

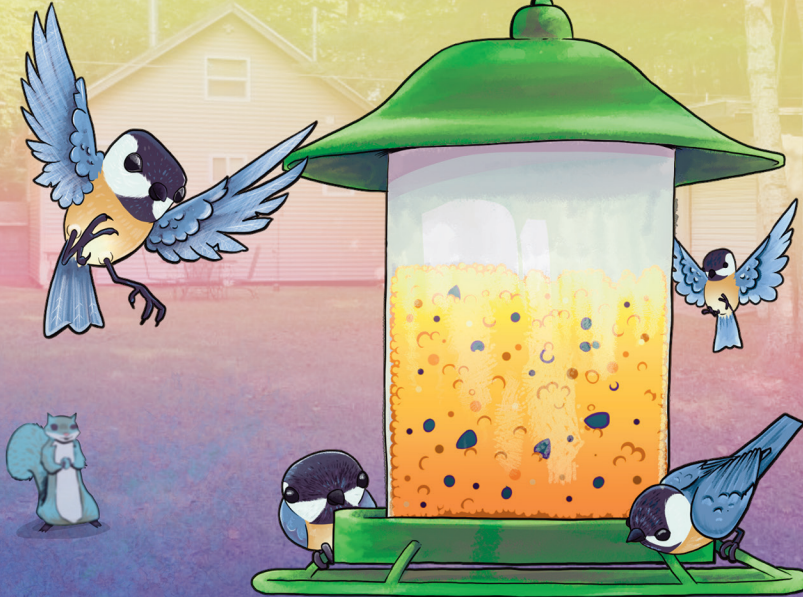
Maajii-Ojibwemowag
(They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

GIJIGIJIGAANESHIINH

Stories of the Flyers:
A Giiwedining Book



It is fall time in the Northwoods.
It is a cool morning.



Gijigijigaaneshiinyag are eating seeds from the bird feeder.
Ajidamoo comes over looking to have an easy meal.

Gigizhebaa-wiisiniwag gijigijigaaneshiinyag.
(The chickadees are eating breakfast.)

Daki-ayaa noongom agwajiiing.
(It is cold outside today.)



**Ajidamoo jumps onto the bird feeder and bullies
gijigijigaaneshinyag away from their morning meal.**

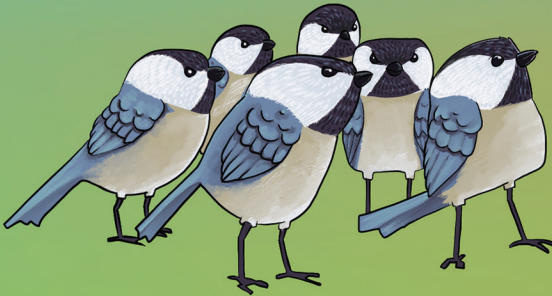
**Ajidamoo gobbles down all the seeds.
He is gluttonous.**

**Gaazhige a'aw Ajidamoo, gii-kidaanawed.
(Squirrel is being gluttonous, he ate everything up.)**

Gijigijigaaneshiinyag are very upset.

“We were here first! It’s not fair!
You ate up all the seed!” they exclaim.

Ajidamoo laughs,
“You are too small to do anything about it.
Fly away little baby birds.”



Gii-ani-nishkaadiziwag agiw gijigijigaaneshiinyag.

(Those chickadees are getting mad.)

Onishkenimaawaan geget iniw ajidamoon
agiw gijigijigaaneshiinyag.


(Those chickadees are mad at that Squirrel.)



Bluejay saw what had happened and tells Gijigijigaaneshiinh about how Squirrel has so many acorns in his den.

“Ajidamoo chased me away yesterday too.”

Diindiisi odazhimaan iniw Ajidamoon.
(Bluejay talks about Squirrel.)



Gijigijigaaneshiinh made a plan to get even with Ajdamoo for eating their breakfast.


Since gijigijigaaneshiinyag are good at hiding their food, they decided to hide Ajdamoo's acorns to teach him a lesson.

Owiisiniwinaan asanjigowag gijigijigaaneshiinyag.
(Chickadees stash their food.)



As the day breaks, *gijigijigaaneshiinyag* set out with their ash baskets to raid *Ajidamoo's* den.

Gijigijigaaneshiinh mangiwane.
(Chickadee is carrying a big pack.)

A squirrel with a grey back and white belly is leaping through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and yellow. The squirrel is in mid-air, with its front paws extended and its mouth open as if calling out. The background shows the silhouettes of trees and a bright, colorful sky.

Gijigijigaaneshiinyag hide behind cover
and wait for Ajidamoo to leave his den.

“He’s probably going to stuff his face
at the bird-feeder again.”
Gijigijigaaneshiinh whispers.

Gaaskanazo.
(She whispers.)

Gaazo.
(She hides.)

Gijigijigaaneshiinyag
ogaazootawaawaan iniw Ajidamoon.
(Chickadees are hiding from Squirrel.)



Gijigijigaaneshiinyag load up all of the acorns into their ash baskets, and fly away with Squirrel's food.

Gijigijigaaneshiinhyag gimoojimiijmewag.

(Chickadees steal food.)

They use little shovels made from deer teeth to bury the acorns.

"Let's bury Ajdamoo's acorns behind this blackberry bush".



Waanikewag ingiw gijigijigaaneshiinyag.
(Those chickadees are digging a hole.)

When Squirrel returned home, he was shocked to see that his acorns had been taken!

"I've been robbed!"
Ajidamoo exclaimed.

There was just one broken acorn
left behind.

Ajidamoo biibaagi.
(Squirrel shouts.)





Realizing that he no longer has enough food to get through the winter, Ajidamoo starts to cry.

“Pity me, pity me, I will surely perish this winter without my acorns! Who has done this to me?”.

Maadademo a'aw Ajidamoo.
(Squirrel starts to cry.)

An illustration of three chickadees perched on a red pine branch. The birds have blue wings and backs, white chests, and black caps. They are surrounded by green pine needles and brown pine cones. The background is a soft-focus forest scene with vertical lines in shades of yellow, orange, and pink.

Gijigijigaaneshiinyag sit on a red pine
laughing and talking about how they got
even with Ajidamoo.

“Ajidamoo will think
twice about bullying
us again.”

Agooziwag agiw gijigijigaaneshiinyag imaa
bapakwanagemagong.

(Those chickadees are there on the red pine.)

“Gego baapiken don’t laugh,” says Auntie Gijigijigaaneshiinh.
“By stealing Ajidamoo’s food you have doomed him this winter.
Ajidamoo is not hardy like us, he is not as strong as us.
The Creator has blessed us so that we may survive the harsh winter,
but it is only through pity and love that we endure.
Ajidamoo needs that food so he can survive the winter.
We can always find food, Ajidamoo cannot.
I think he has learned his lesson.
Go and tell him where
you hid his food.”



Ganawenidiwag.
(They take care of each other.)



So, gijigijigaaneshiinyag took pity on Ajidamoo and confessed. They told Ajidamoo they were upset that he bullied and teased them on top of taking their breakfast.

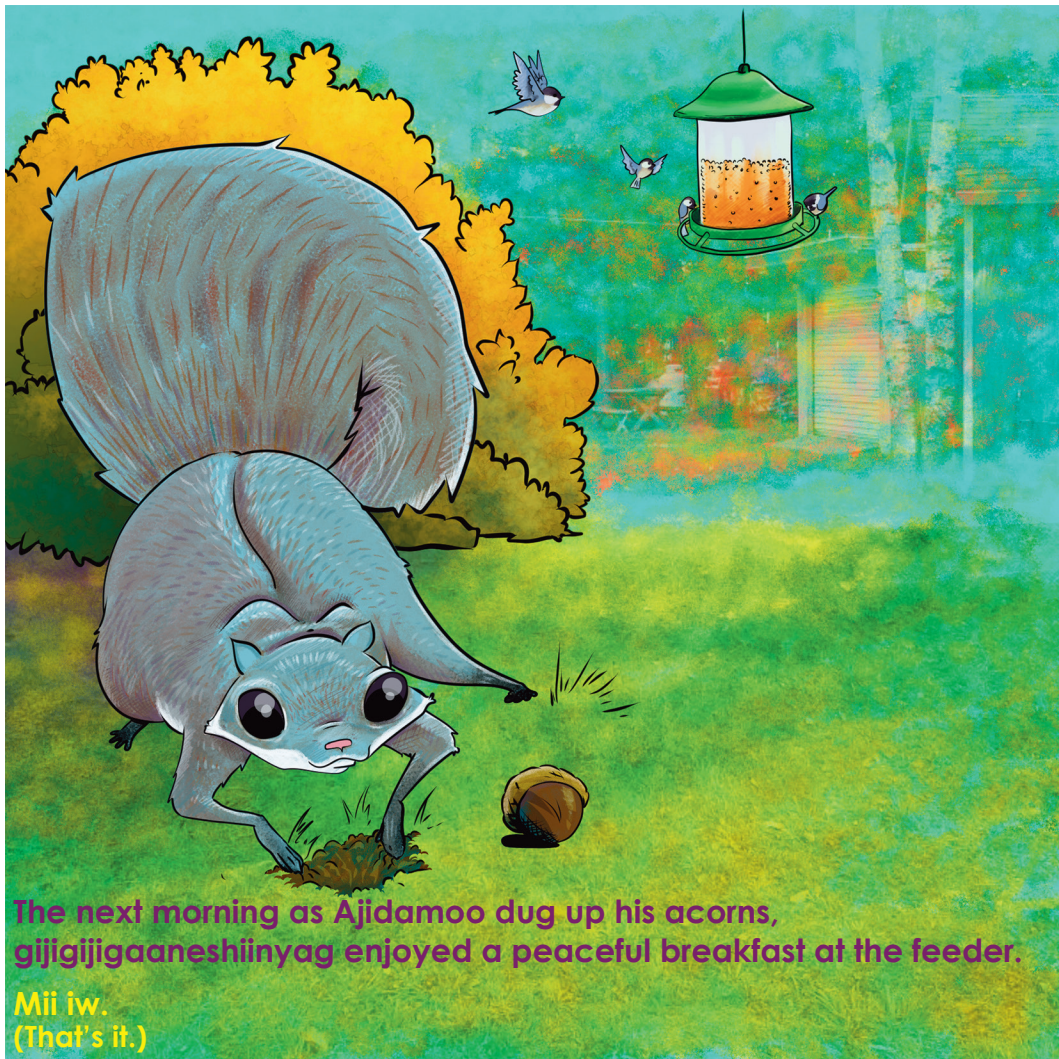
Wiping a tear from his eye, Ajidamoo apologized for being mean and gluttonous.

They all agreed to take turns at the bird feeder.

There was enough to share.

Maada'oonidiwag.

(They share with each other.)



The next morning as Ajidamoo dug up his acorns,
gijigijigaaneshiinyag enjoyed a peaceful breakfast at the feeder.

Mii iw.
(That's it.)



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Giwedinong Book Set: Stories of the Flyers



Tribal Storytellers -

Niiyogizhig (Wesley Ballinger)
~ Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Saagijiwegaabowiik (Jennifer Ballinger)
~ Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

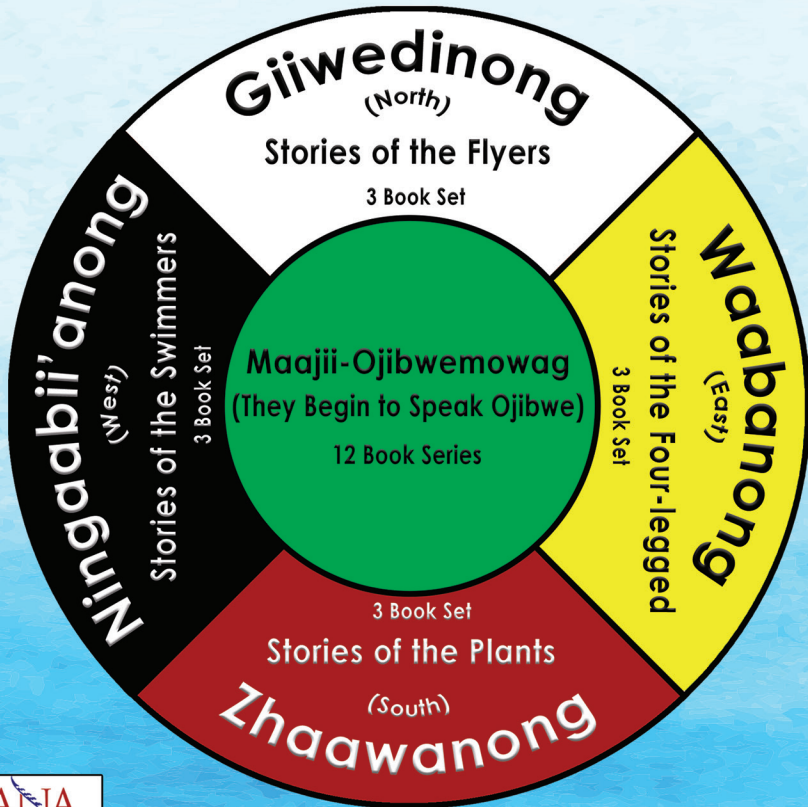
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