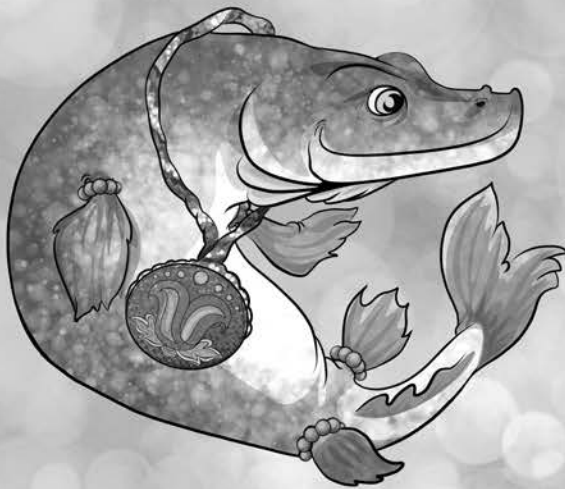


Maajii-Ojibwemowag
(They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

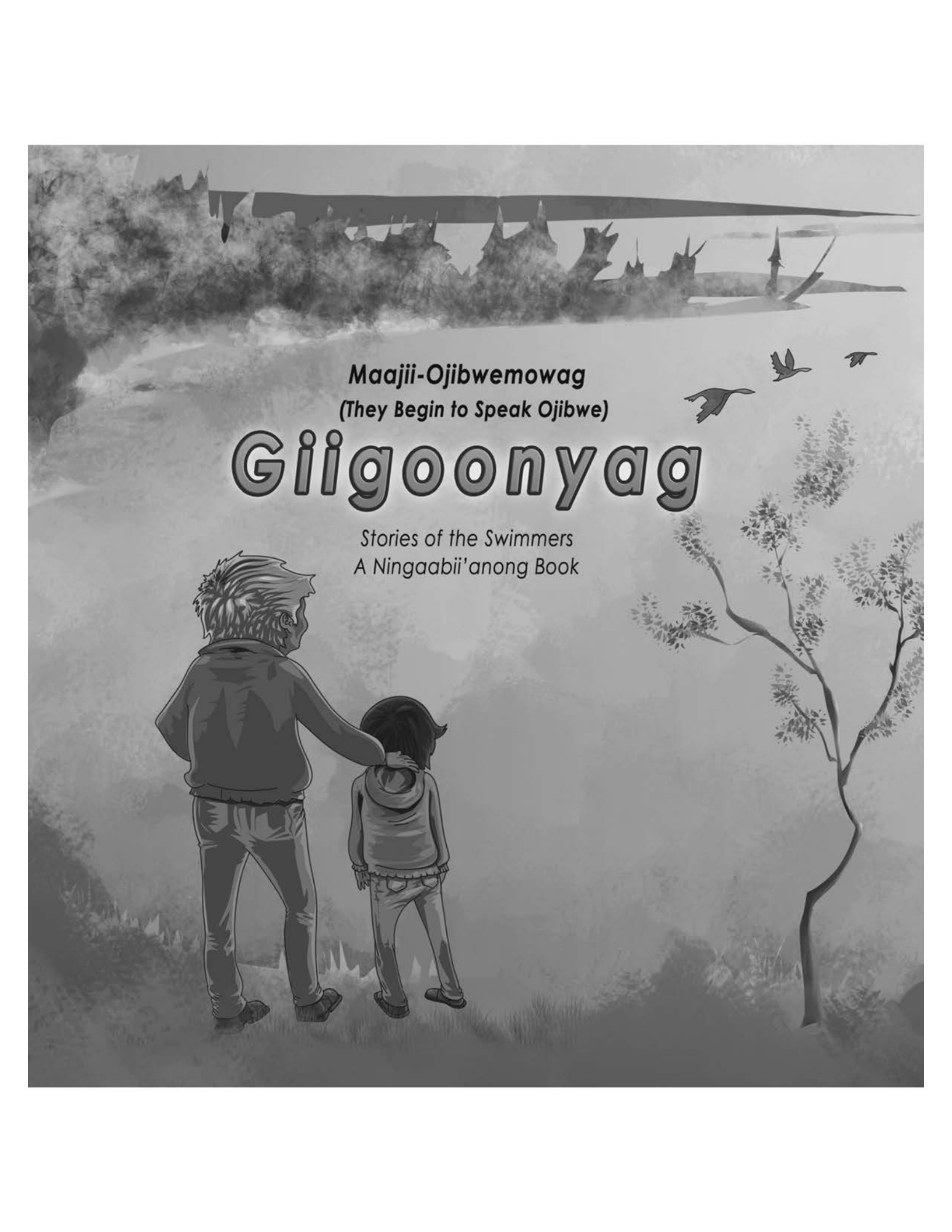
Ningaabii'anong

Stories of the Swimmers



Tribal Storyteller:
Binesikwe
(Debi Williamson)





Maajii-Ojibwemowag
(They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

Giigoonyag

Stories of the Swimmers
A Ningaabii'anong Book

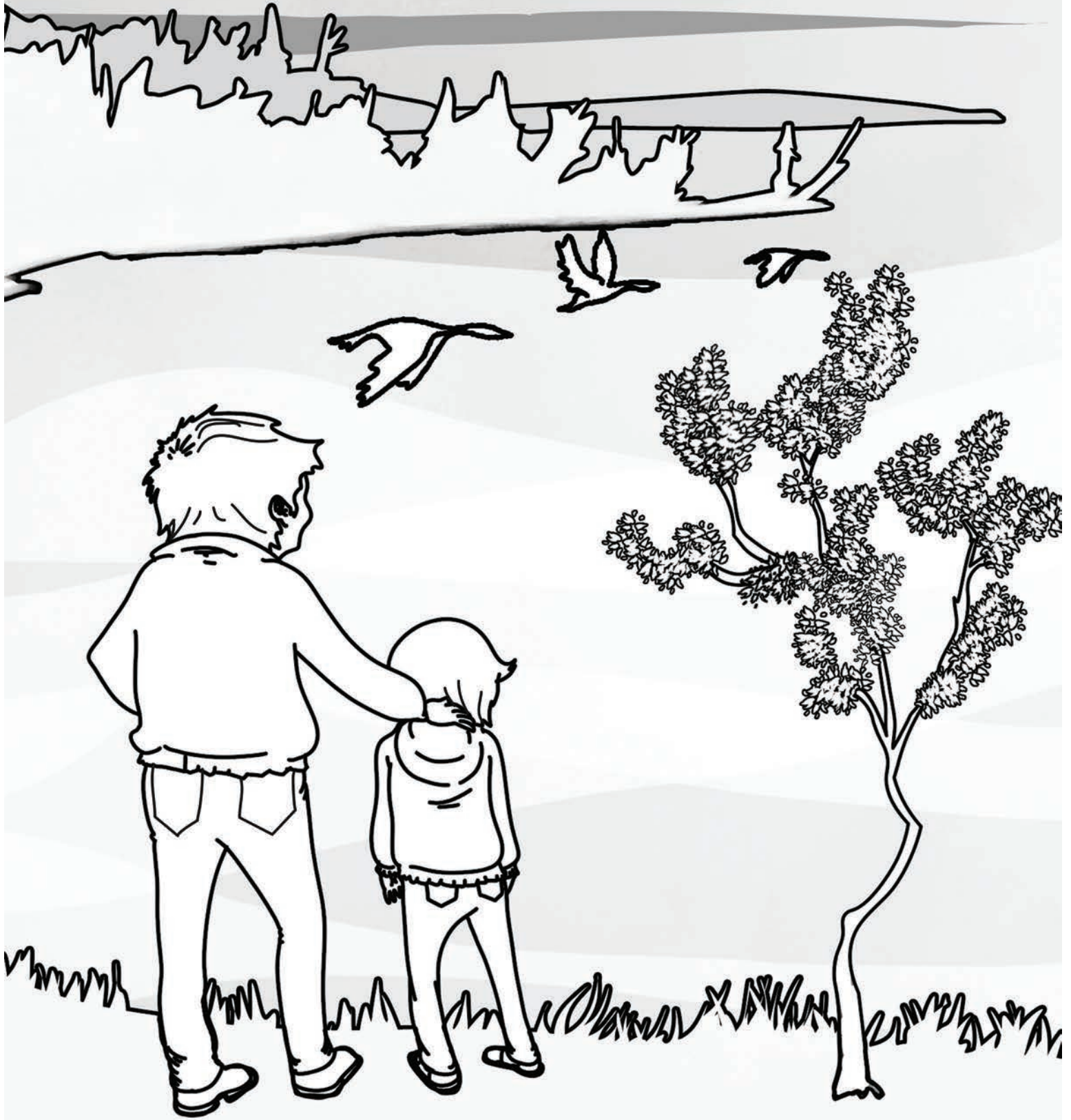
Ziigwan.

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

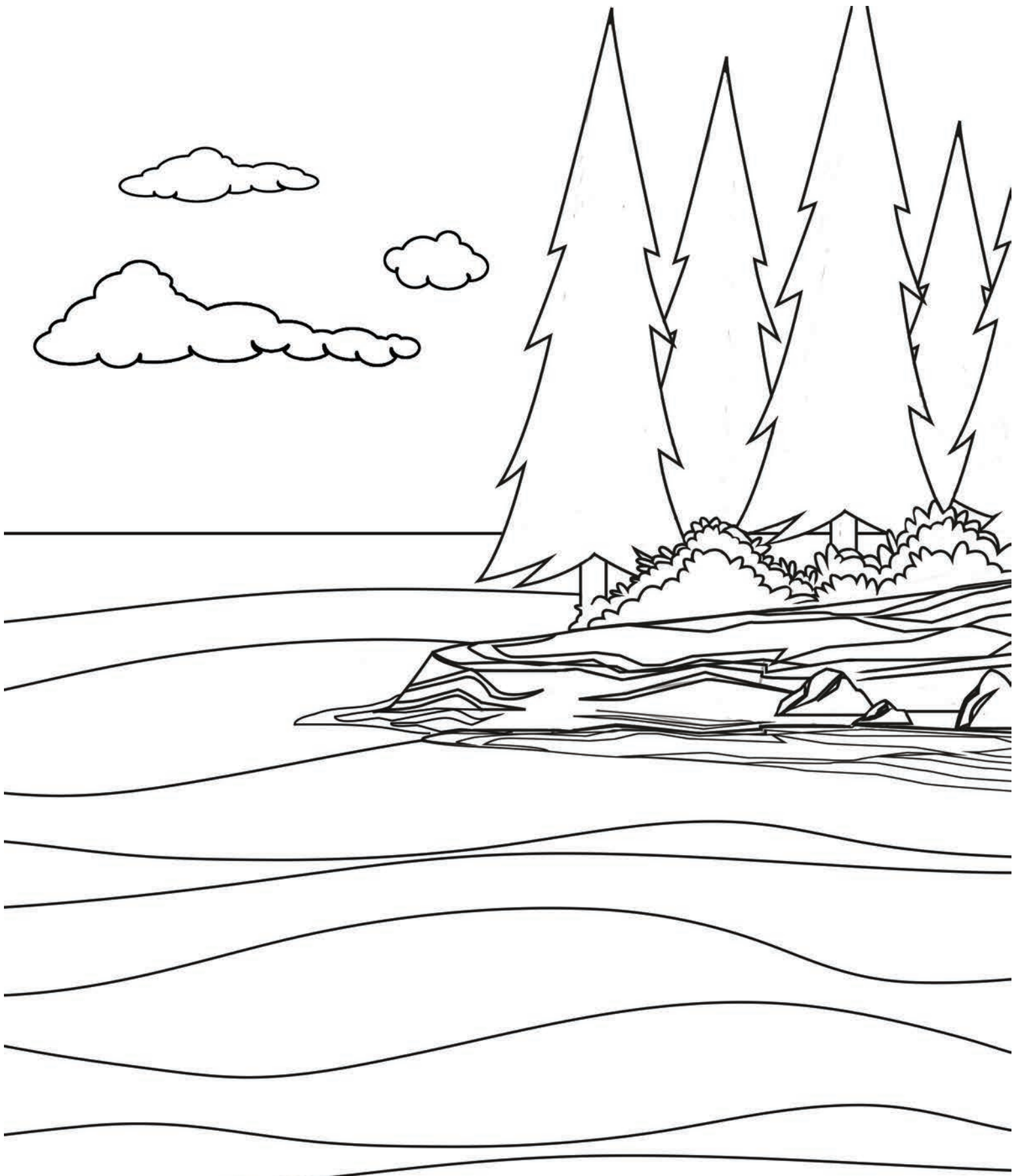


“Nashke! Look at all the water!”

"What do you see?" Shoomis asks.

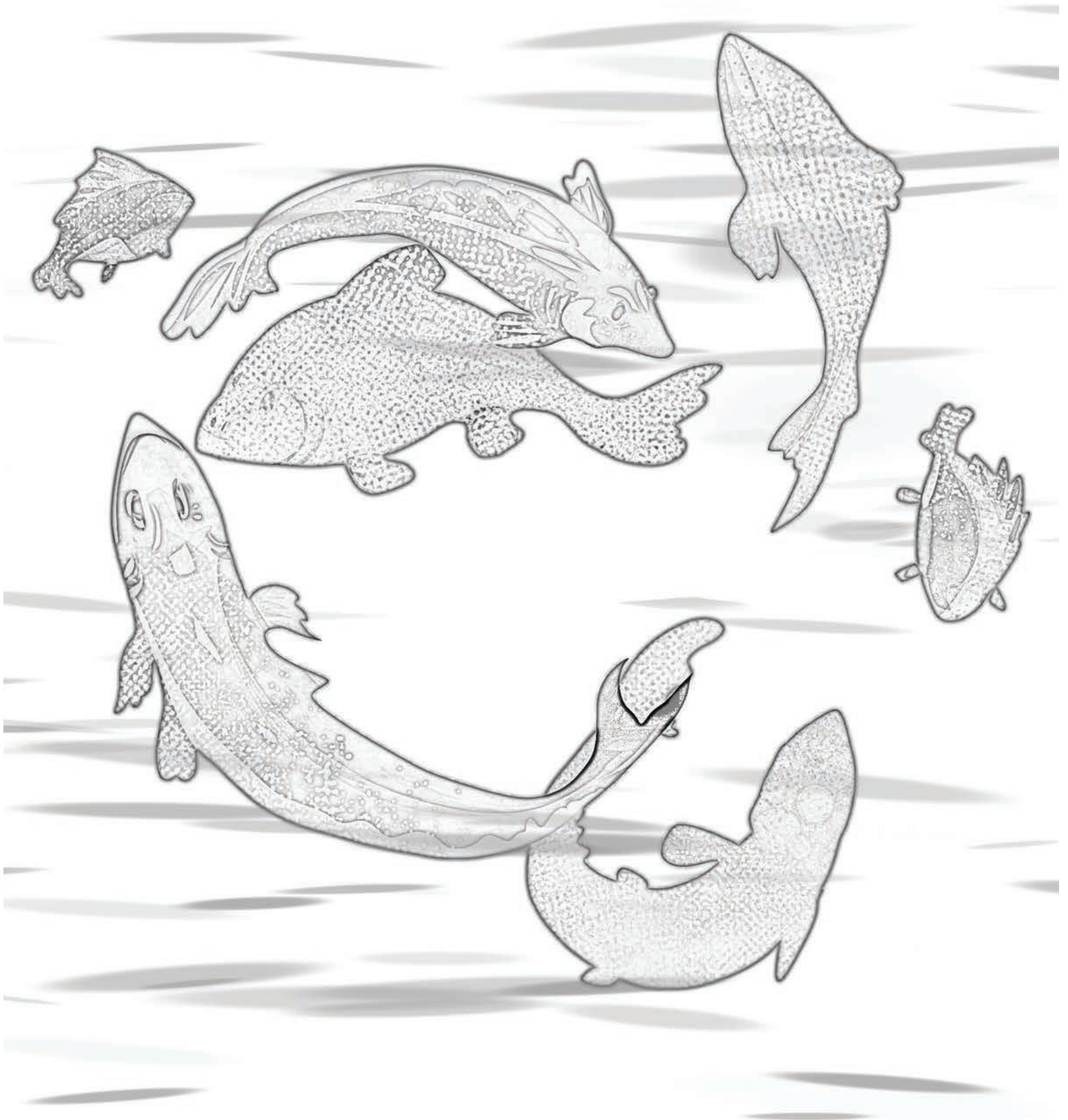


"I see the giizhigong, mitigoog, bingwi...".
Noozhis continues, "and I see the zaaga'igan!"



Shoomis says, "Eya' Noozhis, and that is just the surface!"
The lake looks like glass.

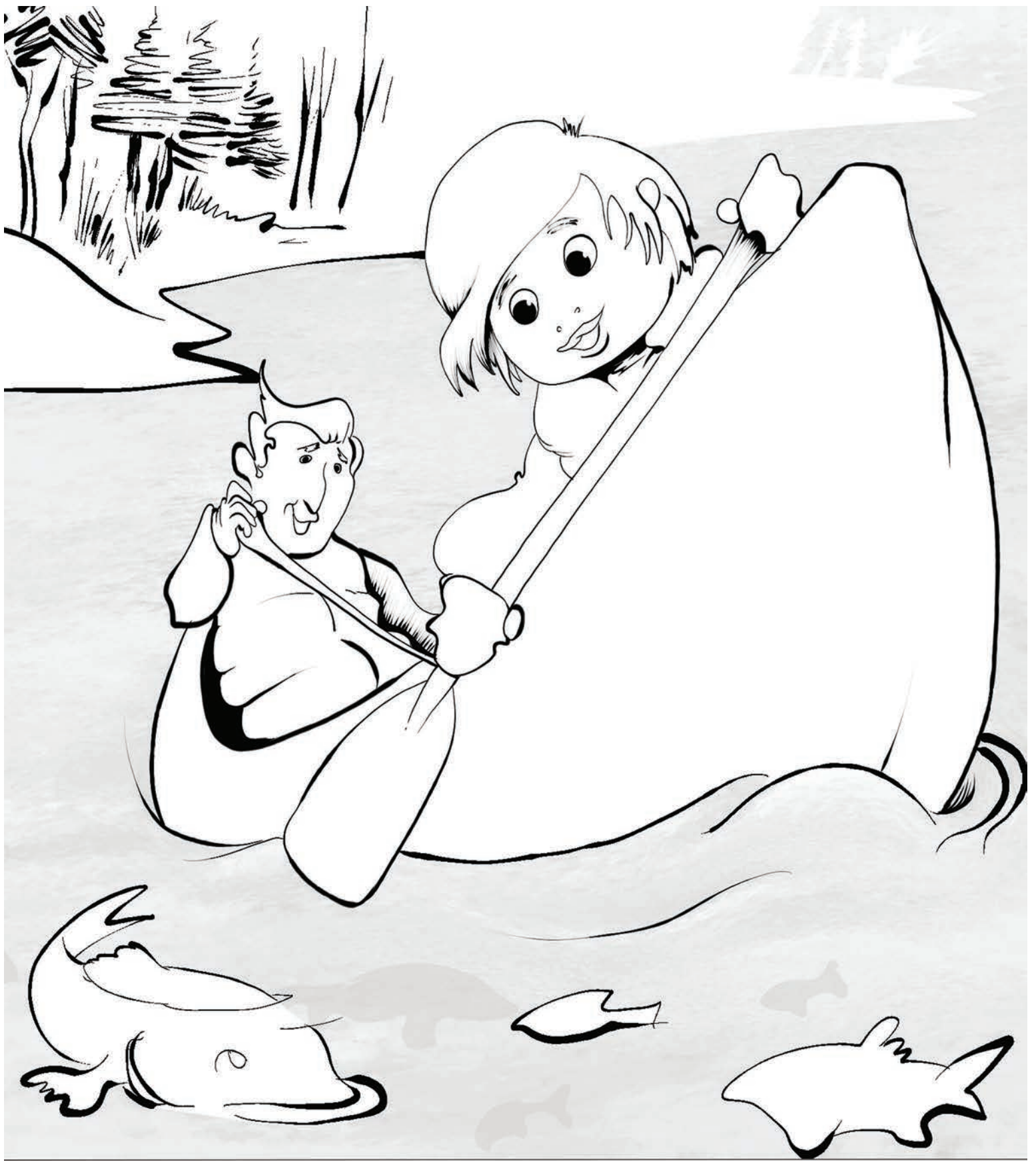
Underneath the water, giigoonyag are swimming.



"Can we go out on the lake?" 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.

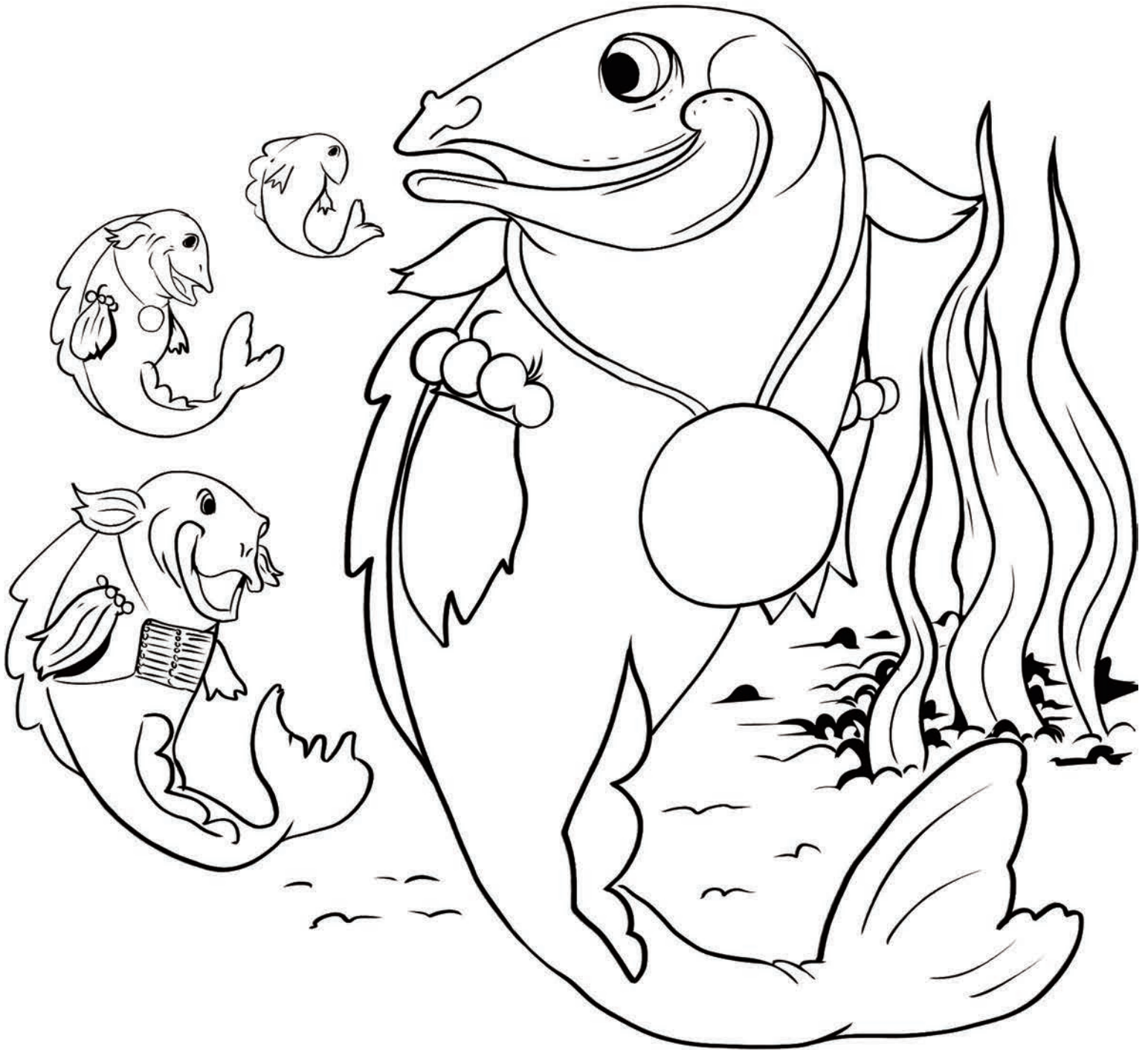


**“He puts on fin out and shakes it,
the other giigoonyag copy him.”**

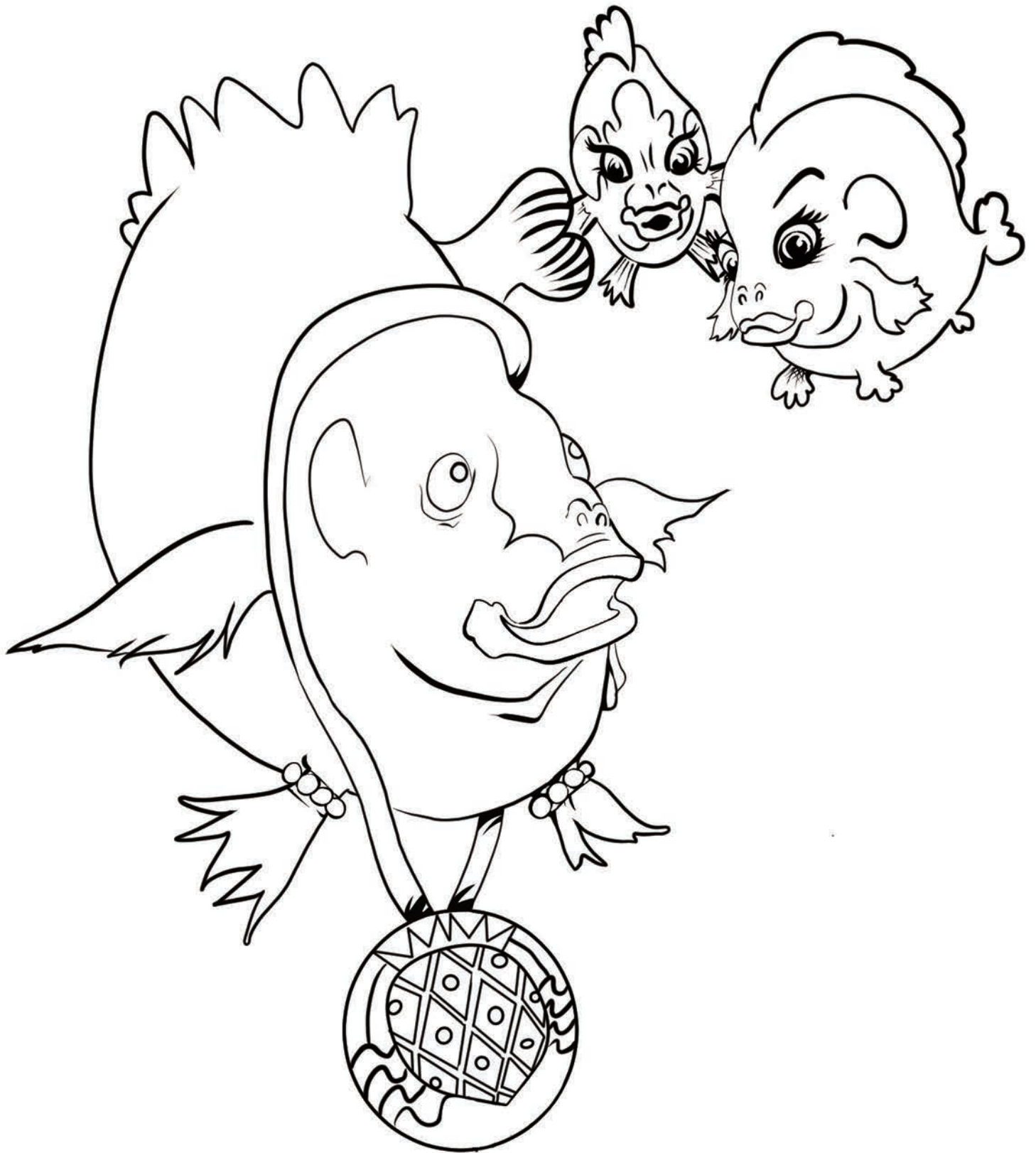


**“The second giigoonh is ginoozhe.
He puts one fin and one leg out and shakes it.
The other giigoonyag copy him.”**





“The third fish is oгаа. 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)

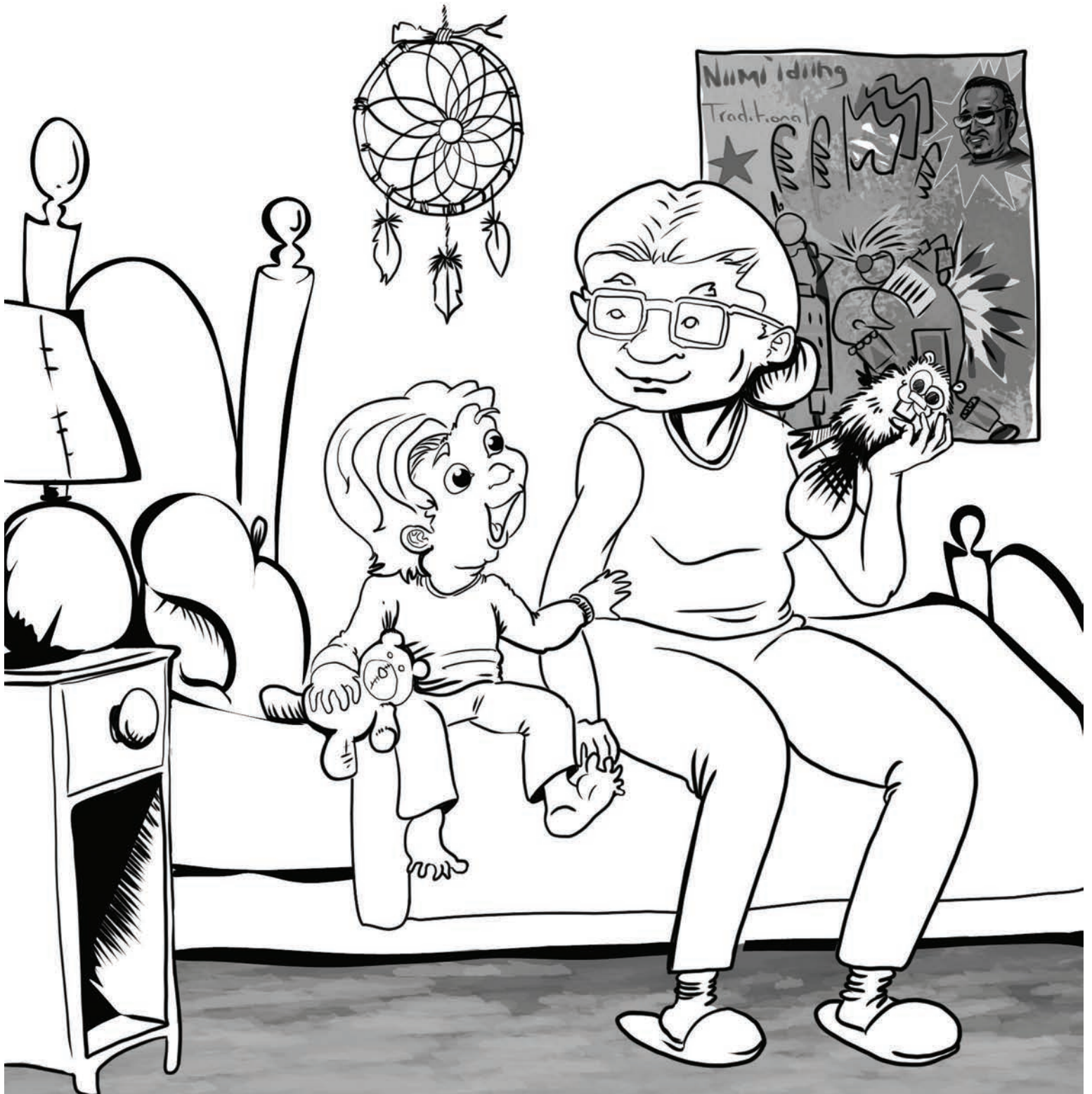
Gichi-amikozow



Niibin.

“Nookomis, can you tell me a dibaajimowin?”
Amikoons asks.

“I will aajim about how amik got his gichi-ozow,”
says Nookomis





Mewinzha, there was an amik who was always asking for compliments.

He first asked his friend Maang.

“What do you think of my ozow? Isn’t it miikawaadad ina?”



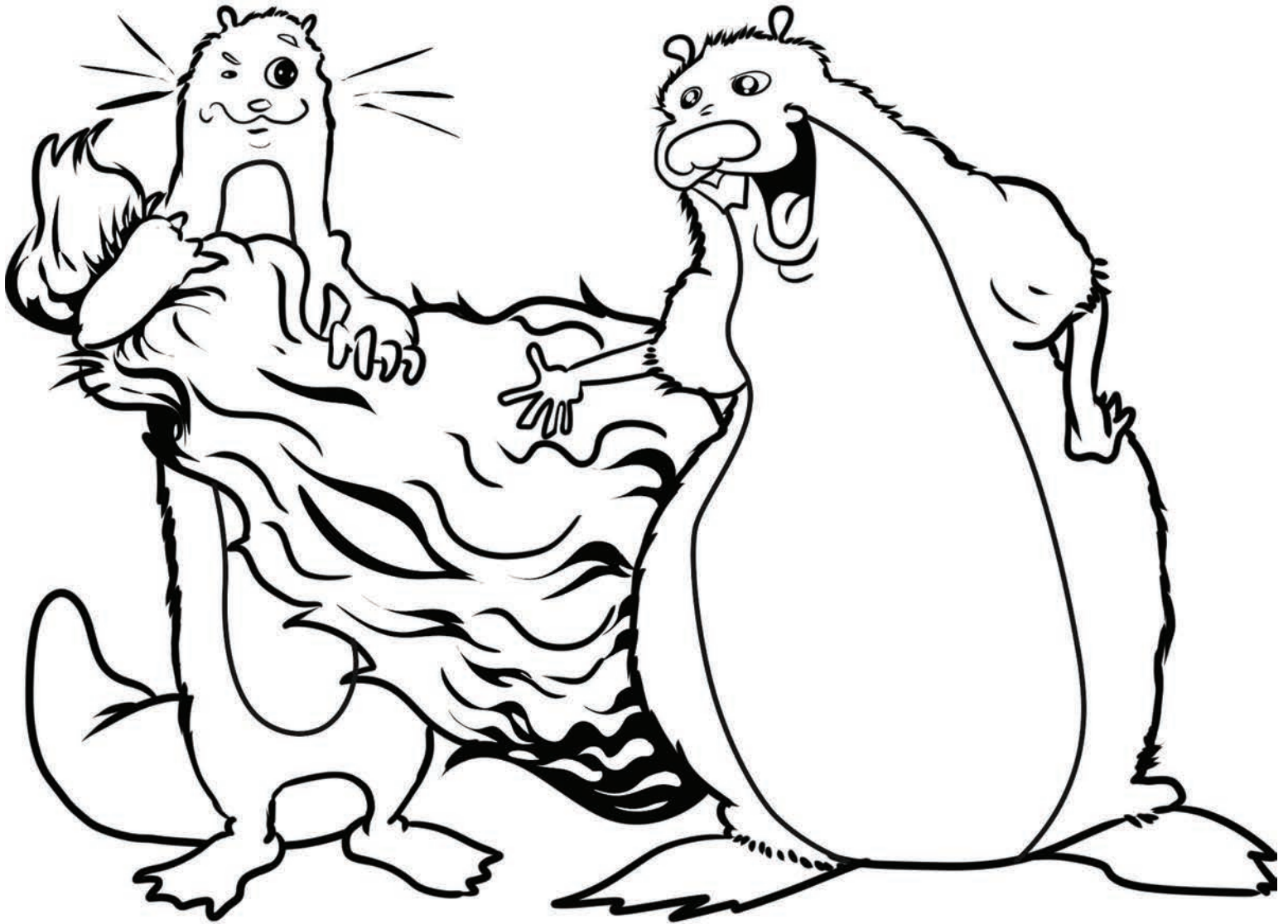
Maang looks at Amik's ozow.

"It's a mino ozow, Amik."

Amik zhoomiingweni and is apiitenimo.

Bi-izhaa his friend Nigig.

“Do you like my ozow? Isn’t it fabulous as noodin through my fluffy ozow?” gloats Amik.



“Yeah, it’s a good ozow,” says Nigig.
Amik zhoomiingweni and is apiitenimo.

“What are you up to?” asks Omakakii.

“Do you like my ozow? Isn't it akoozimagad ina?”
brags Amik.

“Eya, ahaw,” says Omakakii.

Amik zhoomiingweni and is apiitenimo.





Amik returned to anokii on his amikwiish.
When he paused to daydream, the gichi-mitig maazhise
snapped and landed on his ozow!



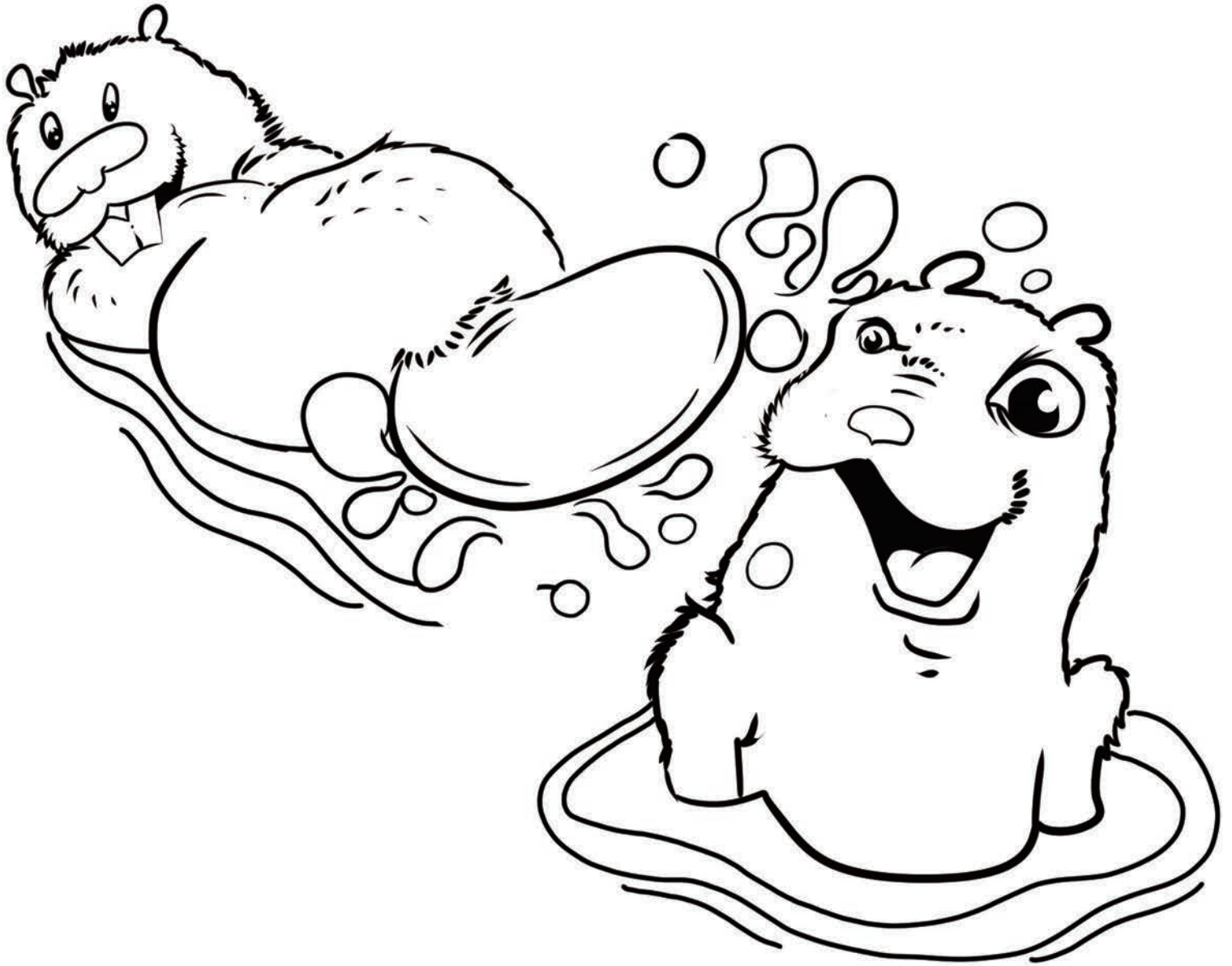
“Oo tayaa! Not my miikawaadad ozow!” cried Amik. The gichi-mitig has trapped Amik’s ozow and he can’t get it out! Amik biibaagi for help and Nigig rushed over.

Nigig wiidookaw Amik free his ozow, which is now flat and firm from the gichi-mitig.



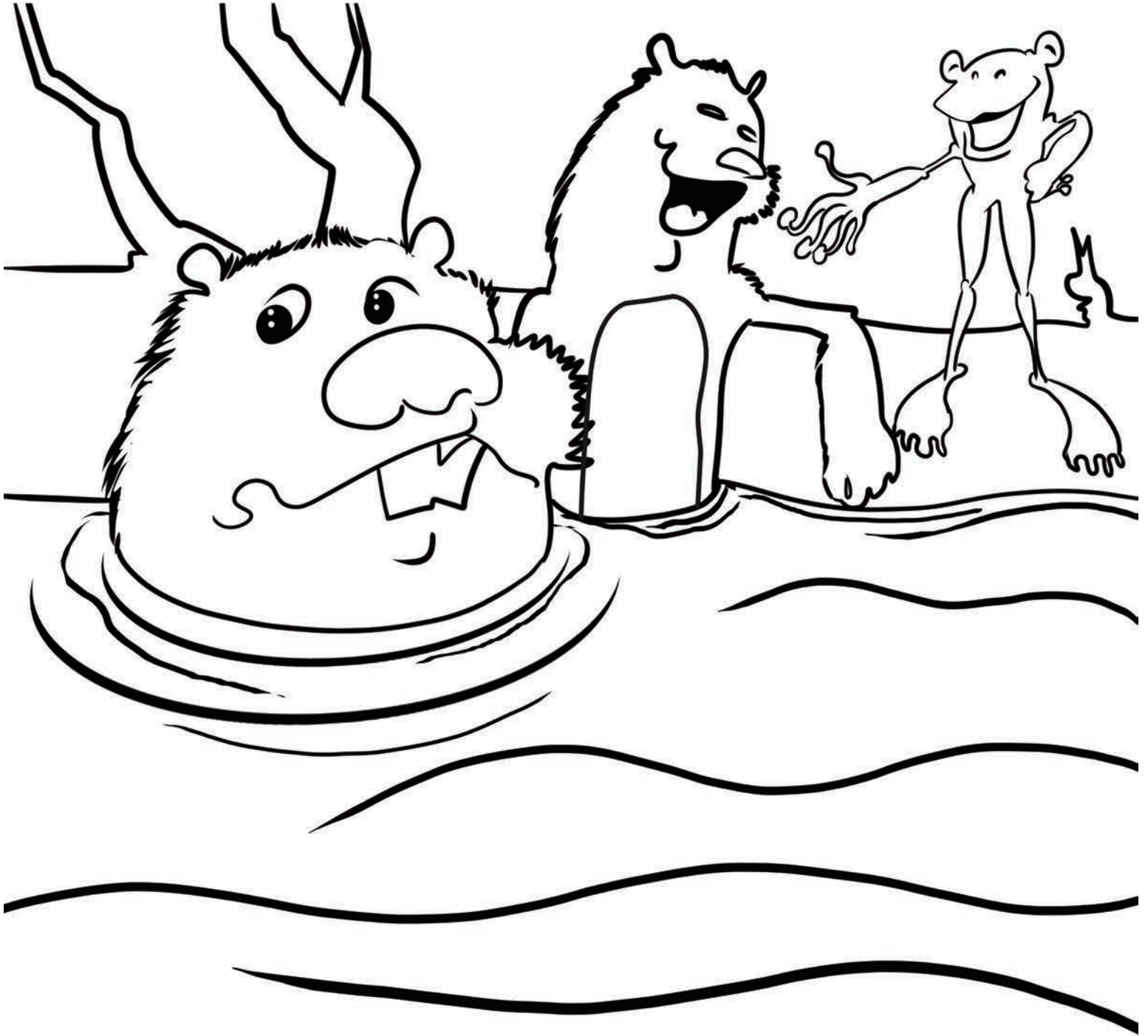
He is gichi-gashkendam and agaji'iwemagad of his flat ozow. "It's ok Amik, bagizodaa, that will make you feel better," says Nigig.

As Amik starts to bagizo, he gizhiiyaadage and smoother in the water with his flat ozow.



“Wow, you gizhiiyaadage now, Amik!” says Nigig.
Amik uses his ozow to splash Nigig!

They swim to Amik's wiish and waabam Omakakii there for a mawadish.



Amik is still shy about his ozow.

“What a mashkawaa ozow! I bet you could build a better wiish now!” says Omakakii.

Omakakii tells Amik to use azhashki with his new ozow to strengthen his wiish. Amik pats the azhashki and asiniikaa into the mitigoonsan.

“Howah! You’re right Omakakii!” beams Amik.





Omakakii and Nigig see Maang in the water.
“Ambe omaa, Maang,” they say, “waabadan Amik’s
sturdy wiish and how his ozow has aanzinaagwad!”

As all of his niijiwag gather around him, Maang says, "Amik, your new oshki-ozow makes you mashkawizi and gizhiiyaadage! What a great ozow!"

As it turns out, having a flat, firm ozow was the best after all for Amik.



Nookomis says, "We are all different and unique. We have our own values, strengths, and identities, as shown in our spirit names, like your ojibwewinikaazo, Amikoons."



"Miigwech Nookomis. Mino-dibikak!" says Amikoons.

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

MIKINAAK

*Stories of the Swimmers
A Ningaabii'anong Book*





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, Gwiwizens 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.

Gwiiwizens sees the mikinaak eating his fish!

He is angry and yells, "Gawiin! Gego!"

Oodooka'aan iniw mikinaakwan with his migiskanaak.

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



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



“Why did the mikinaak snap your migiskanaak out of your hands?” odedeyan asks. “Because I poked mikinaak with it!” Gwiiwizens replies.



“How do you think that mikinaak felt when you poked him, ningozis?” Gwiiwizens 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?"

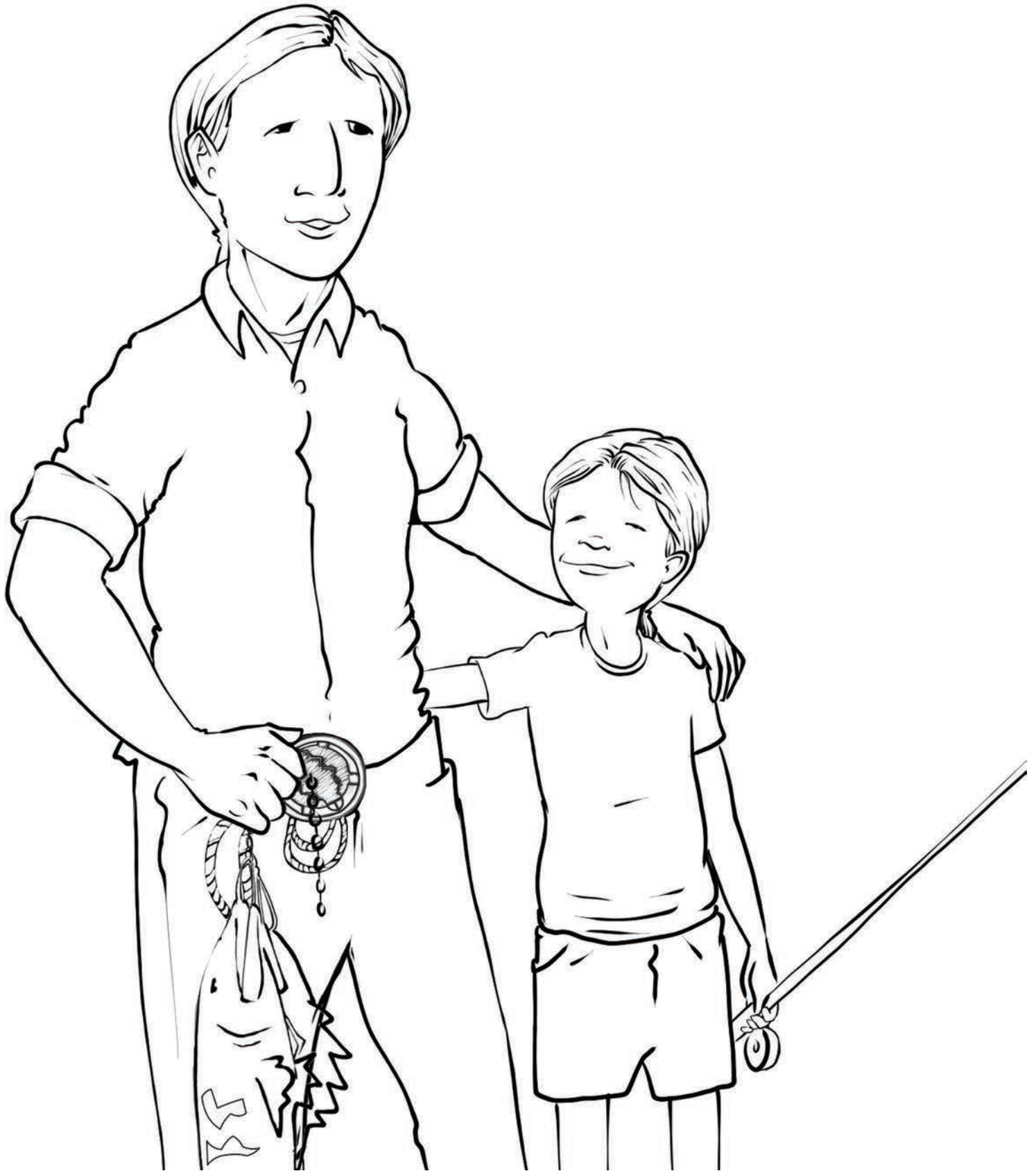
Odedeyan says, "Eya, onizhishin, ningozis."



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

"Oh miigwech for leaving my migiskanaak, mikinaak! I'm 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!”

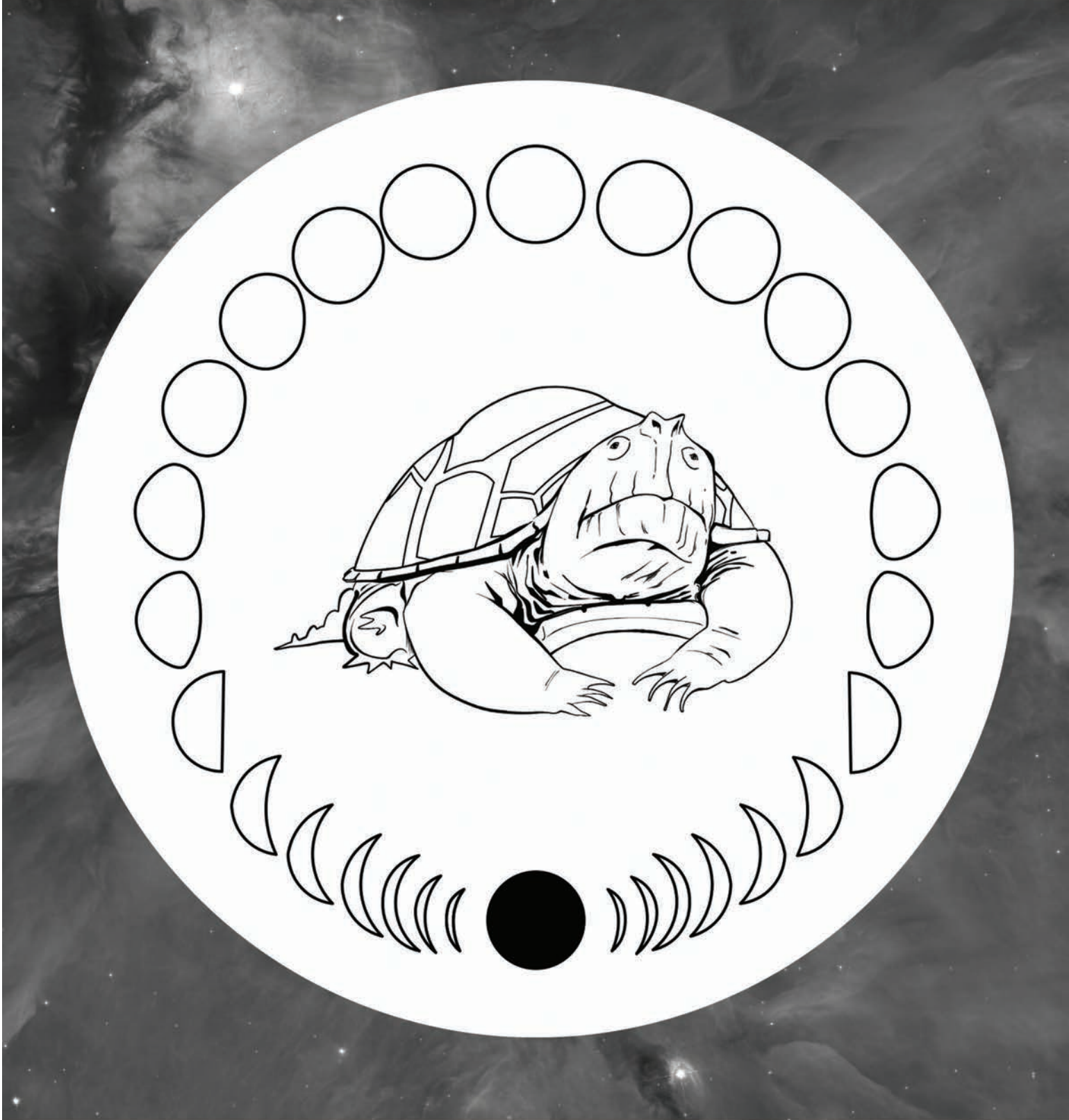
“Eya,” says Mishomis.





“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.”



This coloring book was adapted from Giigoonyag, Gichi-amikozow, and Mikinaak storybooks from the Maajii-Ojibwemowag (They Begin to Speak Ojibwe) book set, Stories of the Swimmers: A Ningaabii'anong Book.

The production of this coloring book was supported by Grant #90NL0645 from ACF. Its contents are solely the responsibility of Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and do not necessarily represent the official views of ACF.



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