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Edit by Heather Parkhill

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Translations provided by Nancy Jones and Jason Jones.

**Indaa-ikid maawiin, jibwaa-maajitaayaan ningii-paatayiininimin
niiwin ikwezensag niiwin gaye niizh gwiiwizensag. Minik
epiichi-minjimendamaan bagiwayaanegamigong
ningii-taamin; gii-biboong, gii- niibing, gii-ziigwang, gaye
gii-tagwaaging. Gaawiin gegoo apishimon gaye nibewinan.
Gii-biboong gii-kisinaa. Agwajiing miiziiwigamig
wii-aabajitoomin gaawiin gegoo gaa-bimijiwang. Gegaa go
ningii-kitimaagizimin noopimiing ningii-ondaaji'izomin.**

*I should say, at the start we were a big family of four girls
and two boys. As far back as I can remember we lived in a
tent; winter, spring, summer and fall. We never had
mattresses or beds. We slept on the floor with a blanket as
our mattress. In the winter this was cold. We had an
outhouse we used because we had no running water. We
were very poor and lived off the land.*



Niniigi'igoog apane gii-kichi-anokiiwag. Nindede gii-nooji'aa' awesiinyensa' zhaangweshiwa' amikwa', wazhashkwa', waagosha' gaye ma'iingana'. Niniigi'igoog ogii-pakonaawaa' awesiinyensa' , ogii-paaswaawaa' gaye ogii-piini'aawaa'. Waaboozoyaan ningii-kiizozideshkaagonaanig. Nindede gii-inakwazhiwe noongom Northwest Angle Minnesota, gaa-izhinikaadeg. Mii iwidi gaa-ina'adood adaawaaged omaanitaana' wenji-adaawed wiisiniwin. Gabe-giizhig igo gii-tazhitaa.

My parents were hard workers. My father hunted mink, beaver, muskrat, fox, and wolves. My parents would skin the animals, dry the hide and clean the fur. We would use the rabbit fur to keep our feet warm. My dad would canoe to what is now known as Northwest Angle, Minnesota and then walk to the store to sell the fur to buy food. It would take him all day to make this trip.



**Gakina gegoo gaa-ondinamaang. Noopimiing
ningii-aabajitoomin nindede ogii-nisaa' waawaashkeshiwa'
moozoo' gaa-ondinamaang wiiyaas. Bashkwegin
wii-aabadad makizinikeng. Gii-pagidawaa' zhiishiiba'
ogii-paashkizwaa' gaye Nika'. Gii-ani-dagwaagig
ningii-mawinzomin gaye ningii-manoominikemin. Nimaamaa
ogii-ayaan gitigaanens, okaadaagwa', opiniin, miskojiinsan,
agosimaanensan gaye zhigaagominzhii' ogii-gitigaanaa'.**

*Everything we got from the land was used. My dad
hunted deer and moose for meat. We used the hide to
make moccasins. He fished the lakes; shot the ducks and
the geese too. In the fall, my parents would berry pick and
go pick wild rice. My mom planted a small garden with
carrots, potatoes, radishes, cucumber and onions.*



Omoodayaabikong ningii-izhi-ganawendaamin wiiyaas
ningii-konzaabii'aamin zaaga'iganing ji-waniwanaadasinook.
Ingoding gaye agwajiing ningii-agoodoomin. Bineshiinyensag
idash ogii-miijinaawaa. Apane go ningii-michi-nibinaadimin.
Gii-biboong noos gii-twaa'ige. Mii imaa gaa-onda'ibiiyaang.
Niminjimendaan nimaamaa ogii-ayaan
gichi-biiwaabiko-abwewin, gaye akikoon. Mii imaa
gaa-izhi-gizhizang gegoo gii-michi-boodaweng.

We stored meat in jars and put them in the lake to keep them fresh longer. Sometimes we hung food but the birds would eat it. We hauled water from the lake all year round. My dad would cut a big hole in the ice so we could get water. I remember we had a cast iron pan and a big pot that my mom used to cook with over the fire.



**Gii-andawenjiged nindede, nimaamaa ogii-kiziibiiga'aanan
ningigishkiganinaanin giziibiiga'iganibiikwaabik ogii-aabajitoon
gaye ogii-agootoonan ji-baatenig. Ogii-kiikanaabasaan wiyaas
gaye giigoonya' agwaawaanaak ogii-aabajitoon. Nimaamaa
gaye nookomis ogii-ozhitoonaawaan ge-gigishkamaang.
Ningoding ningii-michi-zhaashaaginizidemin. Gakina
niiji-ayaa'aag ningii-aazhawinamaadimin ningigishkiganaanin.**

*While my dad hunted, my mom washed clothes in a
washtub and hung the clothes on the line to dry. She
would dry meat and fish on a wooden rack outside. My
mom and grandmother would make us clothes.
Sometimes we didn't have shoes to wear. All of my
brothers and sisters and I got hand me downs as we grew
up.*



**Niminjimenimaa nindede gii-bi-dagoshing ogii-piidoonan
ningodwewaan waawanoon gaye wiiyaas
gaa-gashkaabikinigaadeg. Nimaamaa
ogii-bi-gishkiweba'aanan waawanoon gii-gizhizang.
Ningii-gichi-apiitendaamin. Gaawiin igo apane ningii-ayaasiimin
wiiyaas ningoding idash nitii miinawaa bakwezhigan
ningii-inanjigemin. Giishpin ayaayaang bashkiminasigan
ningii-dagwandaamin.**

**Ayaapiichinaago nindede obiidoonan mashkikiinsan.
Ogii-bi-giishkikodaanan ezhi-bebezhig. Aapiji
ningii-gichi-apiitendaamin gii-ani-ombigiyaang.**

I remember when my dad came back from selling his furs he would bring a dozen eggs and a can of spam. My mom would scramble them together as a treat. We thought that was such a great feast. Sometimes we didn't have any meat for supper, so we had tea and bannock. If we had some, we would eat it with jam.

Every once in a while, my dad would bring fruit or candy home. The candy was split evenly between us all. That was a big treat when I was growing up.



**Gii-ani-ombigiyaan maagizhaa gii-naano-bibooneyaan,
niniigi'igoog ningii-bagidinigog ji-mawadisagwaa
ningitiziiminaanik. Gaa-dazhi-wanii'igewaad iko ningii-izhaamin.
Bezhig ningitiziim ningii-wiidabimig awe idash bezhig
gii-pabaa-nanaajiwanii'ige. Gaawiin wiikaa
ningii-shigadendanzii, ningii-zhawenimigoog.**

As I got older, maybe five, my parents would let me go stay with my grandparents. We would go stay at their trapping grounds. One of my grandparents would stay with me while the others went to check their traps and snares. I never got lonesome, they all spoiled me.



**Gii-ani-ombigiyaan nindede ogii-ozhitoon mitigowaakaa'igaans
mitigoo' ogii-aabaji'aa' imaa minising. Boodawaanaabik
ningii-aabajitoomin biinji-waakaa'igaans.
Ningii-tazhi-giizizekwemin gaye ningii-onji-giizhoozimin.
Gaawiin gegoo waasigan ningii-michi-nibinaadimin. Gaawiin
gaye waazakonenjigan. Ningii-gawishimomin
gii-ani-gashkiidibikak ningii-goshkozimin gii-ani-waabang.**

*When I was older my dad built a small cabin from the trees
on the island. We even had a woodstove in the cabin. We
cooked on it and it kept us warm. We didn't have
electricity or running water. There were no torches or
candles. We went to bed at dark and got up at first light.*

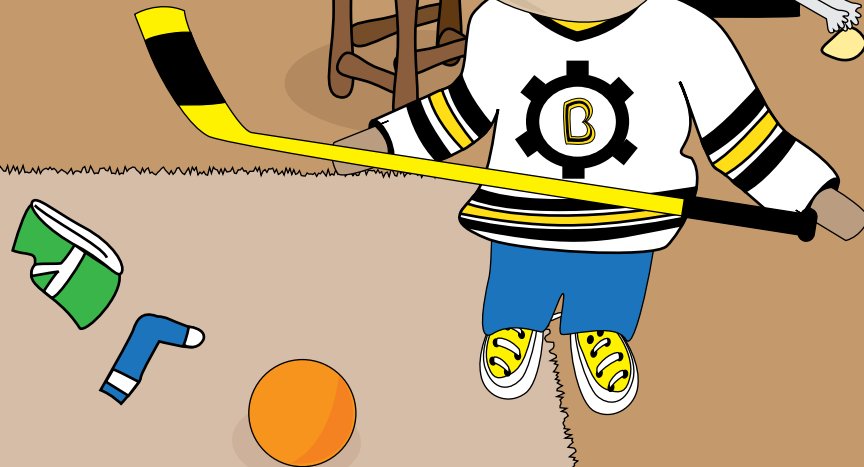
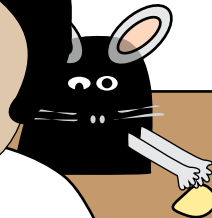
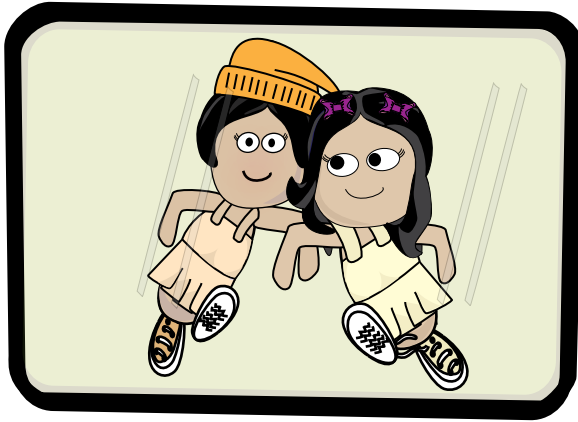


**Baamaa nishwaaso-biboonagiziyaan
ningii-majii-gikino'o'amaage.**

**Noongom idash abinoojiinyag wendiziwaag. Mii niin owe nake
gaa-pi-izhi-ombigiyaan.**

I didn't go to school until I was eight.

Kids today have it very easy. This is how I lived as a child.



Elder's Lessons

When you see an eagle, it is a sign of good things to come.

When you help an Elder, you get time added onto your life.

If a Spirit wants to feed you, it won't give you food, but it will lead you to food.

The grandparent would be the ones that raise the children. This works especially well because every Native person is required to listen to Elders and show respect by being quiet.

If you put tobacco out every morning to the Ojibwe language spirit, it will help you to learn Ojibwe. Your spirit already understands Ojibwe.

Elders say "Listen and watch, that is how we learn".

When you give an Elder tobacco, put it in their hand and touch their hand with your hand. This skin to skin contact makes it more personal, this is good.

A

Abinoojiinh na a child
 Adaawaage vai s/he sells
 Adaawe vai s/he buys
 Agosimaanens ni a cucumber
 Agootoon vti2 hang it also; agoodoon
 Agwajiing adv (loc) outside, outdoors
 Agwaawaanaak ni a smoking or drying rack for meat or fish; a meat rack; a smokehouse
 Amik na a beaver
 Ani- pv2 (dir) coming up to in time; going away; in progress; on the way
 Andawenjige vai 1. s/he hunts (for small game) 2. s/he needs, wants things
 Ando- pv4 (lex) look for; seek (rainy lake dialect)
 Anokii vai s/he works
 Apane adv (tmp) all the time; always; continually
 Apishimon ni something placed to lie on, a mattress, bedding placed on the floor
 Apiitendam vai2 s/he is proud; value, regard it so high
 Awe pr (dem) this (animate singular)
 Awesiinh na a (wild) animal
 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
 Ayaa'aa na being
 Ayaan vti4 have it; own it
 Ayaapiichinaago adv (tmp) every once in awhile, every now and then; now and then also; ayaapiichinaag
 Aabadad vii it is useful, is used
 Aabajji' vta use h/
 Aabajitoon vti2 use it
 Aapiji adv (deg) very, quite
 Aazhawinamaadiwag vai they transfer something along, pass something to each other

B

Babaa- pv2 (dir) going about, going around
 Bagida'waa vai s/he fishes (with a net), sets net
 Bagidin vta 1. set h/ down; offer, release h/ 2. allow h/
 Bagiwayaanegamig ni a tent
 Bakon vta skin h/
 Bakwezhigan na 1. bread, bannock 2. flour
 Bashkwegin ni hide; leather
 Baamaa adv (tmp) later, after a while, eventually
 Baas vta dry h/

Glossary

Baashkiminasigan ni jam; preserves
 Baashkiz/baashkizW vta shoot h/
 Baatayiini vai 1. there is much of it 2. they are many, there are many of them also; baatayiino
 Baate vii it is dry
 Bebezhigh adv (num) one-by-one
 Bezhigh adv (num) 1. One 2. a certain one
 Bi- pv2 (dir) here; hither; this way; toward the speaker
 Biboon vii it is winter
 Bimijiwan vii it flows along
 Biidoon vti2 bring it
 Biini' vta clean h/
 Biinji-waakaa'igaans adv (loc) in the cabin
 Boodawaanaabik ni woodstove

D

Dagoshin vai s/he arrives, gets somewhere
 Dagwandam vai2 s/he is eating (with something)
 Dagwaagin vii it is fall, is autumn
 Dazhi- pv3 (rel) in a certain place; of a certain place; there
 Dazhitaa vai 1. s/he takes time, spends time, stays in a certain place 2. s/he works, plays (in a certain place)
 Daa- pv1 (tns) modal preverb of possibility, necessity, or obligation: can, could, should, would, might, must
 Daa vai s/he lives, dwells in a certain place

E

Epiichi- pv3 (rel) to a certain extent or degree; as much as; under initial change
 Epiichiwendad vii it is a certain amount under initial change
 Ezhi- pv3 (rel) in a certain place; in a certain way; so; there; thus

G

Gabe-giizhig adv (tmp) all day
 Gakina adv (qnt) all, every
 Gashkaabikinigaade vii it is being klik (enclosed in a metal can)
 Gashkiidibikad vii it is dark, gets dark (as night)
 Gawishimo vai s/he lies down, goes to bed
 Gaye adv (conj) as for, also, too, and
 Gaa- pv1 (tns) [past tense prefix under initial change]
 Gaawiin adv (neg) no, not

Gabenaagosh adv (tmp) all evening also; gabe-onaa-gosh
 Gagwe- pv4 (lex) try
 Gagwedwe vai s/he asks, asks a question, inquires
 Gagwejim vta ask, question h/
 Ganawaabam vta look at, watch h/
 Gaa- pv1 (tns) past tense under initial change
 Gaa-gii pv1 (tns) reason
 Gaawiin adv (neg) no, not
 Ge- pv1 (tns) future tense (definite) under initial change
 Ge adv (conj) also; as for, also, too, and; too
 Gegaa adv (deg) nearly, almost
 Geget adv (man) sure, certainly, really, indeed
 Gegiin pr (per) as for you [singular]; you too [singular]
 Gegoo pr (indf) something, anything
 Gete- pv4 (lex) old; old-time
 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
 Gichi-aya'aa na an adult, an elder
 Gigishkaw vta 1. have h/ on (the body) 2. be pregnant with h/
 Gikendam vai2 s/he knows
 Gikendan vti know it, know about it, find it out, realize it
 Gikenim vta know h/, know about h/, find out about h/, realize of h/
 Gikinjiinindi vai they're hugging each other
 Gikino'amaading vai they teach each other (place, location)
 Gikino'amaadiwigamig ni School
 Ginoozi vai s/he is tall, is long
 Gizhiikaa vai s/he goes fast
 Gii- pv1 (tns) past tense
 Giikajijiwanjinna vai s/he has cold hands
 Giin pr (per) you [singular]
 Giuwe vai s/he goes home
 Giuwe'adoo vai s/he walks back on a path or trail, walks home on a path or trail
 Giizhiyaaboni vai surprised
 Giizhooshkaago vta/vai s/he is warmed (by s.t.) note this verb comes from giizhooshkaw
 Go pc (disc) [emphatic word] adds emphasis
 Gonige adv (pred) I wonder if; I wonder whether; could you
 Gwekibani'o vai s/he turns one's head
 Gwiinawenim vta miss, feel the absence of h/
 Gwiizizens na a boy

Ge- pv1 (tns) [future tense prefix under initial change]
 Gegaa adv (deg) nearly, almost
 Gegoo pr (indf) something, anything
 Gichi- pv4 (lex) very, quite; big; great
 Gigishkan vti have it on (the body), bear it (on the body); wear it
 Gigishkigan ni clothes; clothing
 Gikino'amaage vai s/he teaches
 Gishkiweba'an vti fling s.t. Together
 Gisinna vii it is cold (weather)
 Gitigaanens ni a vegetable
 Gitigaazh/gitigaan vta plant h/
 Gitimaagizi vai s/he poor/not well off
 Gizhizan vti heat it, heat it up
 Giziibiiga'an vti cleans/washes it
 Giziibiiga'iganibiikwaabik ni wash tub (rainy lake dialect)
 Gii- pv1 (tns) past tense
 Giigoonh na a fish
 Giikanaabas vta smoke h/ (for preservation)
 Giishkikodan vti sever it with knife
 Giishpin adv (gram) if
 Giizizekwe vai s/he cooks
 Giizozideshkaago vai + O s/he feet is kept warm
 Go pc (disc) [emphatic word]
 Goshkozi vai s/he wakes up, is awake
 Gwiizizens na a boy

J

Ji- pv1 (tns) that (animate obviative); in order to; so that
 Jibwaa- pv1 (tns) before

I

Idash adv (conj) but; and, and then, then
 Igo pc (emph) [emphatic word]
 Iko pc (emph) [emphatic word]
 Ikwezens na a girl
 Ina'adoon vti2 follow it as a trail to a certain place
 Inakwazhiwe vai 1. s/he paddles a certain way, paddles to a certain place 2. s/he swims to a certain place (as a fish)
 Inanjige vai s/he eats a certain way, has a certain diet
 Iwidi adv (loc) over there
 Izhaa vai s/he goes to a certain place
 Izhinikaade vii it is named a certain way

M

Ma'iingan na wolf
 Makizinike vai s/he makes moccasins, makes shoes
 Manoominike vai s/he rices, goes ricing, makes rice, picks rice, harvests wild rice
 Mashkikiinsan ni candy
 Mawadish/mawadiS vta visit h/
 Mawinzo vai s/he picks berries
 Maagizhaa adv (man) maybe; I think that..., perhaps, maybe
 Maajitaa vai s/he starts doing something, sets to work
 Maajii- pv4 (lex) begin; start; start off
 Maaminonendam vai2 s/he thinks about, considers, realizes, notices something
 Maanitaan ni fur
 Maawiin adv (man) maybe; no doubt
 Michi- pv4 (lex) barely; by hand; without anything special
 Minik adv (qnt) a certain amount, a certain amount, so much, so many
 Minis ni an island
 Minjimenim vta keep h/ in h/ mind, remember h
 Minjimendan vti keep it in h/ mind, remember it
 Miskojiins ni raddish
 Mitig na a tree
 Mitigowaakaa'igaans ni cabin
 Mii adv (pred) it is thus that..., it is that...
 Miinawaa adv (conj) also; and; again
 Miiziiwigamig ni a toilet, a bathroom, an outhouse
 Mooz na a moose
 Moozhagin vta pick them (animate) up; gather, collect them (animate)

N

Nake'ii adv (pred) as it is done, as it goes, also nakeya'ii
 Nanaajiwani'ige vai s/he fixes/checks the trap
 Naano-biboone vai s/he is five years old
 Nibewin ni bed, an overnight stopping place
 Nibinaadi vai s/he gets water
 Nika na canadian goose
 Nimaamaa nad my mother
 Nindede nad my father
 Ningitiziim nad my grandparent (rainy lake dialect)
 Ningoding adv (tmp) at one time; sometime
 Ningodwewaan adv (num) one set; one pair
 Niniigi'igoog nad my parents
 Nishi/niS vta kill h/
 Nishwaaso-biboonagizi vai s/he is eight years old

Nitii ni tea (the drink)
 Niibin vii it is summer
 Nijji- pv4 (lex) my fellow
 Niin pr (per) I, me
 Niiwin adv (num) four
 Niizh adv (num) two
 Nooji' vta seek, go after, hunt h/
 Nookomis nad my grandmother
 Noongom adv (tmp) now, today, nowadays
 Noopimiing adv (loc) in the bush; in the woods; inland

O

Okaadaak na a carrot
 Ombigi vai s/he grows up
 Ondaaji'izo vai s/he survives off the land
 Ondinan vti get, obtain it from a certain place
 Onji- pv3 (rel) because; for a certain reason; from a certain place
 Opin na a potato
 Owe pr (dem) this (inanimate singular)
 Ozhitoon vti2 make, build, form it

W

Wanii'ige vai s/he traps
 Wazhashk na a muskrat
 Waaban vii 1. it is tomorrow 2. it is dawn
 Waaboozayaan ni rabbit fur
 Waagosh na fox
 Waasigan ni lightning; electricity
 Waawan ni an egg
 Waawaashkeshi na a deer
 Waazakonenjigan ni a lamp, a light, torch
 Wegimaawaadizo vai s/he leads oneself under initial change
 Wendizi vai s/he is easy, is cheap
 Wenji- pv3 (rel) because; for a certain reason; from a certain place; under initial change
 Wii- pv1 (tns) is going to, will, want to
 Wiidabim vta sit with h/
 Wiikaa adv (tmp) late; ever; seldom
 Wiisiniwin ni food
 Wiyaas ni meat; a piece of meat

Z

Zhawenim vta *bless, pity h/; show loving-kindness, unconditional love for h/; have mercy, compassion for h/*

Zhaangweshi na *a mink*

Zhaashaaginizide vai *s/he is barefoot*

Zhigadendam vai *s/he is tired of s.t., lonesome*

Zhigaagominzh na *an onion (rainy lake dialect)*

Zhiishiib na *duck*

Ziigwan vii *it is spring*