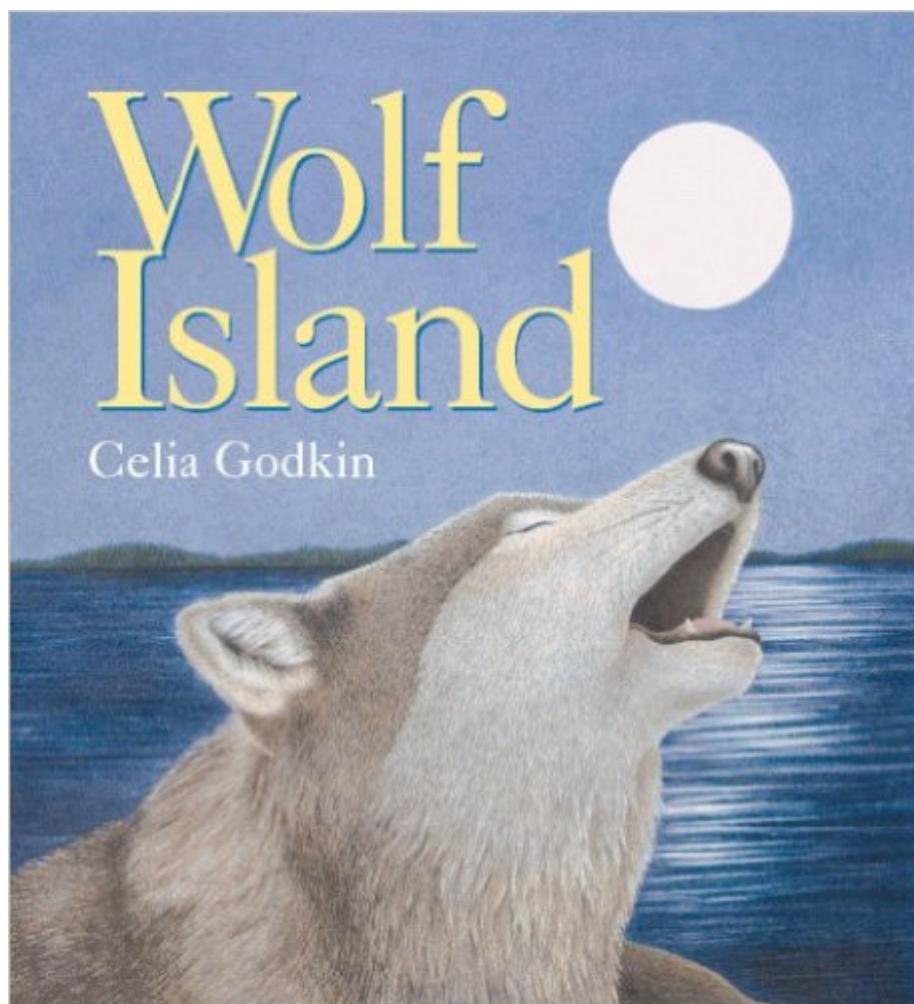


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# Wolf Island



## Synopsis

For our 40th anniversary Fitzhenry & Whiteside is issuing a newly designed edition of this classic bestseller! Information Book of the Year Mr. Christie's Book Award nominee Shortlisted for 1989 Mr. Christie's Children's Book Award for illustration Children's Literature Roundtable of Canada 1990 Information Book of the Year With a new cover and newly designed interiors, Wolf Island is sure to be a howl! It's a vivid, full colour portrait of nature, and the fragile balance of a natural ecosystem. Set on an island in Northern Ontario, the Wolf Island story, based on an actual event, is a moving chronicle of what happens when the highest link in a food chain is removed. The resultant population growth, food shortage, and starvation affect every member of the chain. A family of wolves leave their island environment. Although, at first, their absence is unnoticed, nature's delicately balanced ecosystem comes undone over a period of months, and the mice, rabbits, squirrels, and even owls fight for survival. Finally, the accidental return of the wolf family to their home restores the island habitat to health. Celia Godkin's dramatic, full colour illustrations will inspire readers of all ages. Her scientific portrait of an ecosystem and its component species will not be easily forgotten.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Fitzhenry & Whiteside (November 27, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554550084

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Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #339,714 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Forests & Rainforests #130 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Forestry #233 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Foxes & Wolves

Grade Level: 1 - Preschool

## Customer Reviews

This is a simple retelling of the story of Isle Royal, an island that was brought back into ecological balance when a wolf pack crossed over an ice bridge to the island. Before that time the vegetation was being denuded by moose, and the moose herd was suffering. The island was the living

laboratory for some of the classic research on the relationship between predators and their prey, and the role of predators in an ecosystem. It also relates to another classic essay by Aldo Leopold, called "Thinking Like A Mountain." again, about wolves and their relationship to their prey and to the ecosystem as a whole. These concepts are important to teach young children, but the research and essay above would be hard for young kids to understand. This book serves as an excellent introduction to the topic. There are few books out there that tackle this important subject, this book fills the niche.

I use this book to teach elementary science concepts such as interdependence in ecosystems and the causes and effects of change. It's a well-told story and the illustrations are engaging. It's a wonderful addition to life-science resources.

As a teacher who enjoys combining literature and science, this is one of my favorite books to read to children. Everything on the island appears to be in balance until the wolf cubs discover a raft on the beach. As they explore, the raft drifts off and their parents are forced to follow. With the wolves gone there are now no natural predators to keep down the deer population, which threatens the whole island ecosystem. Can life on the island ever be the same? This short story is beautifully written and illustrated by Celia Godkin.

As an elementary classroom teacher for many years, I have used this book in various grade levels to reinforce the need for balance of predator/prey within an ecosystem, and the impact on the ecosystem when one piece is removed. It gets even better when that piece is restored, and the ecosystem begins to recover. A related book, using a kelp ecosystem is Sea Otter Inlet, also by Celia Godkin.

I used this book to do a compare/contrast of the St. Matthew's island case study. I like that it is thorough but not too long to complete in a limited class period.

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