

Maajii-Ojibwemowag
(They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

Gichi-amikozow

Stories of the Swimmers:
A Ningaabii'anong Book





Binesikwe (Debi Williamson)

dedicates this dibaajimowin to:

Amik

(Larry Smallwood)



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, ahaaw," says Omakakii.
Amik zhoomiingweni and is apiitenimo.



Amik returned to anokii
on his amikwiish.

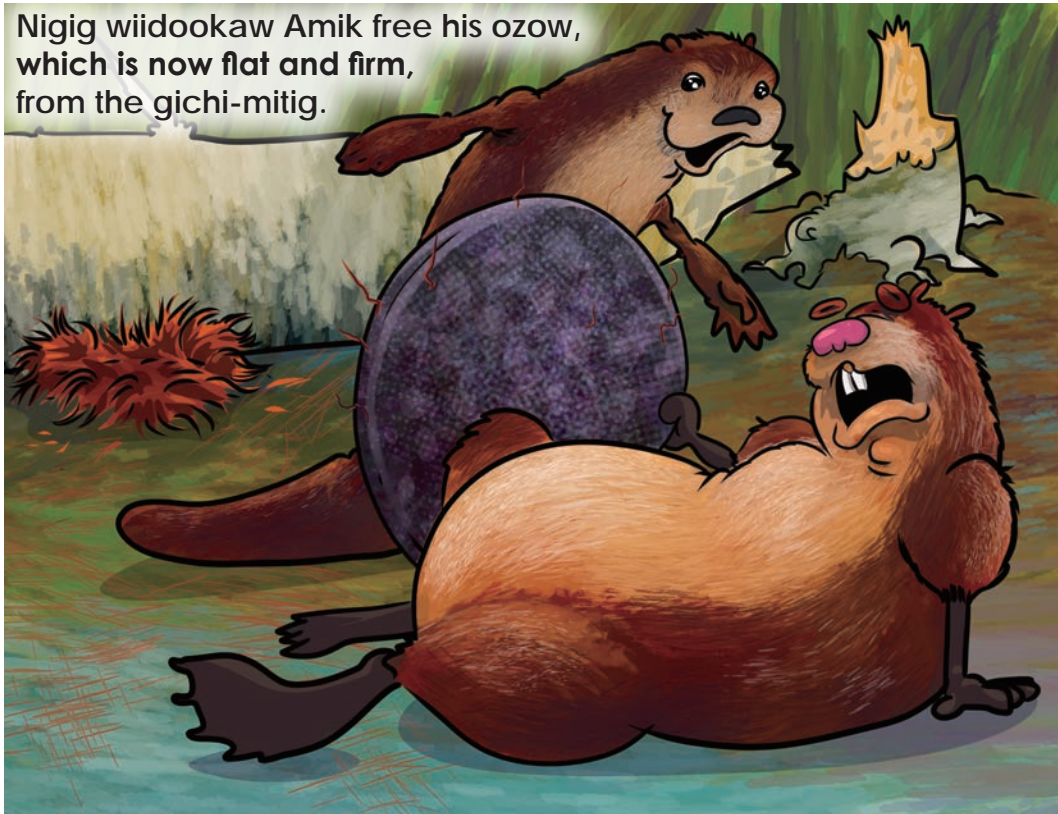
When he paused to daydream,
the gichi-mitig maazhise snapped and landed on his ozow!

"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.

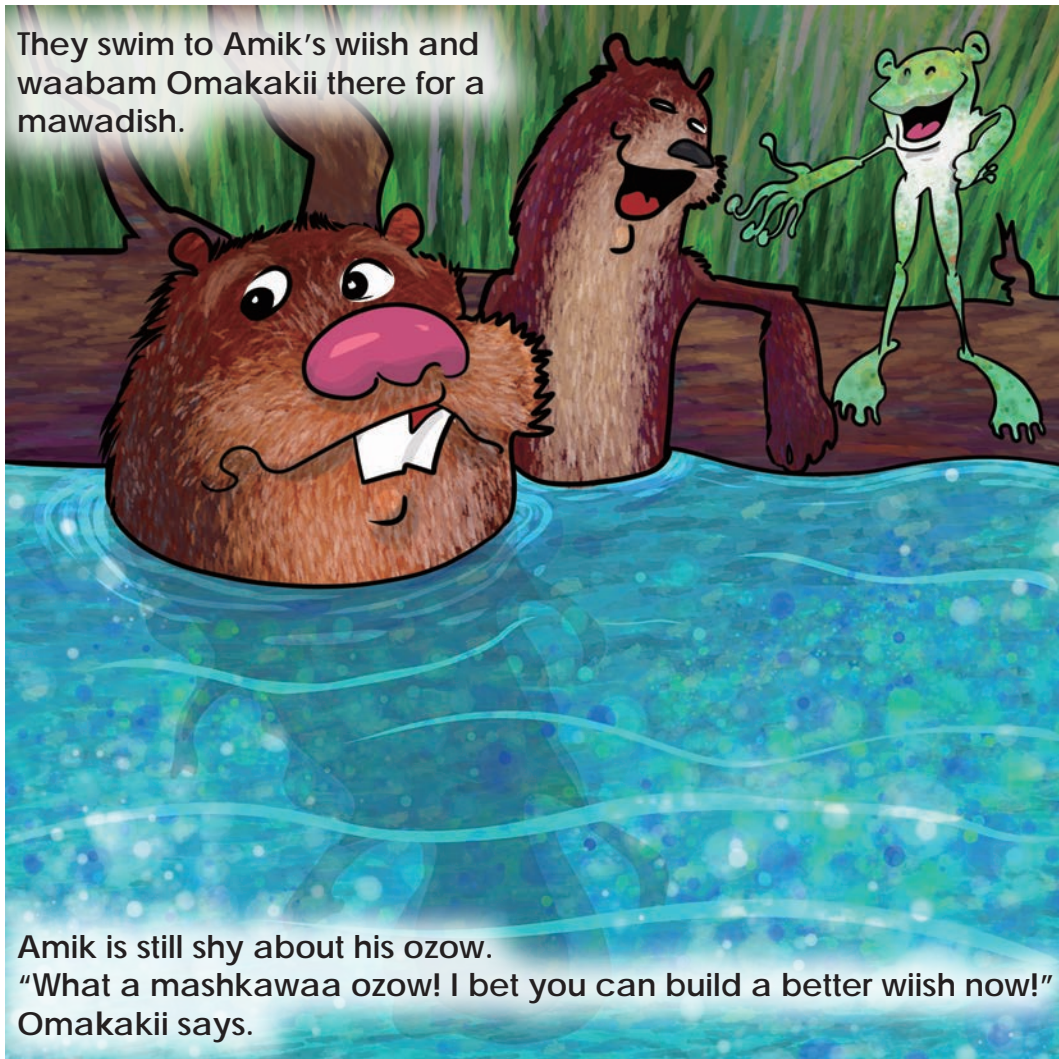
As Amik starts to bagizo, he gizhiyaadage and smoother in the water with his flat ozow.

"Wow, you gizhiyaadage now, Amik!" says Nigig.

Amik uses his ozow to splash Nigig!

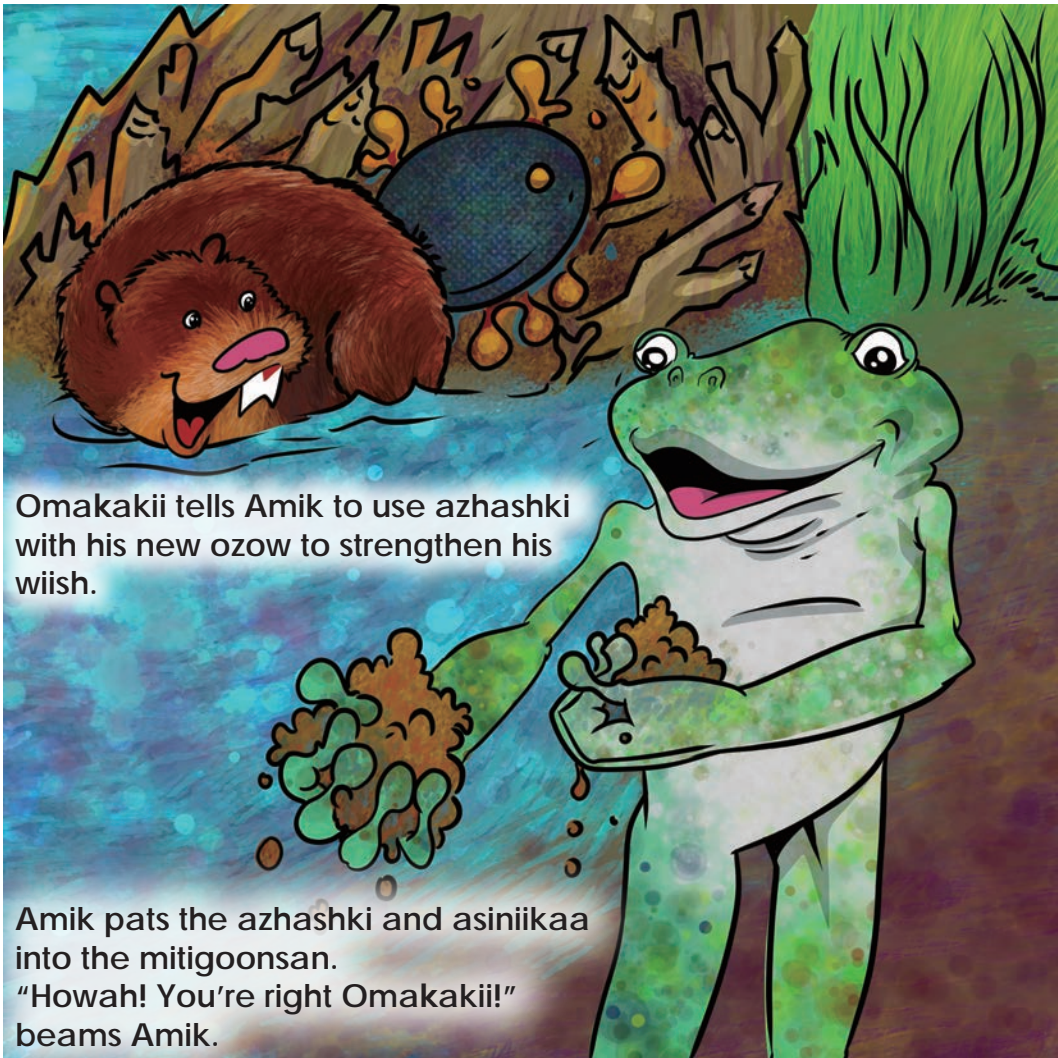


They swim to Amik's wiish and
waabam Omakakii there for a
mawadish.



Amik is still shy about his ozow.

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



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 gizhiyaadage! What a great ozow!"



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

Miinawaa that is how Amik got his gichi-amikozow and learned how to zaagi'idizo himself for who he is.





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)



Ningaabii'anong Book Set: Stories of the Swimmers



Tribal Storyteller - Binesikwe (Debi Williamson)

~ Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

Illustration and Layout - Niiyogizhig (Wesley Ballinger)

~Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Elder/Speaker Consultant - Dale Shalifoe

~Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

Elder/Speaker Consultant - Mezinaanakwad (Dennis White)

~Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Intermedia Web Design and Layout- Melissa Maund Rasmussen

Project Director - Animikii Ikwe (LaTisha Coffin)

~Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

<https://glifwc-inwe.com>





<https://glifwc-inwe.com>



This publication was funded through a grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), ACF, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.