Nimbwaanawitoon Ji-nibaa’aan
I Can’t Sleep
An Ojibwe SayITFirst Book

Translations by Rose Tuesday
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Acknowledgements

Rose Tuesday facilitated the translations which accompany this children’s book.

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Go to the Anishinaabemodaa.ca or wakingupojibwe.ca websites to find the recording for this book, as well as other resources.

Also, look for directions how to load a free app to allow the video of this book to play on your smartphone by wandng the camera over the cover of the book.

How to use this book

There are three different versions of each sentence as described below:

1. English translation
2. Ojibwe translation
3. Simplified phonetic pronunciation of Ojibwe translation
The bold letters in italics need to be spoken just slightly longer than the other syllables.


“I’ve been out hunting all night. Now that morning is here, I can’t wait to go to sleep,” Owl says to the tree.
Gichi-gesika, gii-gichi-biibaagid awiya, onishkwedagod megwaa gii-gagizhebaa-bangang. “Quack, quack!! Wiiji’ishin awiya!”


Suddenly, screaming broke the silence of the morning. “Quack, quack!! Somebody help me!”
“Zhiishiib wegonen wenji omniigiziyan? Nindaani-gagwenibaa gosha.”


“What are you squawking about duck? I’m trying to sleep.”
“Gegoo imaa aajise nikwegianing nimbwaanawitoon ji-giijigobidoo’aan,” zhiishiib izhi-nakwedam.


“I have something stuck on my neck and I can’t get it off,” Duck says.
“Gaawiin ningikendanziin wegonen dino i’iwe. Nimbagizonaaban, gesika gaa-izhi-gaajijise’aan.”


“I don’t know what it is. I was swimming and all of a sudden, I got caught.”
“Gaa-zhaabwaate’aag mishkimodens i’iwe, inga-wiiji’in ji-bakojibitooyan imaa giikwegaaning.”


“It’s a plastic bag, let me help you get it off your neck.”
“Miigwech.”

“Meeg-wech.”

“Thank you.”
“Miigwech gaye giin, mii dah izhi-bizaan maano go gaye niin ji-nibaa’aan.”

“Meeg-wech guh-yeh geen, mee duh ih-zhih-bih-zawn maw-noe goe guh-yeh neen jih-nih-baw’-awn.”

“You’re welcome, now please be quiet so I can go to sleep.”
“Grrr! Wiiji’ishin awiya! Gegoo ningii-dakokaataan gaa-izhi-giishkizideshinaan.”


“Roar! Somebody help me! I stepped on something and it cut my foot.”
“Biisi-omoodaabik i’iwe, bagidinishin ji-wiiji’inaan ji-gijibitooyan.”


“It’s a piece of glass, let me help you get it out.”
“Mashkiki ge-minoshkaagowin imaa ninga-atoon gizitaang.”


“I’ll put this medicine on your foot to help it get better.”
“Miigwech.”

“Meeg-wech.”

“Thank you.”
“Miigwech gegaan, daga mii’i izhi bizaan maano-go geniin jinibaa’aan.”

“You’re welcome, now please be quiet so I can go to sleep.”
“Raoo, haw, haw. Wiiji’ishin awiya!”
izhi biibaagi a’mooz.

“Raoo, haw, haw. Wee-jih’-ih-shin uh-wih-yuh!”
ih-zhih bee-baw-gih uh’-mooz.

“Raoo, haw, haw. Somebody help me!”
yelled the moose.
"Ishkwaa-dadangishkaw awe nimitigom, ningagwe-nibaa gosha."


"Stop kicking my tree, I'm trying to sleep."
“Gegoo imaa aajise odaanang gaa-ayaag nizid.”

“Geh-goo ih-maw aw-jih-she oe-daw-nung gaw-uh-yawg nih-zid.”

“I have something caught on my back hoof.”
“Gete zhaazhoobii’ige-akikoonse iwe, iga wiiji’in ji-gidiskibidooyan.”


“It’s an old paint can, let me help you get it off.”
“Gichi-miigwech Gookooko’oo.”
“Gih-chih-meeeg-wech Goo-koo-koe’-oo.”
“Thank you so much Owl.”
“Miigwech gegaan, daga mii’i izhi bizaan, maano-go geniin jinibaa’aan.”

“Mee-gwech geh-geen, duh-guh mee-ih ih-zhih bih-zawn, maw-noe-goe geh-neen jih-nih-baw’-awn.”

“You’re welcome, now please be quiet so I can go to sleep.”
“Wegonen iwe gaa-inweg?”

“What’s that noise?”
“Nindoodapinaamin iwe ziigwebinigan geyaabi-go ji-wiisagizhiziiwang.”

“We are picking up the garbage so we can stop getting hurt.”
“Wiinge giminwaadiz gii-wiiji’iyaang noongom gaa-giizhigag Gookooko’oo.”

W een-get gei-mi-n-waw-diz gee-wee-jih’-ih-yawng noon-gome gaw-gee-zhih-gug Goo-koo-koe’-oo.”
“It was really nice of you to help us today Owl.”
“Miisa gii-bangang. Mii gegapii ji-nibaa’aan.”

“All is quiet. Finally, I can get some sleep.”
A critical step to improving the vitality of Anishinaabemowin is to increase the sounds transferring from the parent to the child at an early age. This book is designed to allow both speakers and non-speakers the ability to pass the Ojibwe language onto their youth. The translations in the book give parents the ability to practice and to read this book to their children in Anishinaabemowin.

The Rainy River District area is undergoing an effort to put Anishinaabemowin back into the homes of the Anishinaabeg. Anishinaabemodaa – Let’s speak Ojibwe, is the Ontario Ministry of Education sponsored partnership between the Rainy River District School Board, SayITFirst and 7 Generations Education Institute with support of the ten area Anishinaabe Nations to help Wake Up Ojibwe within individuals in our community.

Audio support can be found on our website. Videos can be viewed on a cell phone or iPad by hovering the camera over the front cover of this book or viewed directly off of our site. A free app will need to be downloaded.

Downloading instructions and videos provided for audio support can be found at: www.anishinaabemodaa.ca and wakingupojibwe.ca