

Qanuqtururangniq Reading

Qanuqtururangniq is a process that engages us in making sense of our observations to analyze what we are seeing and to think deeply about possibilities, connections and outcomes. It also enables us to respond well to dangerous situation, unexpected occurrences and difficulties.

To be resourceful and seek solutions through creativity, adaptability, and flexibility is essential for Inuit. The ability to be resourceful, seek solutions, use resources innovatively and creatively, to demonstrate adaptability and flexibility in response to a rapidly changing world, are strengths all of us should develop.

Resourcefulness should be demonstrated in all learning and also thinking that seeks to improve the context in which Inuit live. Such as:

- To use personal resources and materials at hand in innovative ways
- To be adaptable and formulate possible solutions
- To test a solution
- To adopt a flexible and critical approach
- To analyze the components of a situation/problem in order to effect improvement
- To be creative, innovative and make good judgments
- To evaluate the procedure used in order to constantly improve

An Elder shared the following story:

Uuniq was travelling through a storm and was thrown off his sled. He could not properly walk and so had to crawl. He ended up crawling miles through the blizzard back to town. What is it that gives a person this kind of determination to carry on? It would be easier to sit and wait for a rescue, but I understand (and have been told) that if a person does not have anything to do they will lose hope easily. In very bleak situations the people were able to still continue because they were always focused on the future and carrying out a plan to keep moving them forward.

Inuit have a very strong belief in the three-ness of life in terms of providing both balance and holism. It is said that even though we walk on two legs we are supported by the third spiritual leg. It is up to us to understand this and be able to learn to rely on this leg. There is also the story of 3 wishes and the importance of becoming wise in selecting what to wish for and understanding the nature of the things that underscore a

wish. There is the belief in three key areas of life—*inuusirq* (life/social matters), *silá* (environment) and *pirkutiit* (technologies/skills) which need to be kept in balance and respected for the way they are both interdependent and no area must overshadow the others. Elders always say that “wanting” is being in a state that creates incapacity and prevents one from ever achieving happiness. A reliance on one area or an imbalance in life creates a negative response in the person that leads to incapacity.

We were told never to be lazy, but to always do your best and always strive to complete something. Using myself as an example, I need to have a sound understanding of how something works. If I don't understand I cannot resolve a problem until I have investigated all the elements and have a thorough understanding of the why of things. If I get stuck or am scared, I still have to continue. I can go until all my hope is depleted because then I know that I can call on a helper or a greater power to assist me. I was told never to abuse this. You cannot become lazy and just give up and ask for help. You must struggle to the end and then have the confidence that when all else has failed, there is still the possibility of help from the helper. This is an important spiritual concept that has always assisted Inuit but may not be evident in the lives of our children today.

*For a time in my life, I lived in great imbalance and the instructions that I received as a child were pushed aside but having been told these things they will always come back when you are willing to receive them. So, I was grounded in these beliefs and when I need them now that I have returned to living a balanced life, those teachings greatly support me. This is part of *qauqtururangniq* – a way of thinking deeply in life.*

- Louis Angalik