

The background of the book cover is a vibrant, painterly illustration of a natural landscape. In the foreground, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a green jacket and blue jeans, stands on a grassy bank. He has his hand on the shoulder of a young child with dark hair, wearing a red hoodie and blue jeans. They are both looking out over a large body of water. The water is a mix of light blue and green, with a dark, silhouetted forest on the far shore. Three birds are flying in the sky above the water. On the right side, a small tree with green leaves stands on the grassy bank. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a focus on nature and human connection.

**Maajii-Ojibwemowag**  
(They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

# Giigoonyag

Stories of the Swimmers  
A Ningaabii'anong Book





**Binesikwe (Debi Williamson)**

**dedicates this dibaajimowin to:**

**Meshakwad**

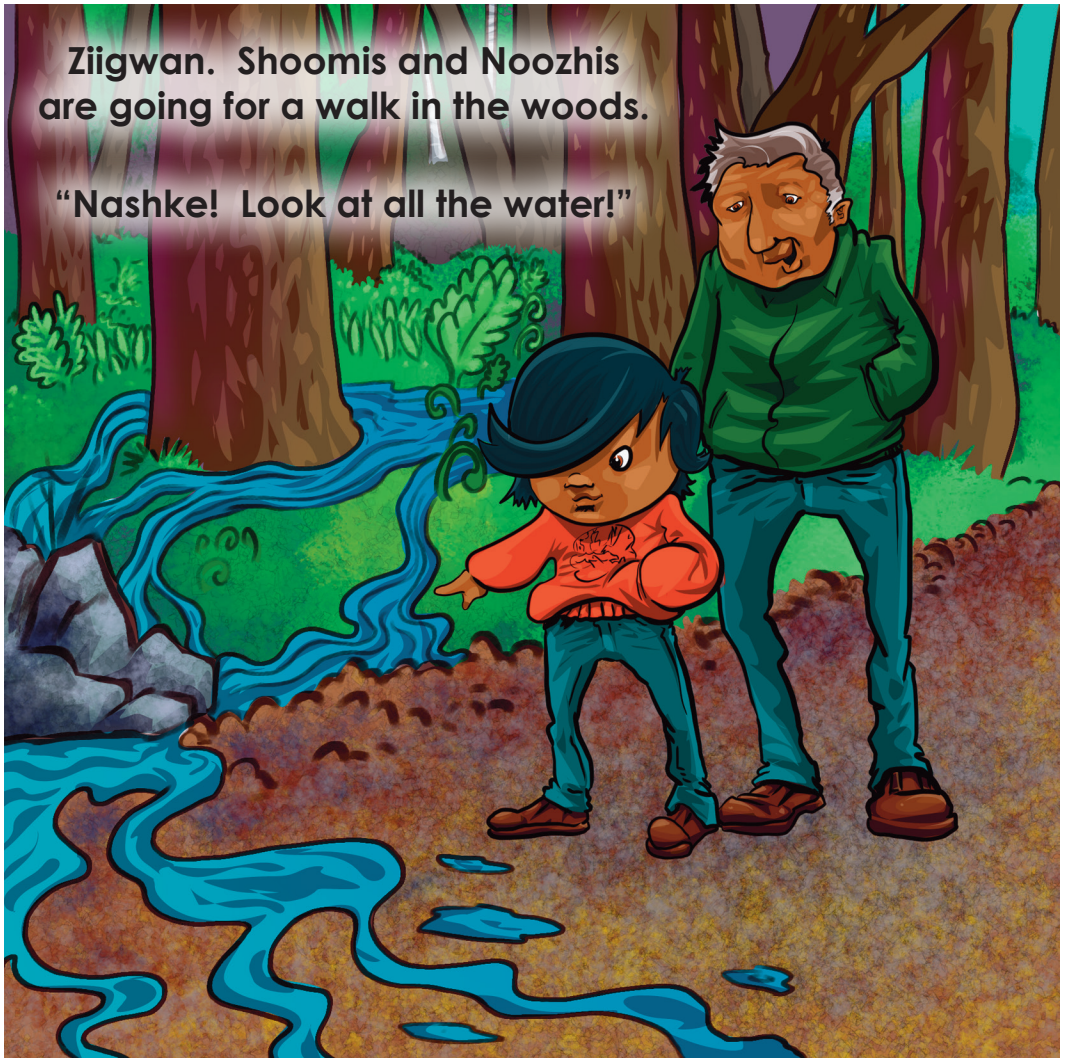
**(Albert Churchill)**





Ziigwan. Shoomis and Noozhis  
are going for a walk in the woods.

“Nashke! Look at all the water!”

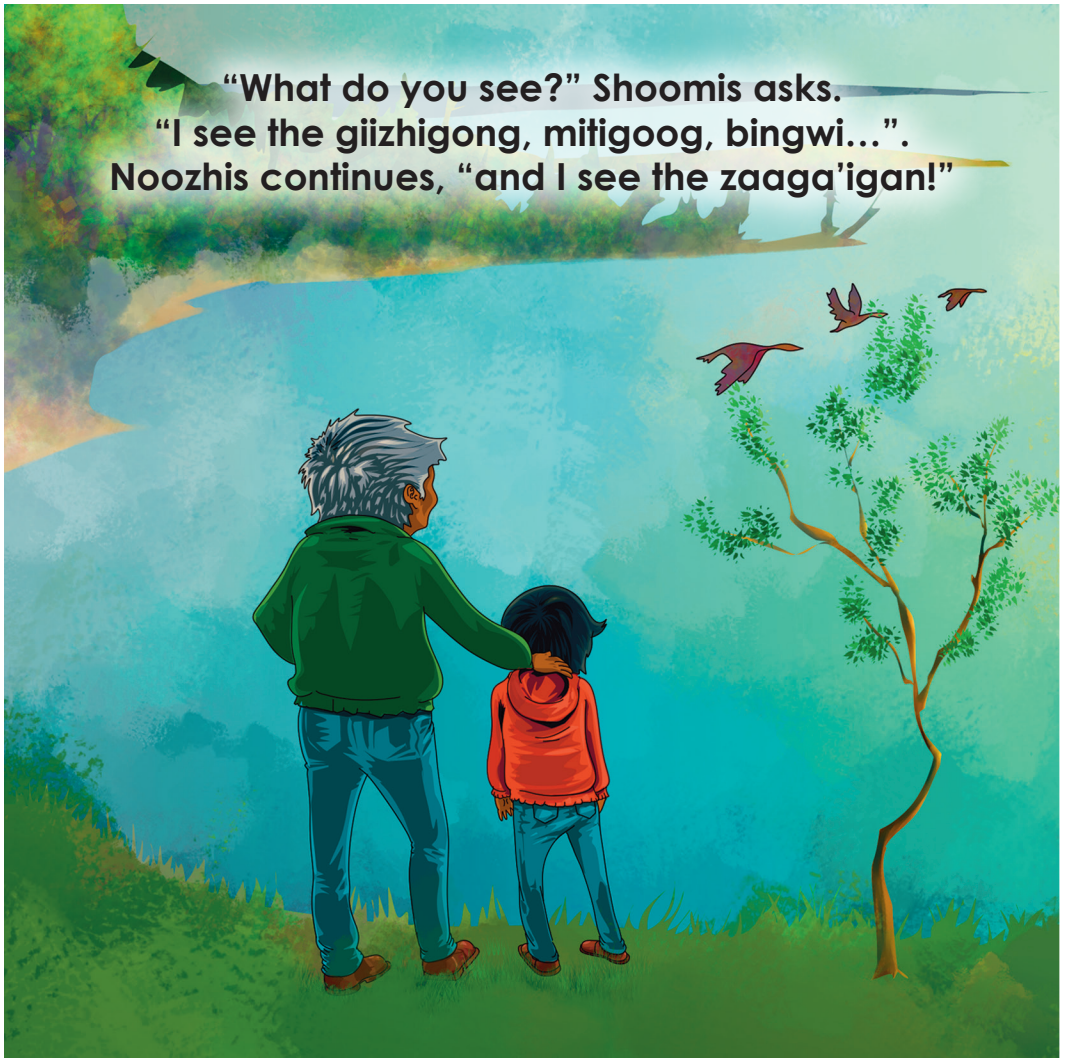


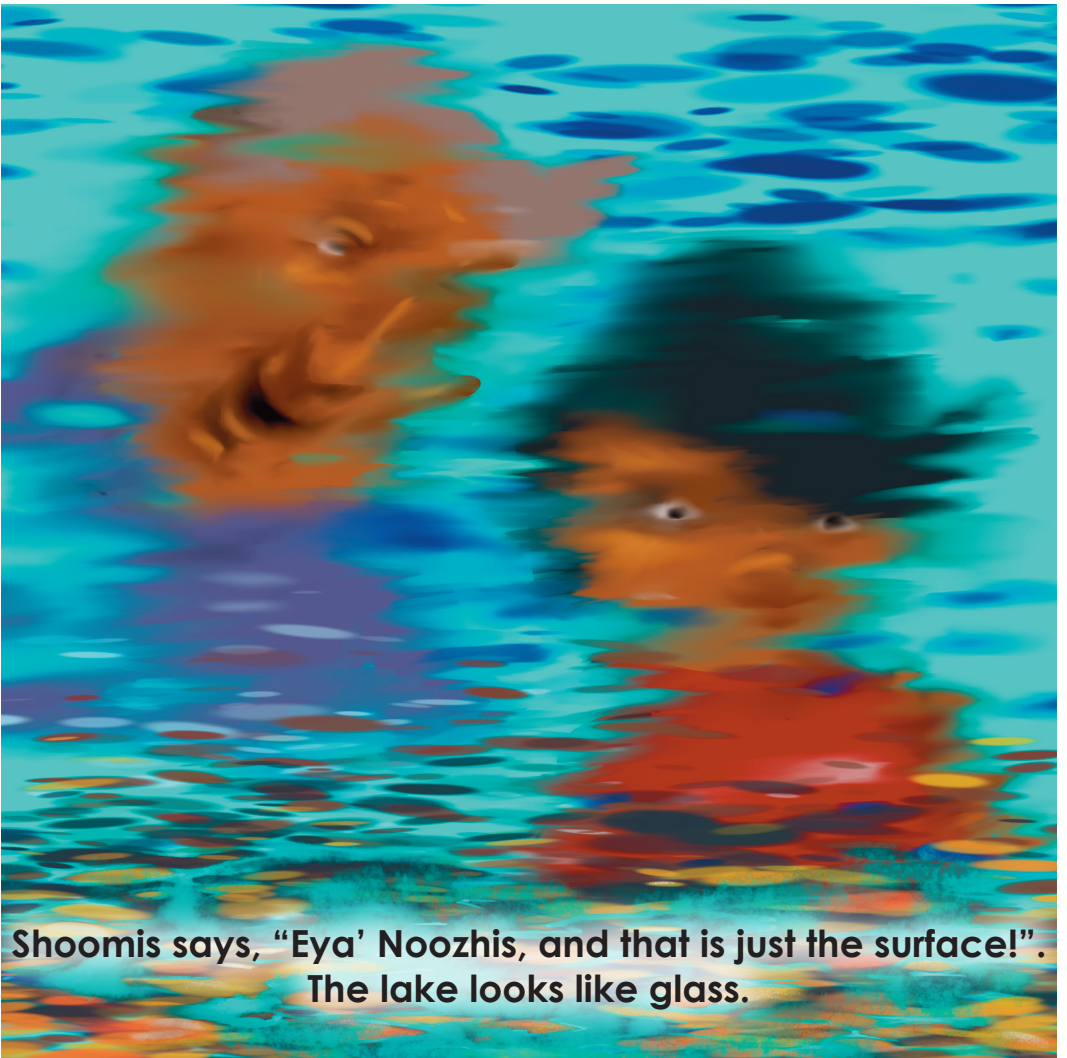


**“What do you see?” Shoomis asks.**

**“I see the giizhigong, mitigoog, bingwi...”**

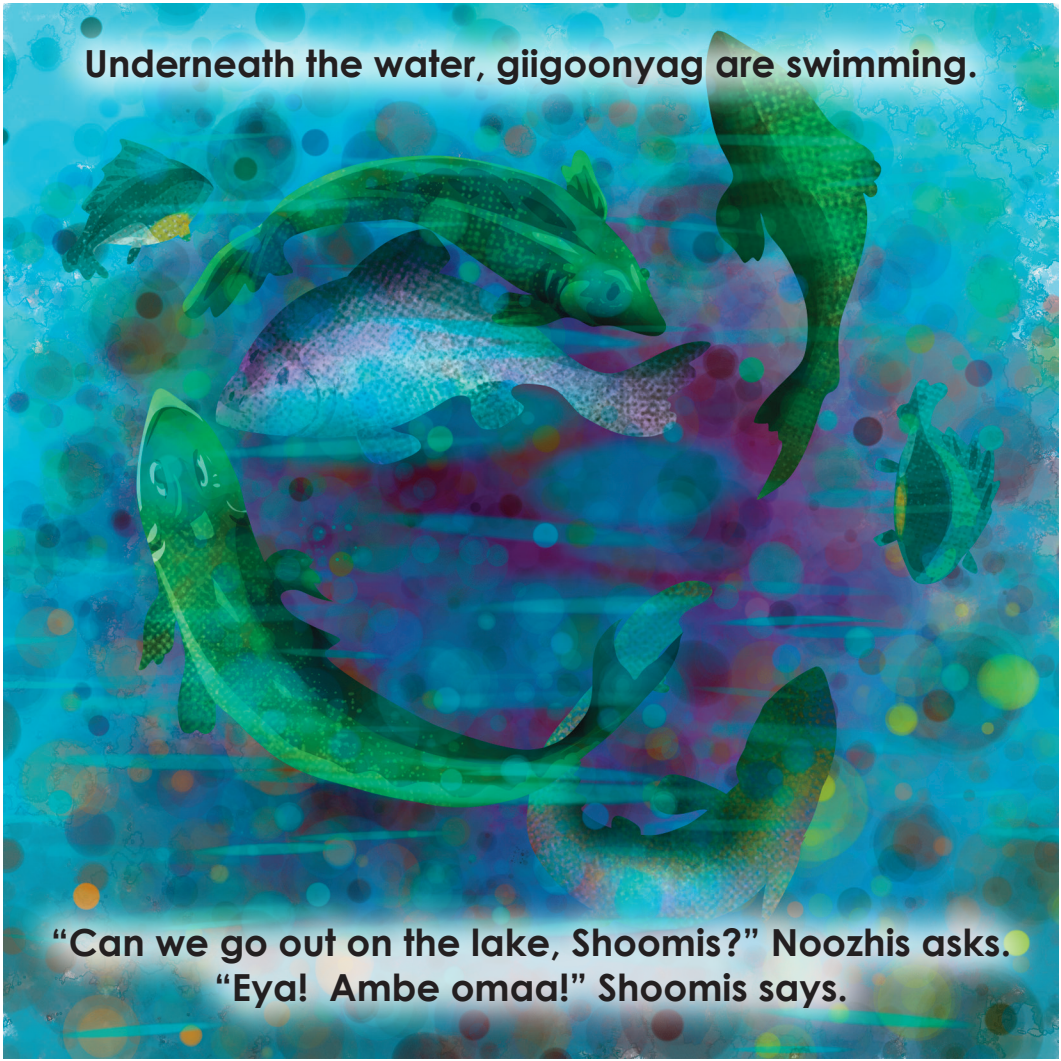
**Noozhis continues, “and I see the zaaga’igan!”**





Shoomis says, “Eya’ Noozhis, and that is just the surface!” .  
The lake looks like glass.

**Underneath the water, giigoonyag are swimming.**

An illustration of several fish swimming in a vibrant, colorful underwater environment. The background is a mix of blue, green, and purple with many small, glowing circular spots. The fish are depicted in various colors, including shades of green, blue, and purple, with some having yellow accents. They are swimming in different directions, creating a sense of movement.

**“Can we go out on the lake, Shoomis?” Noozhis asks.  
“Eya! Ambe omaa!” Shoomis says.**





**“Akawe asemaa, then let’s paddle out in our jiimaan!”  
Shoomis tells Noozhis.**

It was a beautiful day out on the lake. Waaseyaamagad.  
Noozhis notices the fish swimming near the surface.





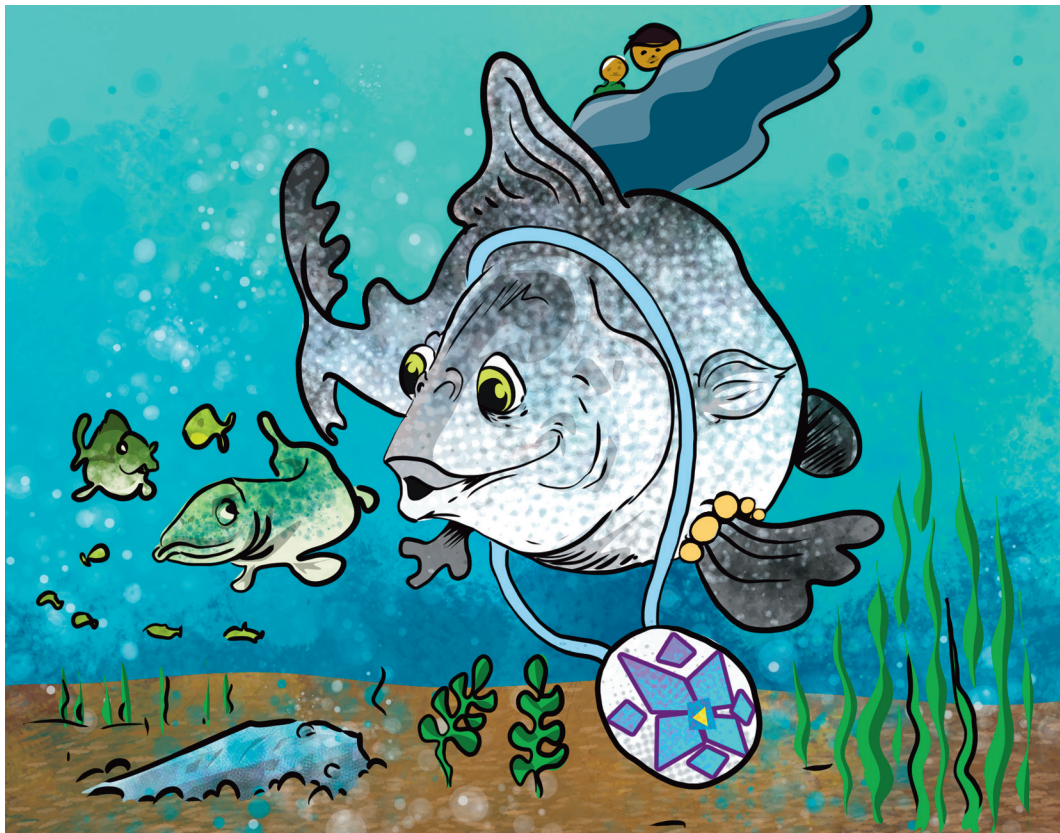
**“Nashke Shoomis! I can see giigoonyag!” Noozhis says.**



**“Eya’ Noozhis.**

**In the spring, the ininiwag giigoonyag do a fish dance for the ikwewag giigoonyag”.**

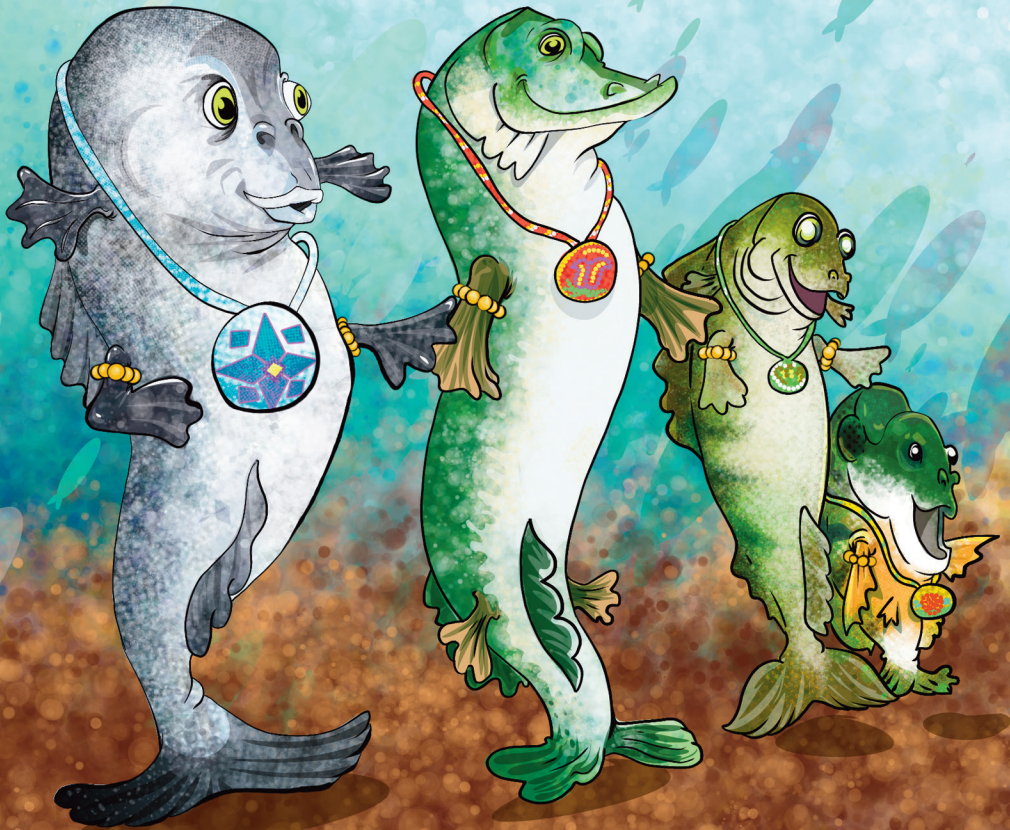




**“Each giigoonh has his own dance move, just like at the powwow!” Shoomis tells Noozhis.**

**“Nashke! The adikameg leads and all the younger giigoonyag follow him.”**

**“He puts one fin out and shakes it,  
the other giigoonyag copy him.”**





**“The second giigoonh is ginoozhe.”**



**“He puts one fin and one leg out and shakes it.  
The other giigoonyag copy him.”**



**“The third fish is ogaa.”**



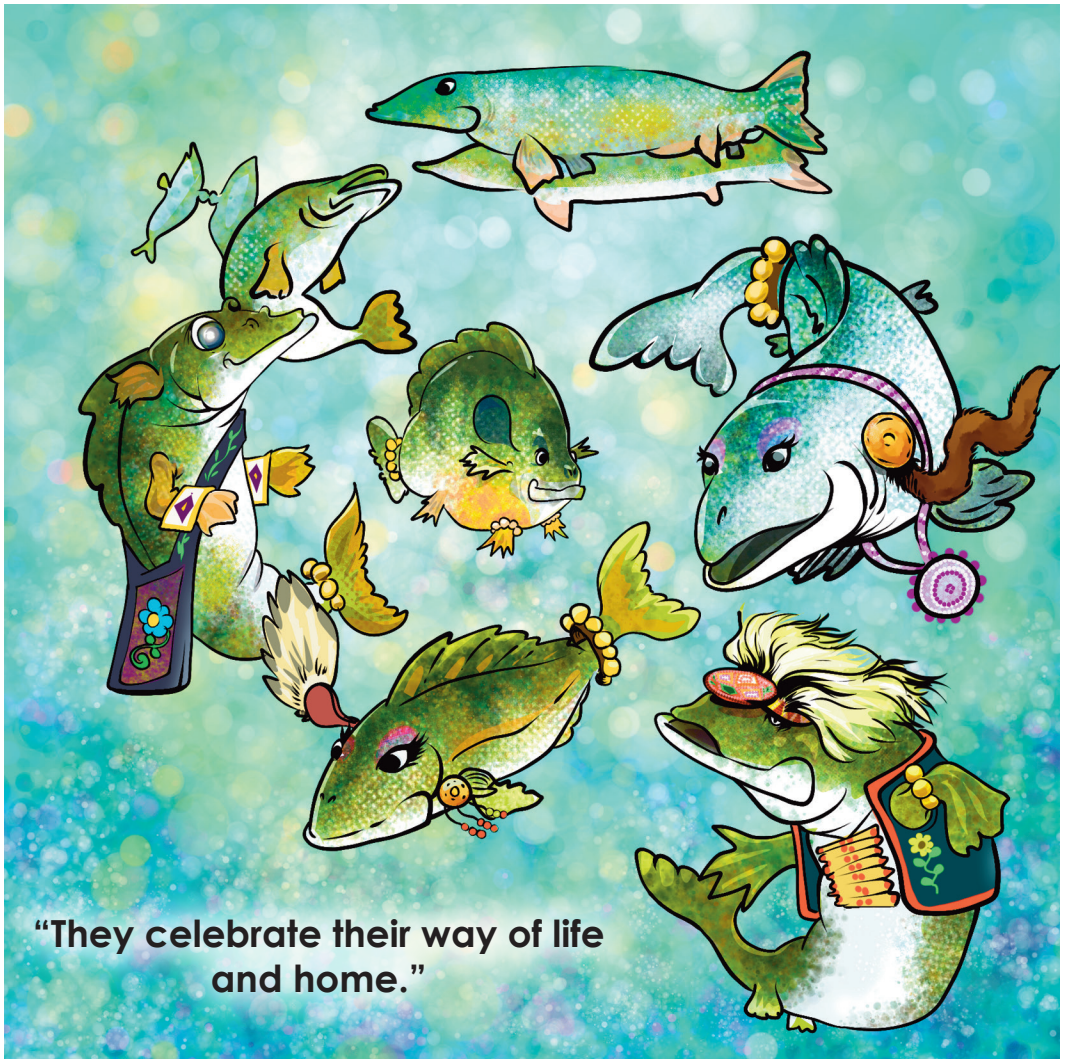
**“He puts one fin out with both feet and shakes them.  
The other giigoonyag copy him.”**

**“The last fish is agwadaashi.”**



**“He dances backwards and all the  
giigoonyag follow him,” Shoomis says.  
“This is the last dance move. Nitaa-niimiwag!”**





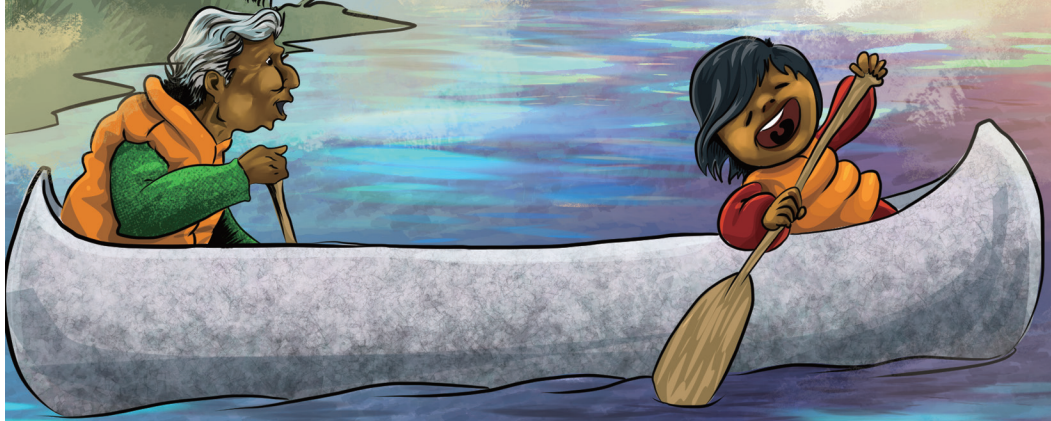
**“They celebrate their way of life  
and home.”**





**“All the ikwewag giigoonyag  
minawaanigoziwag with the dance.”**

**“Remember, Gichi-Manidoo  
made all the giigoonyag unique.”**



**“Miigwech for teaching me, Shoomis!”**





# Maajii-Ojibwemowag (They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

*Ningaabii'anong Book Set:  
Stories of the Swimmers*



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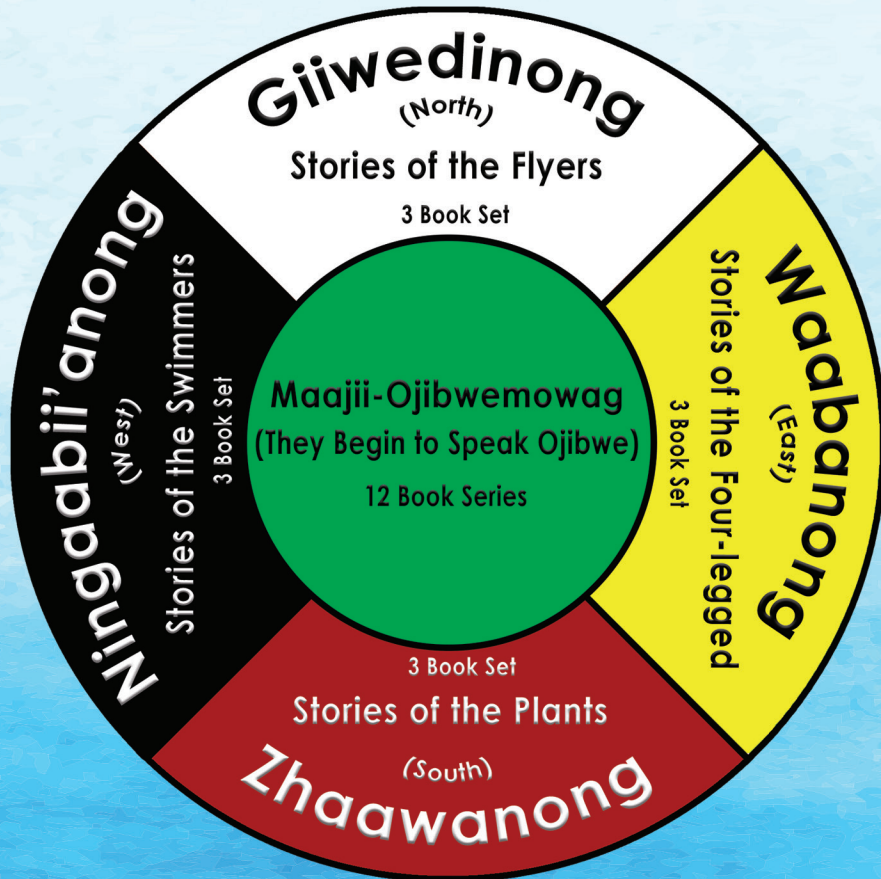
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