## Nights of the Pufflings

Halla searches the sky every day. As she watches from	10
high on a cliff overlooking the sea, she spots her first puffin	22
of the season. Soon the sky is speckled with them - puffins,	33
puffins everywhere. Millions of these birds are returning	41
from their winter at sea. They are coming back to Halla's	52
island and the nearby uninhabited islands to lay eggs and	62
raise puffin chicks. It's the only time they come ashore.	72
While Halla and her friends are at school in the village	83
beneath the cliffs, the puffins continue to land. Those	92
"clowns of the sea" return to the same burrows year after	103
year. Once back, they busy themselves getting their	111
underground nests ready. Halla and all the children of the	121
village can only wait and dream of the nights of the pufflings	133
yet to come.	136
On the weekends, Halla and her friends climb over the	146
cliffs to watch the birds. They see puffin pairs tap-tap-tap	158
their beaks together. Each pair they see will soon tend an	169
egg. Deep inside the cliffs that egg will hatch a chick. That	181
chick will grow into a young puffling. That puffling will take	192
flight. The nights of the pufflings will come.	200

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