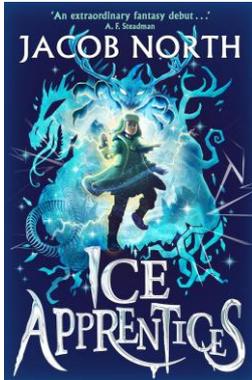
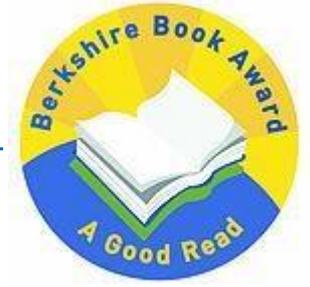


Berkshire Book Award 2026: Longlisted title



***Ice Apprentices* by Jacob North**

Tundra is the last settlement in a world of ice. Oswin Fields is its only stray, rescued from the Endless Expanse. So, when he's summoned to the school for ice apprentices, he sets out to prove his worth.

But all isn't as it seems in this enchanted place. When the beasts begin to strike, Oswin has to risk everything he holds dear. Can he look deep within himself to find the strength to prove that he

belongs?

Discussion Questions

- What do you think it takes to become a successful ice apprentice in the story? Which skills or personality traits seem most important?
- How does the icy environment affect daily life for the characters? In what ways does the setting feel like a challenge—or even a character itself?
- The apprentices are still learning and make mistakes. How do the characters react when things go wrong, and what does that show about them?
- Friendships and rivalries play a role in the story. How do relationships between apprentices help or hurt their progress?
- At different points, characters are pushed out of their comfort zones. Why do you think facing fear or discomfort is important to the story's message?
- If you lived in this world, would you want to be an ice apprentice? Why or why not?