Iorek Byrnison
Profile

Name: Iorek Byrnison

Who is he?: Exiled armoured bear (Panserbjørne)

Dæmon: None – only humans have dæmons.

Background
Exiled from the far northern island of Svalbard, Iorek Byrnison is the rightful leader of a race of armoured Ice Bears – the Panserbjørne. Iorek’s rival, Ragnar Sturlusson, plotted against him and cast him out of the kingdom. Iorek is a truly fearsome creature – few who meet him have the courage to stand their ground in his presence. Lyra Belacqua is one of the few, winning him over with her honesty, wit and bravery.

When Iorek meets Lyra in the port town of Trollewund he is in a sorry state. His armour has been stolen and he has been forced to work in the local scrapyard to make a living. Lyra soon helps to change his fate by helping Iorek to retrieve his armour from the Magisterium’s offices. Realising that he owes Lyra a debt for life, Iorek promises to serve her in her campaign. He goes on to play a huge part in Lyra’s mission to rescue the children kidnapped by the Gobblers.

Like all armoured bears, Iorek has no dæmon. Instead, Panserbjørne use their expert metal-working skills to create custom-made armour that serves as their soul. Each bear crafts his own armour from sky-iron, collected from the falling stars that land in Svalbard. Without his armour, a Panserbjørne is nothing – he cannot fulfil a bear’s destiny of hunting and going to war.

Iorek becomes a dear and loyal friend to Lyra. With his amazing strength and razor-sharp claws, the huge Ice Bear takes on the role of Lyra’s trusted protector. He also teaches Lyra how to master her fear. And when she outwits Iorek’s old enemy, Ragnar, with her quick-thinking, he is so impressed that he gives her a special, new name – Lyra Silvertongue.