

Maajii-Ojibwemowag  
(They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

# MIKINAAK

Stories of the Swimmers  
A Ningaabii'anong Book





**Binesikwe (Debi Williamson)**  
dedicates this dibaajimowin to:

**Ogimaabinesi**  
**(Adam Lussier)**







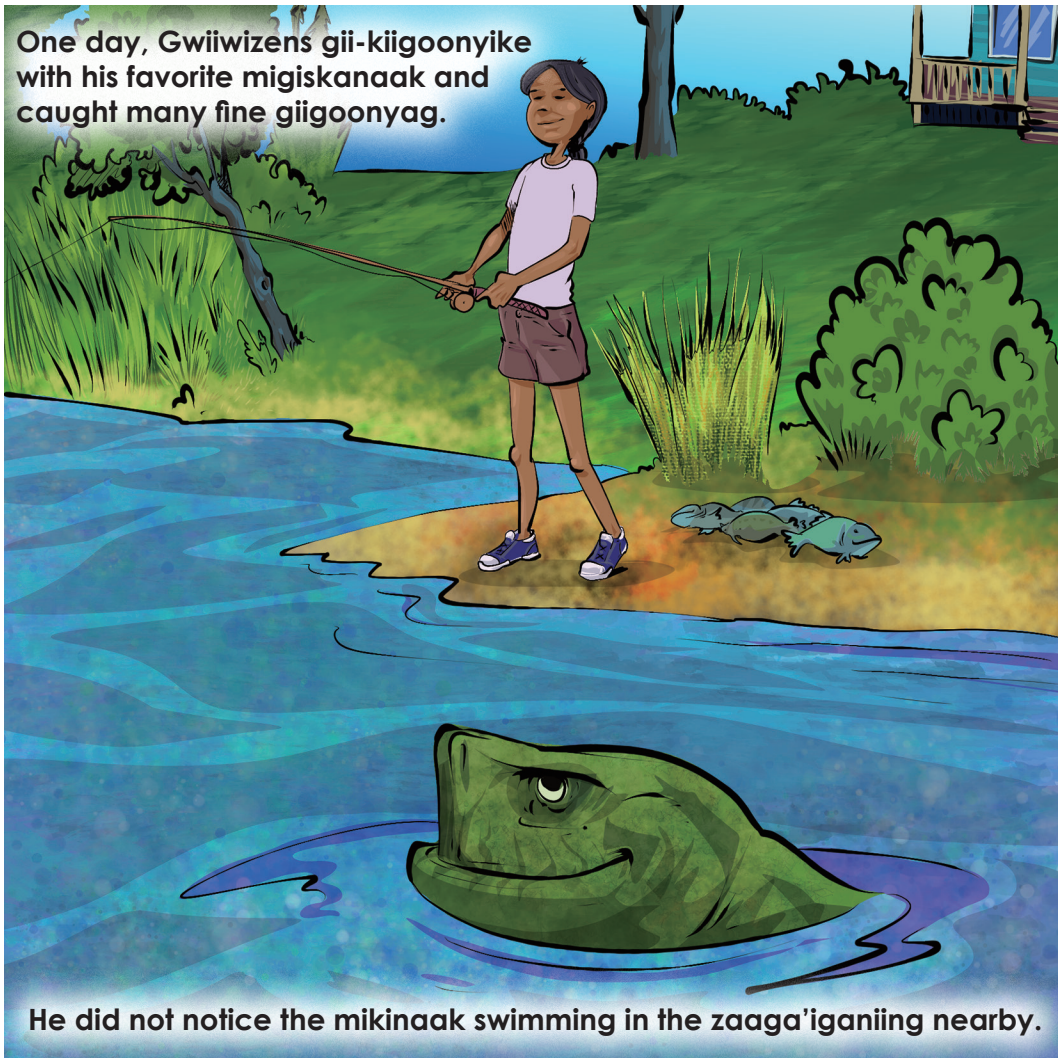
Mishomis and Nookomis were sharing gikinoo'amagewin with oozhishenyag about Mikinaako-minis, the 13 moons on the turtle's shell, and the turtle's ability to be an oshkaabewis who translates Ojibwe.





**Mishomis says, “Let me tell you a story about Gwiiwizens. At times, he would snap like a neshkaadizid mikinaak without thinking of others feelings.”**

One day, Gwiizens gii-kiigoonyike with his favorite migiskanaak and caught many fine giigoonyag.



He did not notice the mikinaak swimming in the zaaga'iganiing nearby.



While bagizo, the bekaded mikinaak owaabandaan the pile of fish, and sneaks up and wiisini.





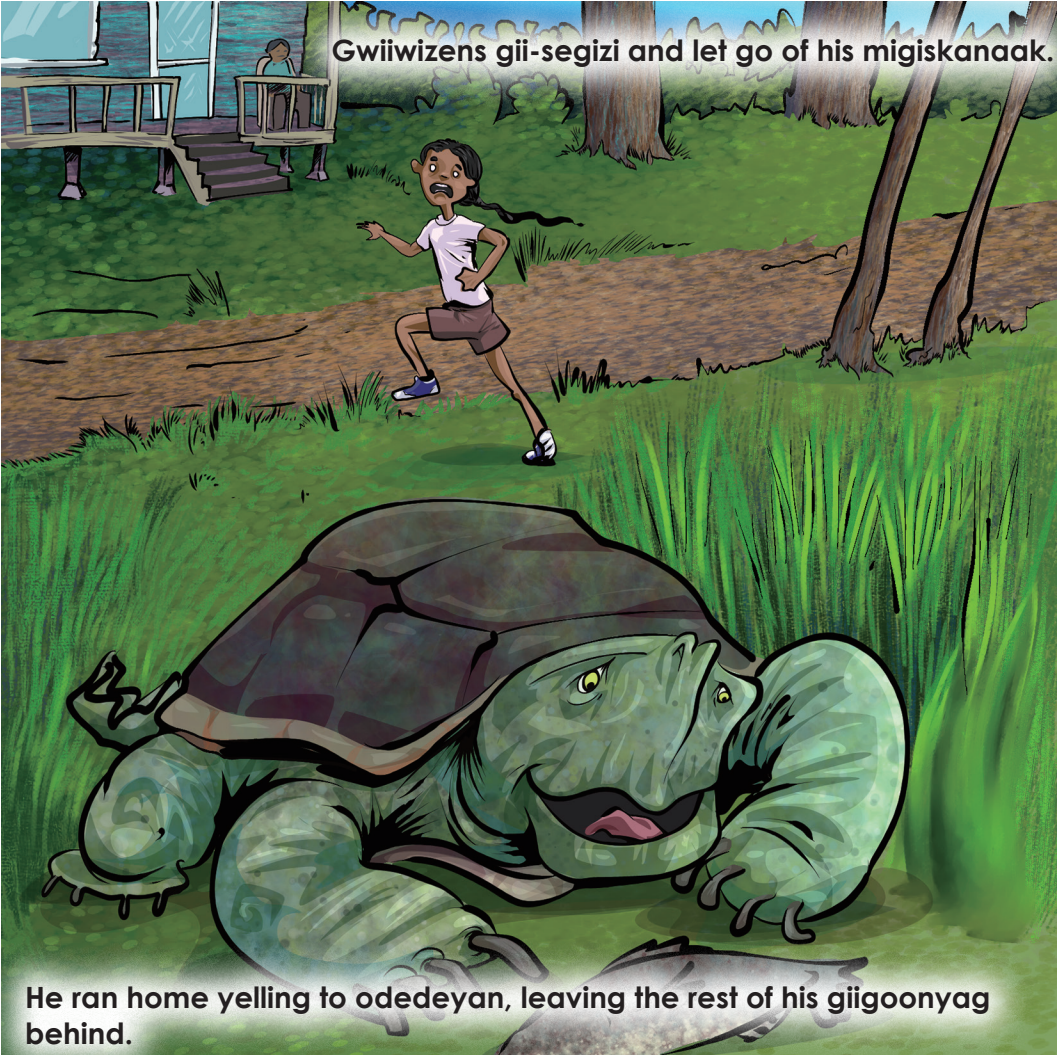
Gwiwizens sees the mikinaak eating his fish!  
He is angry and yells, "Gaawiin! Gego!"

Oodooka'aan iniw mikinaakwan with his  
migiskanaak.




The mikinaak snapped down onto the migiskanaak and wouldn't let go.

Gwiwizens gii-segizi and let go of his migiskanaak.



He ran home yelling to odedeyan, leaving the rest of his giigoonyag behind.





**“Ningozis, aaniin wenji-ishkendaman?  
Why are you upset?” asks odedeyan.**

**Gwiwizens replies, “A mikinaak ate my giigoonyag and snapped  
my migiskanaak out of my hands!” Gwiwizens gii-segizi miinawaa  
nishkaadizi geyaabi.**





**"Why did the mikinaak snap your migiskanaak out of your hands?" Odedeyan asks.**

**"Because I poked mikinaak with it!" Gwiwizens replies.**

**“How do you think that mikinaakish felt when you poked him, ningozis?”**



**Gwiwizens thinks for ingo-diba'igaans and says,  
“Gosh, I guess he was aapiji nishkaadizi that he got poked.”**



Gwiiwizens decides that he wants to apologize to the mikinaak.



“How about nimbiindaakoojige and I give mikinaak the rest of my fish?”  
Odedeyan says, “Eya, onizhishin, ningozis.”



Once at the zaaga'iganiing, Gwiizens was excited to see his migiskanaak on the shore.



“Oh miigwech for leaving my migiskanaak, mikinaak! I am sorry I hurt you, here is some asemaa and the rest of my giigoonyag.”

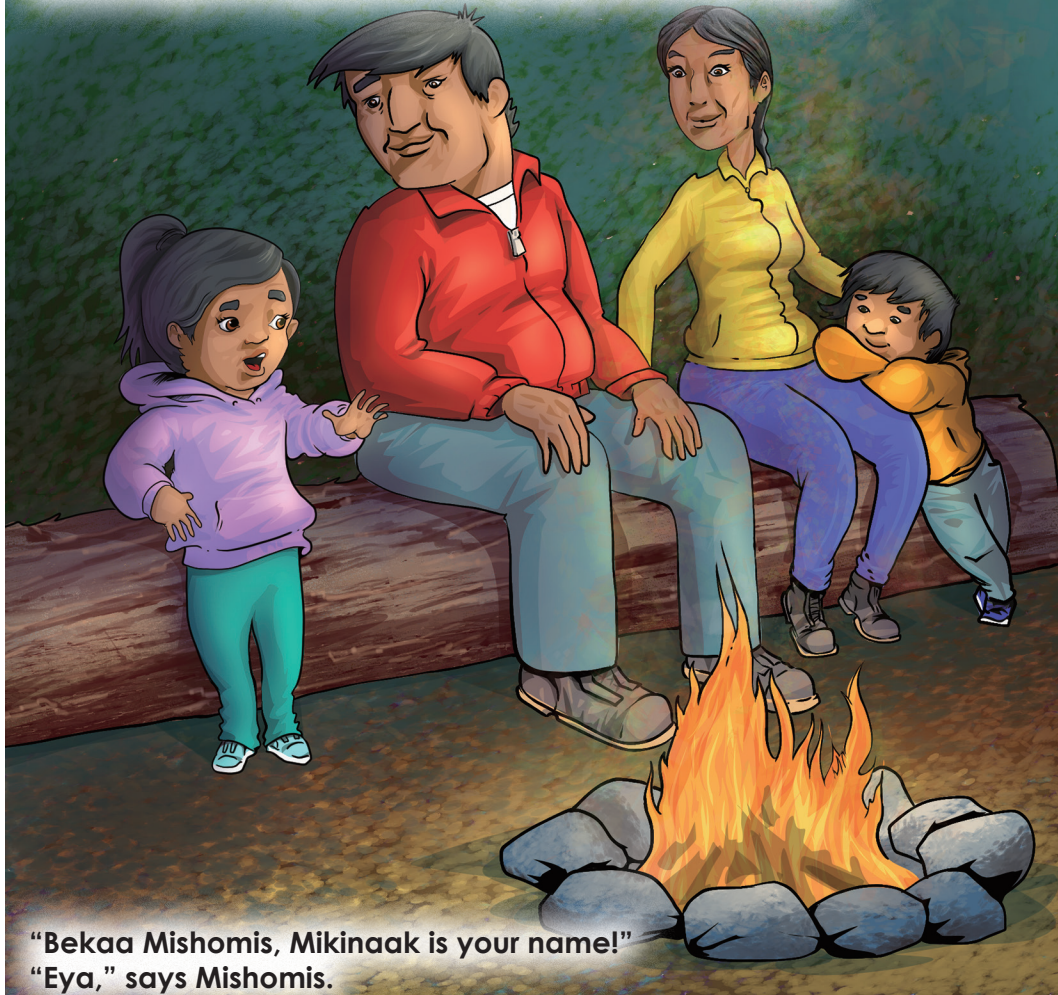
**“Gwiiwizens, I am very proud of you for making amends,”  
Odedeyan says.**



**You must always be kind to the mikinaak because your  
Ojibwe-wiinzowin is Mikinaak!”**



Oozhishenyan bazigonjise, interrupting the dibaajimowin.



“Bekaa Mishomis, Mikinaak is your name!”

“Eya,” says Mishomis.

**“When I was weshki-bimaadiziyaan, I learned how to think before I acted and carried those teachings on to gikinoo’amaadiwigamig.**



**I became a gichi-gikinoo’amaagewinini and gichi-wiidookaagewinini.”**



**“Minjimendan, your Ojibwe-wiinzowin gives you knowledge about your own identity miinawaa personal strengths.**



**It shows your individual nature in relation to our Mikinaako-minis.”**



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



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**~ Keweenaw Bay Indian Community**

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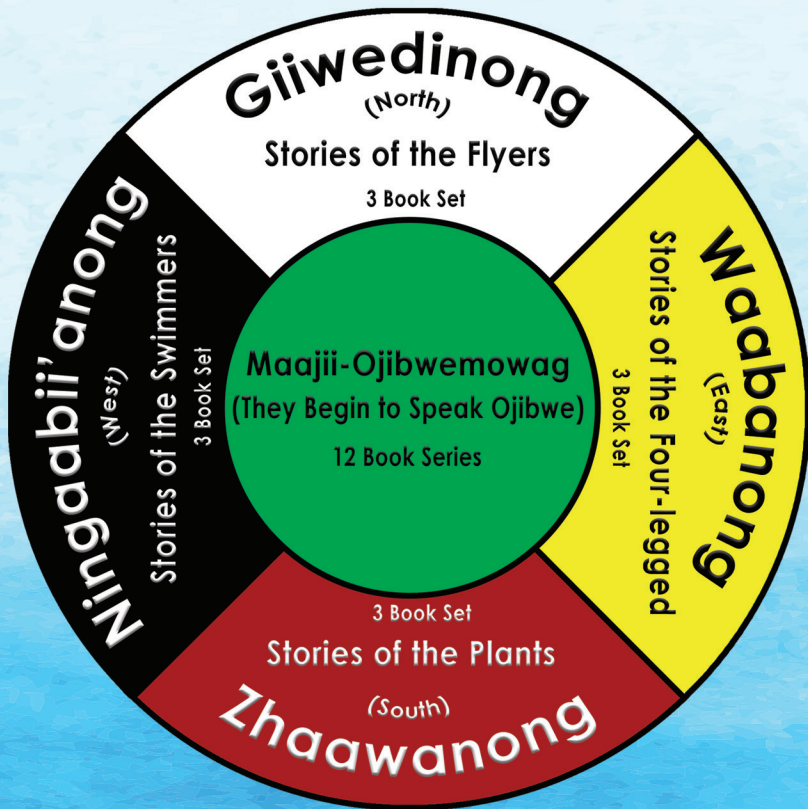
*~Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe*

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