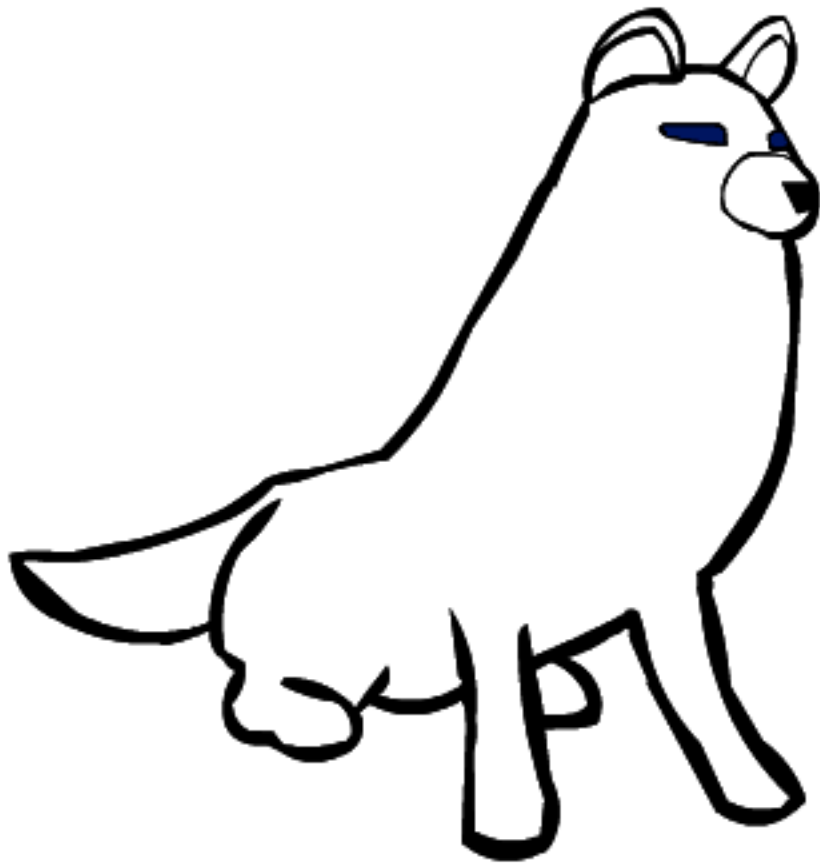
**Keywords:** walrus, *odobenus rosmarus*, aivik.



# amaroq (arctic wolf)

The arctic wolf is a social animal. It lives in a family group of an adult male and female and three to six cubs. A solid bond unites the members of the pack, and they will ferociously defend their territory.

The wolves rely primarily on the many hoofed animals in the Arctic for their food: moose, caribou, bison and muskoxen are their favourites. The arctic wolf relies on its white coat for survival: when the wolf moves rapidly against the snow white landscape, it is very difficult to see and that makes the arctic wolf a fantastic hunter.



*Wolf is **AMAROQ** in Inuktitut.*

**Keywords:** *arctic wolf, amarok, amagok, amaguk.*

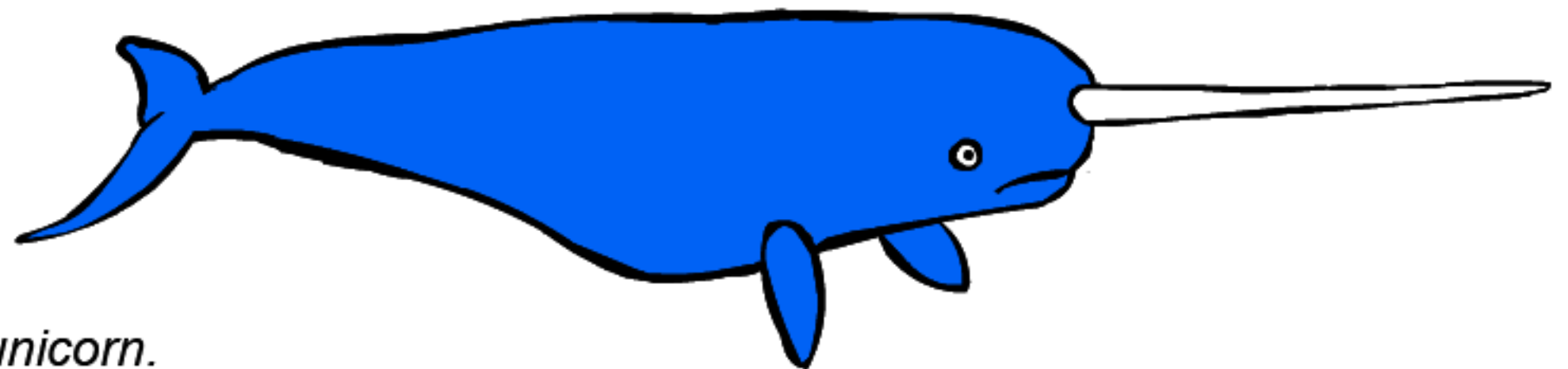
# narwhal

The narwhal is known as the “unicorn of the sea” and it is not hard to see why. The legendary animal is marked by a single long horn for its own defense, which only adds to the mystery surrounding this enigmatic sea animal.

The narwhal’s ivory horn can grow to up to three meters, but begins as a tooth. At birth, the baby narwhal has two small teeth on its upper jaw; within the first year, the left tooth pushes through the narwhal’s upper lip and become its crucial defense.

Thin and hollow, the narwhal’s horn never stops growing. It can break like glass but heals and restores itself extremely quickly.

Narwhals eat fish and mollusks. They hunt in groups, swimming side by side to form to trap their prey.



**Keywords:** *narwhal, sea unicorn.*

# AKINA (ORCA)



The Orca is the largest member of the dolphin family. Also known as the “killer whale,” this incredible mammal is easily identified by its distinctive black and white coloring and large dorsal fin.

The Orca relies heavily on its keen sense of hearing for its survival, and its natural sonar helps it sense obstacles and prey. By emitting very high-pitched clicks that rebound off underwater objects, the Orca can find fish to eat and dangers to avoid.

By blowing air through their blowholes, Orcas emit a series of distinctive cries, calls and songs to communicate with other Orcas. Every Orca family has an entirely unique dialect only its members can understand.

*Orca is **AARLUK** in Inuktitut.*

