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21L.007 World Literatures: Travel Writing
Fall 2008

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Opening scenes of *Atanarjuat*

This story is spread out over two moments, about a generation apart. The beginning of the film tracks back and forth in time, and can be harder to follow when you don't yet recognize characters or know their relationships.

At the beginning of the film, a stranger has come to the community at Igloodik. You see him first in an interior scene, where he and the group's leader, **Kumaglaq**, are comparing clothes; he is the one on the left, who says he "adores little boys". (In the film's closing scene, when the stranger returns, you'll notice that his hood is made very differently from what men in the community wear; clearly, "not one of us"). **Kumaglaq** is the one wearing a distinctive walrus-tooth necklace, which will be passed down to successive leaders. The stranger from "up north" (Greenland?) is a shaman, and proposes a contest; the children are told to leave. The woman whose face is shown repeatedly in this scene is **Panikpak**, **Kumaglaq's** wife and a key character in the movie.

In the next scene, we see **Panikpak** saying goodbye to her brother **Qulitaliq** and his wife, who are leaving to settle somewhere else – these characters turn out to have a few shamanic powers themselves, and they know hard times are coming. Later in the film, **Qulitaliq** will reenter the narrative as a much older man who helps **Atanarjuat**. (**Kumaglaq's** spirit will also manifest at a few moments in the film, and **Atanarjuat's** son is named after him, so he is not gone for good). As **Panikpak** watches them leave, she begins to recall in voiceover ("Evil came to us...") the rest of what happened when the strange shaman came to them. We return to that earlier scene.

The shaman (**Tungajuaq**) and **Kumaglaq** engage in a contest, and **Tungajuaq** kills him (we see him fall over). Notice the sounds in this scene -- they will recur later on at moments when the evil shaman's influence is at work. **Tungajuaq** then takes the necklace from one to another man in the igloo; he holds it up to **Tulimaq**, the dead leader's favorite, but finally gives it to **Sauri**, **Kumaglaq's** son, saying "be careful what you wish for." **Tulimaq** calls out **Sauri** as implicated in his father's death. The stranger shaman has not only killed the group's leader, but left a curse, which will affect **Tulimaq** and persist into the next generation.

In the next scenes, you'll see how things go for **Tulimaq** – not well. He is so unlucky hunting that he, his wife, and their small sons, must struggle to survive on whatever leftovers **Sauri** allows them. His wife can't wait until their sons grow up; she hopes they will do better taking care of her.

From there, the narrative jumps forward to a time when **Amaqjuat** and **Atanarjuat** are grown, as are **Sauri's** irascible son **Oki** (who wears a distinctive hood of white foxtails) and daughter **Puja** (flirtatious, wears straight bangs). **Sauri** still wears the walrus-tooth necklace as leader. **Panikpak**, now an old woman, has developed a bond with a beautiful young woman who is the namesake of her own mother, **Atuat** (and so addresses her as "little mother"). Present-day **Atuat** has been promised to **Oki** by her parents. But she seems to be partial to **Atanarjuat**. The story goes from there.

Characters and family ties:

Kumaglaq is married to Panikpak , the sister of Qulitaliq (and daughter of Atuat).	
Sauri is Kumaglaq and Panikpak 's son, and follows his father as leader.	Tulimaq belongs to Sauri 's generation.
Puja and Oki are Sauri 's children, and Oki will also follow his father as leader.	Amaqjuat and Atanarjuat are Tulimaq 's sons. Atanarjuat marries another Atuat.
	Kumaglaq is Atanarjuat and Atuat's son; he is named after Panikpak 's husband.