

Condon, Richard G. (1987) *Inuit Youth: Grown and Change in the Canadian Arctic*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

This book describes the lives of the youth from the village of Holman, a small Inuit village in the Northwest Territories of the Canadian Arctic. The town, which is covered in snow eight months out of the year, is one of more than thirty Inuit settlements spread throughout the Northwest Territories of Arctic Canada.

Gordon's book focuses on the lives of adolescents from nine to twenty years old. He begins by covering a broad range of economic, historical, social and cultural aspects of the village. He goes into detail about the lives of the adolescents.

Children in the village are shown little discipline and much attention due to the belief that children are not ready to handle life. Children are given constant attention from their parents and other village members and are assumed as equals by the adults. Children communicate and interact freely with adults and do not worry about interrupting or correcting parents. A high level of interaction is assumed between children and parents and this prepares children for a high level of interdependence and community cooperation later in life.

Youth in the village at the age of 14 begin to be distinguished by sex. Young people are grouped into categories of either *inuuhuktuq* (boys) or *arnaruhig* (girls). Before this age however, sex is undistinguished and children are treated more or less the same whether they are boys or girls, although boys are given more freedom than girls.

Around this age, the boys of the village begin to develop intense relationships with their fathers and are employed in helping the father in his various tasks such as accompanying him on hunting trips and performing light chores. Boys are praised for their hunting and fishing prowess and the most significant event marking their readiness for adulthood is that of killing the first large game such as caribou or seal.

Girls this age have much less freedom than boys and are expected to help their mothers in women's tasks such as gathering water, moss, and cutting ice. A girl's first menstruation indicates her readiness for adulthood.

Condon goes on in the book to discuss the rapid population growth and how the group deals with this. Factors that have contributed to this are the introduction of bottle-feeding to infants which shortens nursing time and allows for more children in a shorter period of time and improved prenatal and postnatal health programs both of which have reduced the infant mortality rates.

Gordon's book communicates well the perspectives that these youth have on the world and how we can appreciate the lives of the people in this isolated community.