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Edit by Heather Parkhill

Acknowledgements

*This book is dedicated to all of the young people who are afraid to show their own regalia.
Please honour our traditions and wear your regalia with confidence.*

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**Mason midaaso-biboonigizi gii-maajii-niimi
gii-anishinaabe-niimi'idings. Omishoomisan omiinigoon
ge-gigishkang niimid.**

**Odigoon Omishoomisan, "Weweni ganawendan manaajitoon
giniimiwayaanan. Aapiji mewinzha bi-onji-aazhawinamaadim;
ogii-gigishkaan gimishoome gaye gidede gii-maajii-niimiwaad.
Giga-gagwejimin idash ji-gozikaman.**

**Mason gaa-izhi-gozikang. Gii-waabandizod
waabimojichaagwaaning gii-goshkwendam ezhi-inaadizod.
Amanj ge-izhinaagoowaanen inendam. Gaa-ozhigaabawid
izhi-niigaan Omizhoomisan. Ozhoomiingwetawigoon
Omishoomisan.**

*Mason is ten years old and just starting as a Grass Dancer at
Powwows. His first regalia is gifted to him by his Grandfather.*

*Grandfather says, "You will need to respect your regalia, you will
need to take good care of it. The regalia has been in our family
for many years. It has been worn by your uncle and father when
they started dancing. I am asking you to try it on so we can see if
it fits."*

*Mason tries on his regalia. When he looks at himself in the mirror he
is nervous about the way it looks. He wonders what others might
think about him because of the way he looks. He steps out in front
of his father's father. Grandfather smiles.*



**“Indigo sa gidede ezhinaagoziyan gaye gimishoome
gaa-gii-izhinaagoziwaad gii-apiidiziwaad noongom
gaa-apiidiziyan. Gii-miinind o’owe gigishkigan ji-gigishkaman
ando-niimi’idiyan,” odigoon Omishoomisan.**

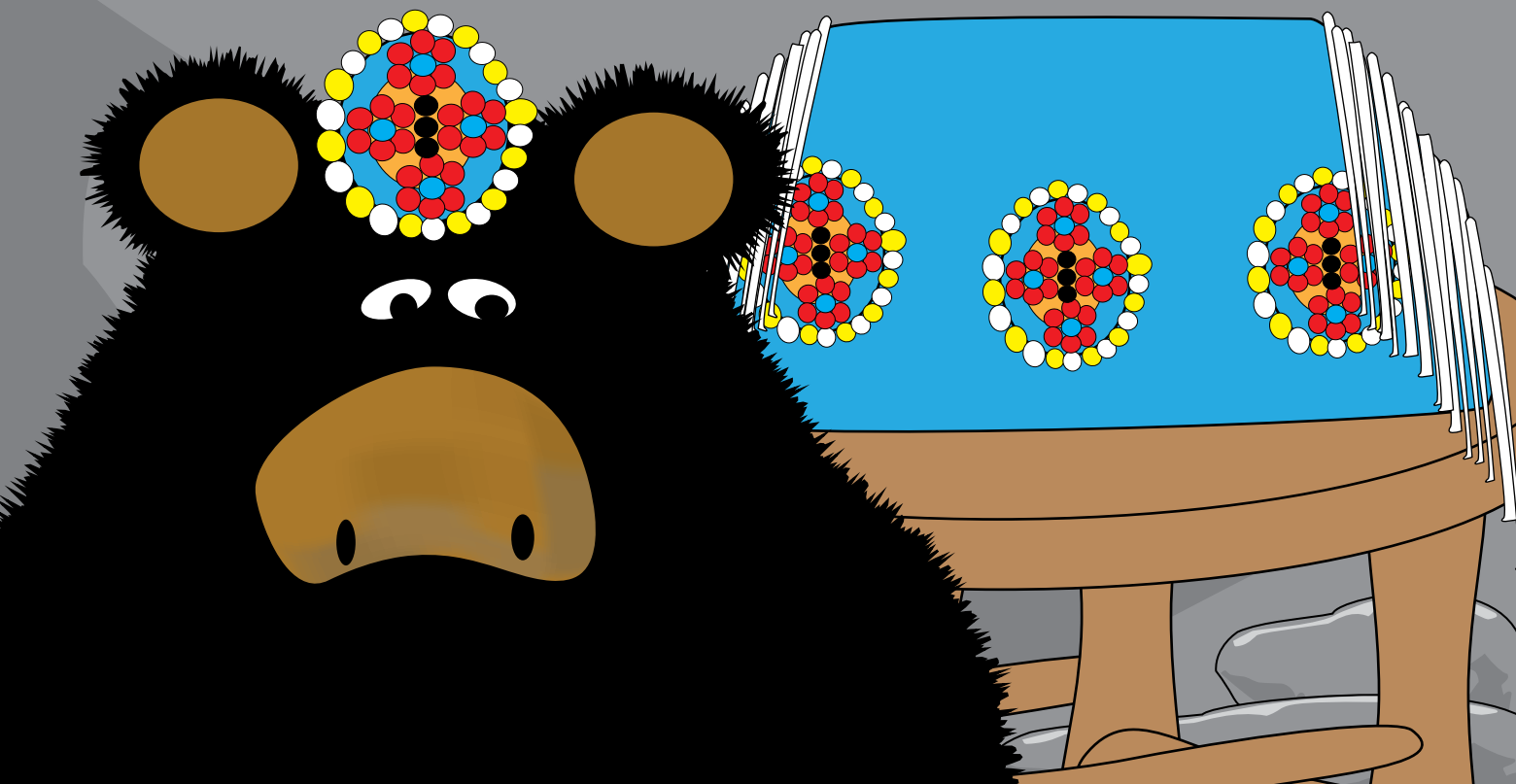
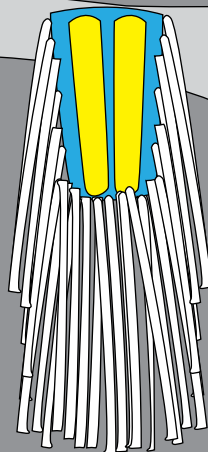
**Mason oganawaabamaan Omishoomisan weweni
nanaa’apinigod, ezhi-nawagikwegaabawid. Gaawiin
ominwendanziin ge-inendaminind Omishoomisan wiindamawaad
wii-niimisik.**

**Omishoomisan owaabamigoon maazhiingwenid, “Aaniin danaa
noozhis?”**

*“You look just like your father and uncle did when they were your
age. I want you to keep this regalia so you can wear it when you
dance at powwows,” the old man says.*

*As Mason watches his Grandfather fix all of the ties and finishes
putting the regalia together, his shoulders slump. He doesn’t
want to think how Grandfather will feel when Mason tells him he
doesn’t want to dance.*

*Grandfather sees the look on Mason’s face and asks, “What’s
wrong my grandson?”*



“Gaawiin gosha niwii-niimisii Nimishoomis,” ikido Mason.

“Aaniish wiin waa-onji-niimisiiwan?” odizhi-gagwejimigoon Omishoomisan.

Mason zhaagwendam, ganawaabandang ezhi-onizhishininig obashkweginwekizinan ezhi-mazingwaadenik. Noomag igo jibwaa-nakwetawaad.

Nimishoomis, ninzhaagwendam gosha ji-niimiyaan onzaam baatayiinowag awiyag gaawiin ningikenimaasii igiwe.”

Aaniin ge-inenimiwaad gaa-izhi-konayewaad?” ikido.

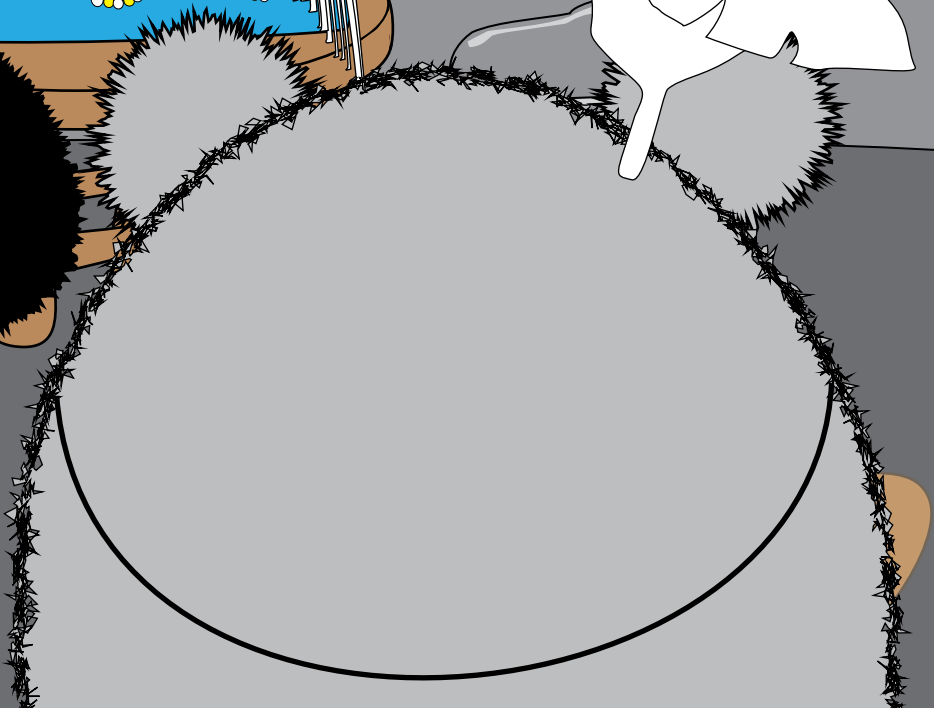
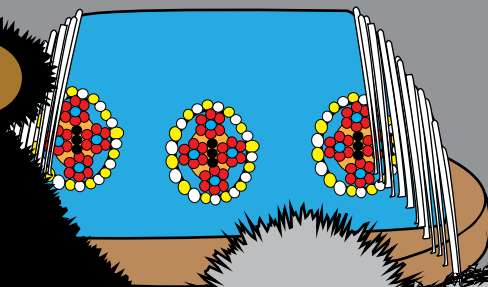
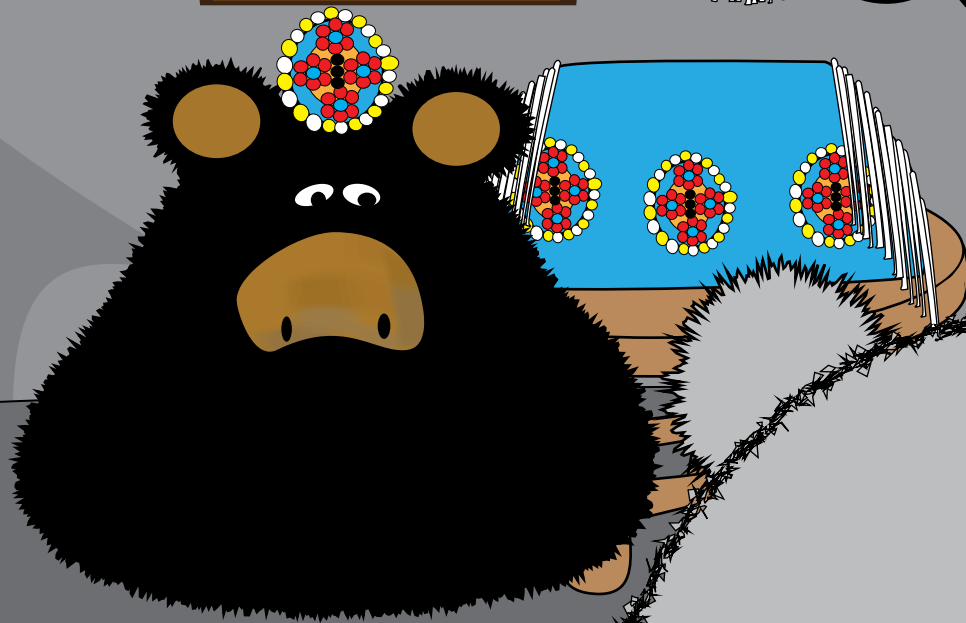
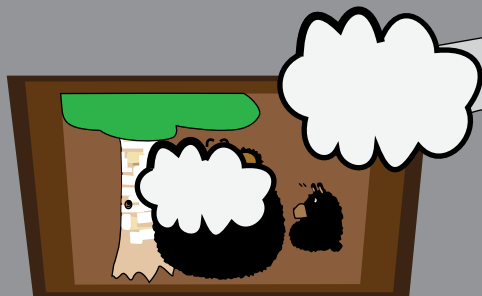
“I don’t want to dance Grandfather,” Mason replies.

“Why do you not want to dance?” Grandfather asks.

Mason hesitates, he looks down at the beautiful beaded moccasins on his feet. He takes a minute before he replies.

“Grandfather, I am nervous about dancing in front of a large crowd of people I do not know.”

What will they think of the way I am dressed?” he asks.



Omishoomisan ogichi-ganawaabamigoon. “Nashke Mason aazha gosha gibi-gagwejii niin gidede gaye giwiji’igoo. Ginitaa-niim niin gidizhinawin. Nashke giga-goshkwendam iwid iyaayan. Nashke iwe gaa-izhi-konayeyan gaawiin gegoo gidaa-onji-zhaagwenimosii, nashke igiwe gaa-niimiwaad wiinawaa ezhi-konayewaad. Nashke gii-izhaayan gii-niimi’iding gidaa-naanaagadawaabandaanan ezhinaagwakin bwaazhiwijchiganan gegoo apiitendaagwadoon, mii iwe giminiigoowiziwin bijiinag gii-ani-izhichigeyan.”

Grandfather glances with a puzzled look. “You know Mason that you have been practicing with your dad and me for a while now. I believe you are a great dancer. You are in for a surprise when you are out there. As for the way you are dressed, you have nothing to worry about, all of the other dancers will be in their regalia too. When you attend Powwows, you should always be aware your regalia has meaning, it is part of who you are and the journey you are making.”



**Odinaan Omishoomisan akawe miinawaa
ninga-naanaagadawendaan. Omikwendaanan aazha
gaa-gii-gikinoos'amawind eko-niizho-biboonigak. Omikwendaan
enwewenid dewe'iganan. Maagizhaa gaye geyaabi nawaj
ji-gagwejiipan jibwaa-niimi'idung. Mason geyaabi wawanendam
ji-biisikang obwaazhiiwichigan.**

**Naagaj debikadinig, Mason ominjimendaan gaa-ikidonid
Omishoomisan zhebaa. Gii-onishkaabatoos ogii-kozikaan
obwaazhiiwichigan miinawaa. Gakina gegoo onanaa'ipidoon
Omishoomisan gaa-gii-izhi-gikinoos'amawigod, Mason
ganawaabandizos waabimojichaagwaanung.**

Mason tells his Grandfather he will think about it again. He remembers the steps he has been taught over the past couple of years. He remembers the drum beat. Maybe he should practice a little more before the Powwow. Mason is still unsure about wearing his regalia.

Later that night, Mason recalls what his Grandfather said earlier in the day. He jumps out of bed to try his regalia on again. When he fixes everything the way Grandfather had shown him, Mason steps in front of the mirror.



Oganawaabandaan ezhinaago'od,
onaanaagadawaabandaanan ezhigwaadenig.
Onaanaagadoonaa' ezhigwaazonid waabigwan
mazinigwaadenig obashkweginwekizining.
Onaanaagadoojiinaa' senibaansa' egogwaazonid okaakiganing
onikaang gaye okaading. Onaanaagadawendaan
gaa-gii-izhi-noo'amawind endoodaming ezhi-maajii-niimid.

Eko-niizho-anama'e-giizhigwagak dagoshinoog, Mason
ani-jiikendam baabii'od ji-ani-izhaad endazhi-niimi'iding.
Bi-dagoshinoo' oniigii'igoo', ezhi-mikwendamosed gaawiin mashi
wiindamawaasig Omishoomisan maagizhaa ji-niimid maagizhaa
gaawiin. Ojaanimendam wewiib onaazikaan obwaazhiiwichigan
jibwaa-dagoshininid, endazhi-bii'onid oniigii'igoog.

As he looks at his reflection, he stares at every piece of material which has been stitched together. He traces every bead making up the flower design on his moccasins. He runs his fingers through the tightly coloured ribbons hanging from his chest, arms and legs. Mason thinks of a few of the steps he has been taught and starts practising the dances.

The Powwow arrives a couple of weeks later. Mason is getting anxious by waiting around to leave for the Powwow. As his family arrives, he realizes he has not told Grandfather whether he will dance or not. He does not have time to think, he rushes off to get his regalia on before Grandfather comes over to Mason's family.



**Odakobidoon omiskwaanjigan, awiyan odaanginigoon
odinimaaganing. Gwekikweni inaabid owaabamaan
Omishoomisan ozhoomiingwetawigoon.**

**Owiji'igoon Omishoomisan ji-onapizod. Odigoon, "Wegonen
dash gaa-onji-inendaman wii-niimiyan"**

**"Ningii-naanaagadawendaan gaa-gii-izhiyan, gego memwech
dadendangen ge-inenimikwaa awiyag." Mason Owaabamaan
zhoomiingwetawigod.**

**Izhi-gakina ani-izhaawag waa-dazhi-niimi'idining bi-onda'adoowag
odoodaabaniwaang waa-izhi-ozhisidoowaad odesibiniwiniwaan.
Gakina onabiwaad onoondawaawaan, madwe-gaagiigidonid
gaa-gizhiiwewesijigenid.**

*Mason is just tying his head roach when he feels a gentle hand on
his shoulder. He turns and looks up to see his Grandfather wearing
a warm, admiring smile.*

*As Grandfather helps Mason with his regalia, he asks, "What made
you decide to dance?"*

*"I have taken your advice to be myself and to not worry about
what other people think." Mason notices his Grandfather smiling at
him.*

*The whole family walks over to the Powwow grounds from their
cars to find a place to set the chairs up. Once everyone settles,
they hear an announcer's voice as it comes over the loudspeaker.*



“Daga omaa gakina da-bi-izhaawag gaa-wii-niimiwaad, wiiba zhi-gwa da-bi-indigeshimo’idim.”

Mason ani-izhaa ezhi-baatayi-inonid izhi-agwajii-aya’ii gaa-danweweshininid gaa-wiindamaagenid waa-inakamigak. Gakina onaanaagadawaabamaa’ gaa-bwaazhiiwichigenid. Gaa-anishinaabe-niiminid, gaye gaa-zhiibaashka’iganishimowaad zazegaashimowin gaa-agwani-waad aaniin igo endaso-biboonwewaad. Waabandaanan ezhi-bebakaanakin, gaawiin daabida izhinaagwasinon. Maamakaadendam ezhi-bebakaan inaadenig gaye ezhigwaadenig.

“May I please have all of the dancers come to the arena, Grand Entry is beginning very soon.”

Mason walks over to the crowd of people gathering outside the announcer’s stand. He can’t help but to stare at everyone in their regalia. There are Grass Dancers, Traditional Dancers, Jingle Dress Dancers and Fancy Shawl Dancers of all ages. He also notices that each regalia is different, no one is the same as the other. Mason cannot believe the different colours and various patterns which makes up everyone’s regalia.



**Zhigwa ganoonaawag ge-wiiishimotawaad gewiin ani-izhaa
jiigayi'ii. Ani-dagoshin ezhi-ishkwegaabawinid
waa-tanakamigak, gakina waabaama'. Jiikendamose. Miziwe
babaa-inaabi onandonewaan Omishoomisan.
Bijiinag igo gaa-tebaabamaad gii-ani-meminwendam,
gii-ani-izhaa maajii-niimid gichi-weweni, onaabwewesidoonan
ozidan enwewe'igaazonid dewe'iganan gaye ena'aminind
gaa-nagamomid.**

**Mason gichi-niimi, ogii-waniikaadaan
ezhi-zhaagwenimopan, ogii-wanenimaa gaye
genawaabamigod, obizindawaan dewe'iganan. Omishoomisan
ominwaabamigoon. Aapiji minwendam waabamaad Oozhisan
niiminid, mii awe nakeya'ii gii-ani-bimaadizid.**

As the Grass Dancer category is called, Mason's group moves closer into the circle. When Mason approaches the outline of the arena, he sees all of the people. His heart races. He searches through the crowd for the face of his Grandfather. Their gazes lock and an instant calmness comes over Mason. He steps into the arena and begins to dance beautifully, his feet move on beat with the drum and his body sways to the tune of the song.

Mason dances so hard, he completely forgets about being nervous, he completely forgets people are watching. He listens to the drum. His Grandfather stares on in awe. He is thrilled his Grandson decides to dance, this is part of his journey.



Glossary

Agwajii-aya'ii pr (psl) out thing
 Agwanii vai s/he shawl dances
 Akawe adv (tmp) first (in a time sequence), first of all
 Amanj adv (dub) I don't know how, I wonder how
 Ani- pv2 (dir) coming up to in time; going away; in progress; on the way
 Anishinaabe na 1. a person, a human (in contrast to a non-human being) 2. an Indian (in contrast to a non-Indian), a Native (in contrast to a non-Native) 3. an Ojibwe
 Anishinaabe-niimi vai s/he dances pow wow
 Ando- pv4 (lex) look for; seek
 Apiidizi vai s/he is a certain age also; apiitizi
 Apiitendaagwad vii it is valued so high, ranks so high, is so important, is worthy
 Awe pr (dem) that (animate)
 Awiya pr (indf) somebody, someone, anybody, anyone
 Ayaa vai 1. s/he is (in a certain place) 2. [with a lexical preverb] s/he is in a state or condition 3. [with a preverb] s/he moves a certain way
 Aaniin adv (inter) how?; in what way?; why?
 Aaniin danaa adv (inter) well how?; well why?; why not?
 Aaniish wiin adv (inter) how?; why? in what way? [interrogative]; well now; ; you see
 Aapiji adv (deg) very, quite
 Aazha adv (tmp) already; now
 Aazhawinamaadiwag vai they transfer something along, pass something to each other

B

Babaa- pv2 (dir) going about, going around
 Bashkweginwekizin ni a hide moccasin
 Baatayiino vai 1. there is much of it 2. they are many, there are many of them
 Bebakaanad vii it is all different
 Bebakaaninaande vii it is coloured differently
 Bi- pv2 (dir) here; hither; this way; toward the speaker
 Bi-izhaa vai s/he comes
 Bii'o vai s/he waits
 Bijiinag adv (tmp) after a while, eventually, finally; just now; recently
 Bimaadizi vai s/he lives, is alive
 Bizindaw vta listen to h/
 Biindigeshimo'idiwag vai they dances inside (as in a grand entry) together

Biisikan vti wear it, have it on (the body), put in on (the body) also; biizikan
 Bwaazhiiwichige vai s/he is being in regalia; also bawaazhiiwichige

D

Da- pv1 (tns) future tense
 Dadendam vai2 s/he has a worried feeling
 Daga pc (disc) come on!; please!
 Dagoshin vai s/he arrives, gets somewhere
 Dakobidoon vti2 tie, bind it
 Danakamigad vii it (an event) takes place, happens in a certain place
 Danweweshin vai s/he is heard hitting or falling in a certain place
 Dash adv (conj) but; and, and then, then
 Dazhi- pv3 (rel) in a certain place; of a certain place; there
 Daa- pv1 (tns) modal preverb of possibility, necessity, or obligation: can, could, should, would, might, must
 Daabida adv (man) alike; identical
 Debaabam vta have h/ in sight, see h/ at a distance
 Debikad vii it is night; under initial change
 Desabiwin ni a chair, a seat; a saddle
 Dewe'igan na a drum
 Doodam vai2 s/he does something

E

Egogwaazo vai s/he sews a certain length
 Eko-niizho-anama'e-giizhigwagad vii it is two weeks
 Eko-niizho-biboonigad vii it is two years
 Ena'amin vta sing a certain way to h/; under initial change
 Endaso-biboonwe vai s/he being all ages
 Endazhi- pv3 (rel) in a certain place
 Enwewe vii it makes a certain noise; under initial change
 Enwewe'igaazo vai s/he pretends to make a certain noise; under initial change
 Ezhi- pv3 (rel) in a certain place; in a certain way; so; there; thus under initial change
 Ezhigwaade vii it is sewn a certain way under initial change
 Ezhigwaazo vai s/he is sewn a certain way under initial change
 Ezhinaagozi vai s/he has a certain look or appearance under initial change

Ezhinaago'o vai s/he has a certain look or appearance
(rainy lake dialect) under initial change
Ezhinaagwad vii it has a certain look or appearance

G

Ga- pv1 (tns) future tense
Gagwejii vai s/he tests h/ strength
Gagwejim vta ask, question h/
Gakina adv (qnt) all, every
Ganawaabam vta look at, watch h/
Ganawaabandizo vai s/he looks at h/ self
Ganawendan vti take care of, protect, keep it
Ganoozh/GanooN vta address h/, speak to h/, call h/
(on the phone)
Gaye adv (conj) as for, also, too, and
Gaa- pv1 (tns) past tense under initial change
Gaa-gii- pv1 (tns) reason
Gaagiigido vai s/he talks, speaks (for some time); gives a
speech
Gaawiin adv (neg) no, not
Gaawiin mashi adv (tmp) not yet also; gaa mashi
Ge- pv1 (tns) future tense prefix, under initial change
Gego memwech adv (pred) you don't have to
Gegoo pr (indf) something, anything
Genawaabam vta look at, watch h/; under initial change
Gewiin pr (per) as for her; as for him; he too; her too; him
too; she too
Geyaabi adv (tmp) still, yet
Gichi- pv4 (lex) very, quite; big; great
Gidede nad your father
Gigishkan vti have it on (the body), bear it (on the body);
wear it
Gikenim vta know h/, know about h/, find out about h/,
realize of h/
Gikino'o'amaw vta teach (it) to h/, let h/ know (it)
Gimishoome nad your uncle (father's brother); your
stepfather
Gizhiwewesijige vai s/he announces
Gii- pv1 (tns) past tense
Gosha pc (emph) [emphatic particle]
Goshkwendam vai2 s/he is surprised/nervous
Gozikan vti 1. test it (with foot or body) 2. try it on
Gwekikweni vai s/he turns h/ head around
I
Idash adv (conj) but; and, and then, then
Igiwe pr (dem) those [animate plural demonstrative]
Igo pc (emph) [emphatic word]

Ikido vai s/he says, speaks so
Inakamigad vii it is a certain event, happens a certain
way
Inaabi vai s/he looks to a certain place, peeks
Inaadizo vai s/he has a certain character or nature,
has a certain way of life also; inaadizi
Indigo adv (man) as if; just like, seems like
Inendam vai2 1. s/he thinks a certain way 2. s/he
decides, agrees, consents
Inendamin vta think of h/ a certain way (rainy lake
dialect)
Inenim vta think of h/ a certain way
Ishkwegaabawi vai s/he stands at the end
Iwe pr (dem) that; those
Iwidi adv (loc) over there
Izhaa vai s/he goes to a certain place
Izhi/iN vta say to h/, speak so to h/ (irregular verb)
Izhi- pv3 (rel) in a certain way; so; there; thus; to a
certain place
Izhichige vai s/he does, makes things a certain way
Izhinaw vta see, perceive h/ a certain way
Izhinaagozi vai s/he has a certain look or appearance
Izhinaagwad vii it has a certain look or appearance

J

Ji- pv1 (tns) that; in order to; so that
Jibwaa- pv1 (tns) before
Jiigayi'ii adv (loc) along it; by it
Jiikendam vai2 s/he feels happy
Jiikendamose vai2 s/he walks happily

K

Konaye vai s/he dresses, is dressed, also; biizikonaye

M

Madwe- pv4 (lex) audible; being heard; making noise
Manajitoon vti2 spare, respect, go easy on it
Mason na Mason
Mazingwaade vii it is embroidered
Maagizhaa adv (man) maybe; I think that..., perhaps,
maybe
Maajii- pv4 (lex) begin; start; start off
Maamakaadendam vai2 s/he is amazed, is astonished
Maazhiingweni vai s/he makes a rough face/bad
looking face

Minwendam vai2 s/he is happy, is joyous, is glad, has a good time

Minwendan vti like it

Miziwe adv (loc) all over; everywhere

Mii adv (pred) it is thus that..., it is that...

Miinawaa adv (conj) also; and; again

Miinigoowizi vai s/he receives a gift, is given a gift

Miizh/miIN vta give (it) to h/

N

Nagamo vai s/he sings

Nakeya'ii pc (adv pred) as it is done, as it goes.

Nakwetaw vta answer h/

Nandonew vta search for h/

Nanaa'ipan vta fix, repair (it) for h/

Nanaa'apidoon vti2 fix, repair it

Nawagikwegaabawi vai s/he stands with head down

Nashke pc (disc) look!

Nawaj adv (deg) more

Naabwewesidoon vti2 hit it, beat it

Naagaj adv (qnt) later, after a while, eventually

Naanaagadawaabam vti watch h/ carefully, observe h/

Naanaagadawaabandan vti watch it carefully, observe it

Naanaagadawendan vti consider it, notice it, think about it

Naanaagadoon vti2 traces it

Naazikan vti go to, approach it

Nimishoomis nad my grandfather

Nitaa- pv4 (lex) being good at; being skilled at; frequently do; know how to do something

Niigaan adv (loc) ahead, at the front, leading; in the future

Niimi vai s/he dances

Niimi'iding adv (loc) powwow

Niimi'idiyan vai you dance (conjunct form) also;

niimi'idiwag

Niimiwayaan ni regalia also; obwaazhiwichigan

Niin pr (per) I, me

Noo'amaw vta teach h/ to step

Noomag adv (tmp) for a long time; for a spell; for a while

Noondaw vta hear h/

Noongom adv (tmp) now, today, nowadays

Noozhis nad my grandchild

O

Obwaazhiwichigan ni regalia also; niimiwayaan
Odaabaan ni/na 1. something dragged or pulled as a means of conveyance: a wagon 2. a car, an automobile, a vehicle

Odinimaagan nid h/ shoulder also; odinimaangan

Okaad nid h/ leg

Okaakigan nid h/ chest

Omaa adv (loc) here

Omiskwaanjigan na head roach

Onabi vai s/he takes a seat, sits down

Onapizo vai s/he is tied in place, is harnessed

Onda'adoo vai s/he comes from a certain place on a path or trail

Onik nid h/ arm

Onishkaabatoo vai s/he jumps up out of bed

Onizhishin vii it is nice, pretty

Onji- pv3 (rel) because; for a certain reason; from a certain place

Oniigii'ig na family

Onzaam adv (qnt) 1. too, too much, excessively 2. because (of an excess or an extreme condition or event)

Omishoomisan nad h/ grandfather

O'owe pr (dem) this

Ozhigaabawi vai s/he stands in place, stands ready

Ozhisidoon vti2 1. put, lay, set it a certain way 2. put or express it a certain way in speech, song, or writing 3. write, print it a certain way also; izhisidoon

Oozhisan nad h/ grandchild

S

Sa pc (disc) [emphatic]

Senibaanh na a ribbon; silk also; zenibaanh

W

Wananim vta forget, ignore h/

Waniikaadan vti forgets it

Wawanendam vai2 s/he is unsure/undecided

Waa- pv1 (tns) is going to, will, want to under initial change

Waabam vta see h/

Waabandizo vai s/he sees h/ self

Waabigwan ni a flower

Waabimojichaagwaan ni mirror

Wegonen pr (inter) what

Weweni adv (man) properly, correctly, carefully

Wewiib adv (man) hurry, in a hurry, quickly

Wii- pv1 (tns) is going to, will, want to

Wijji' vta 1. help h/ 2. play with h/

Wijjishimotaw vta dance with h/

Wiinawaa pr (per) they, them

Wiindamaw vta tell h/ about (it), inform h/ about (it)

Wiindamaage vai s/he tells (it) to people, announces (it)
to people, informs people

Z

Zazegaashimo vai s/he dances in powwow regalia

Zhaagwendam vai2 s/he thinks weak/hesitates, has doubts

Zhaagwenim vta think h/ weak, have doubts about h/

Zhebaa adv (tmp) this morning (just past)

Zhigwa adv (tmp) already; at this time; now; then

Zhiibaashka'iganishimo vai s/he jingle dress dances

Zhoomiingwetaw vta smile at h/