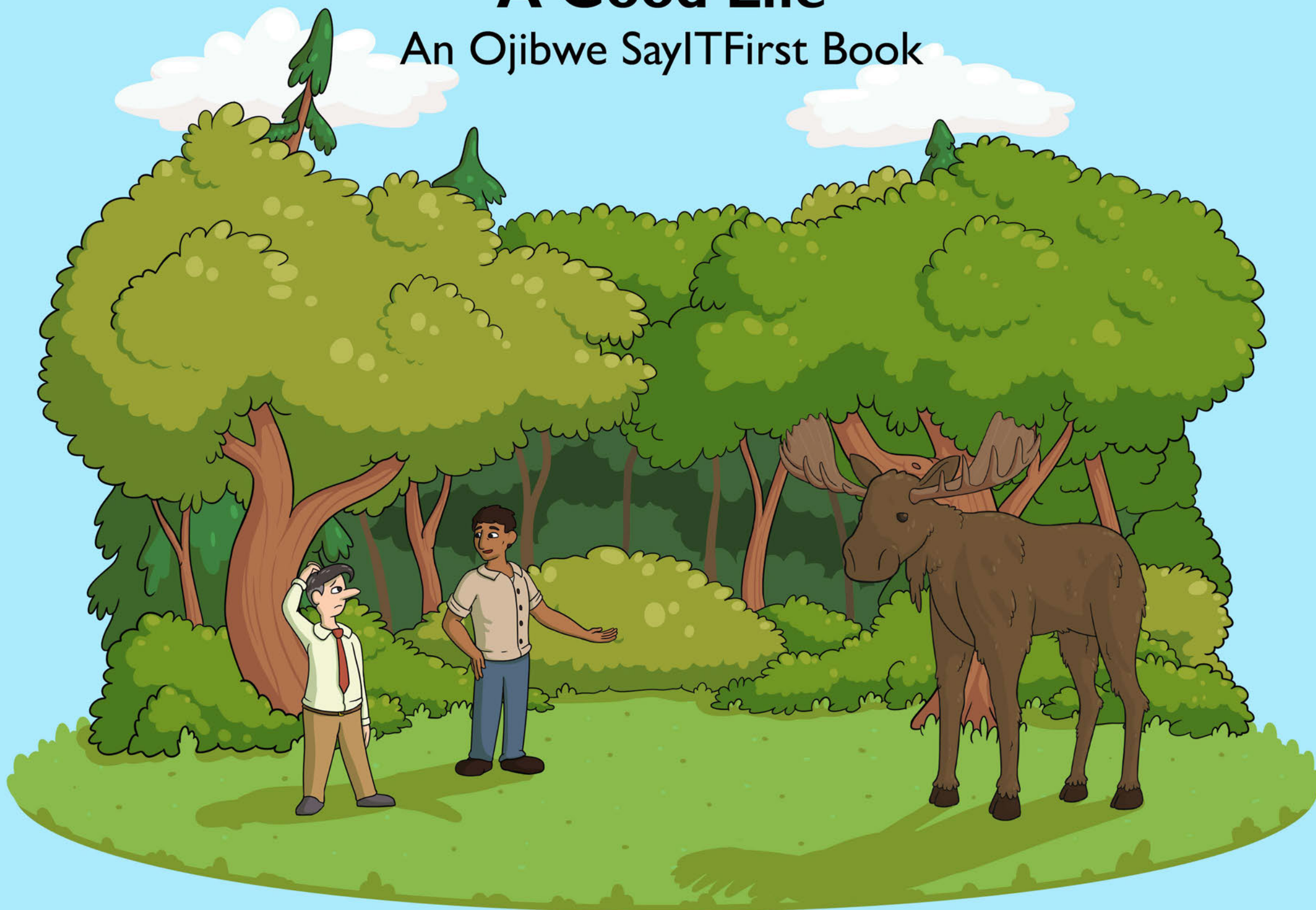


Minobimaadizin Nindigo

A Good Life

An Ojibwe SayITFirst Book



Story told by Jim Windego
Translations by Rose Tuesday
Illustrated by Tim Smith
Written by Mike Parkhill

I am told I have a good life.

Chi-minobimaadiziyan gii-igo.

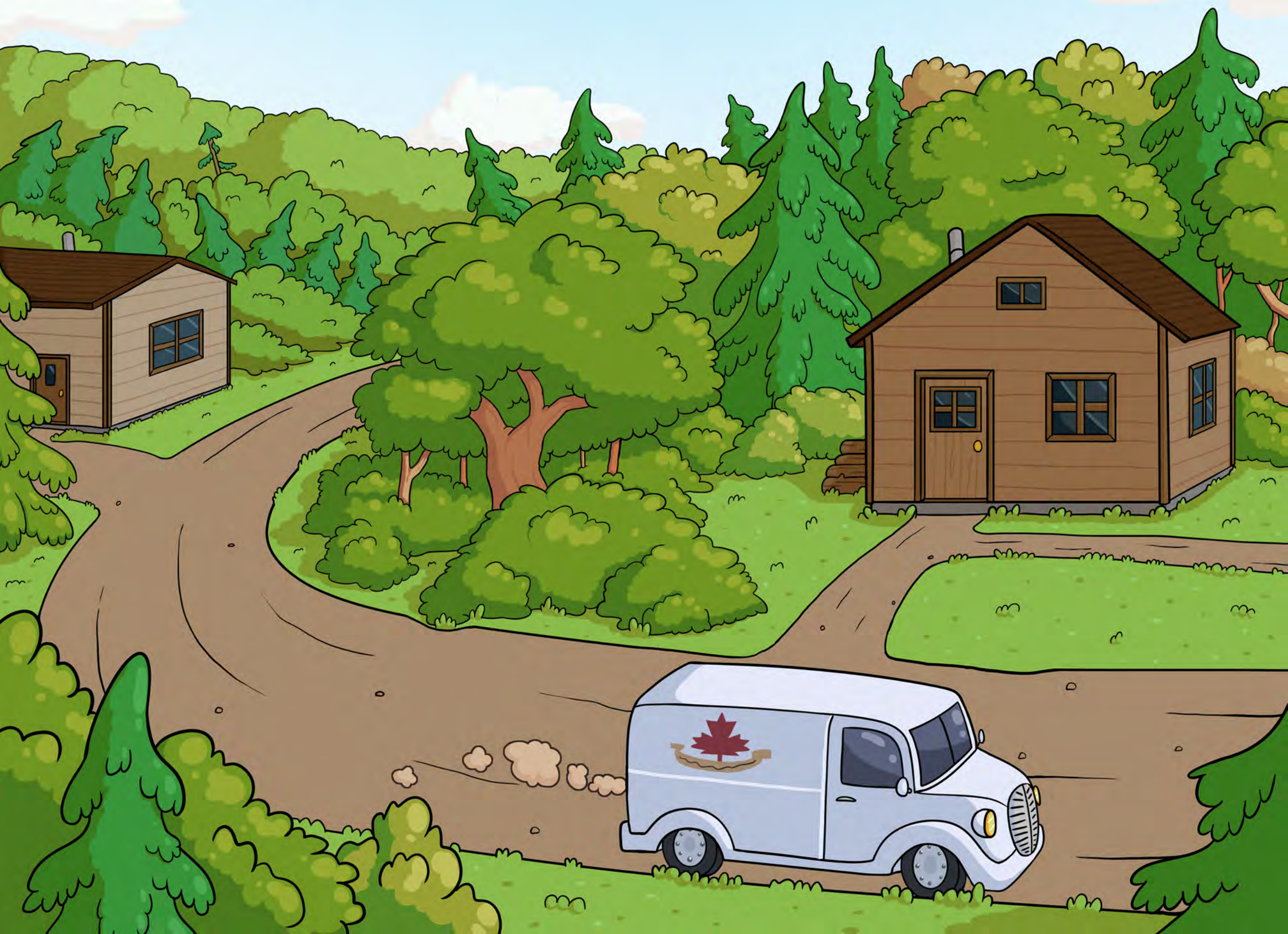
Chee-mi-noh-bih-maw-dih-zih-yahn gee-ih-go.



After the road was put in, our Reserve was visited by a Government man.

Gii-ishkwa ozhijigatag i'miikana, anishinaabe ogimaa
gii-bimawadishiwe ima ishkoni-ganing.

Gee-ishk-wa oh-zhih-jih-gah-tag ih-mee-kah-nah, ah-nish-ih-naw-bay
oh-gih-maw gee-bih-maw-wah-dish-ih-we ih-ma ishk-oh-nih-gah-ning.



“The Anishinaabe People are destroying the deer and the ducks, You need to start farming,” the agent lectures.

" Majii gitigeg, ozaam kinishonaji'awaag waawaashkeshiwag, idash gaye' zhiishiibag" izhi-ozongee anishinaabe ogimaa.

"Mah-jee gih-tih-gehg, oh-zawm kih-nish-oh-nah-jih-ah-wawg, ih-dash gah-yay zhee-sheeb-ahg" ih-zhi-oh-zohn-gay ah-nish-ih-naw-bay oh-gih-maw.



This is when I started talking.

Miidash owapii ga majii gagiigidowan.

Mee-dash oh-wa-pee gah mah-jee
gah-gee-gih-doh-wahn.





"You people have cows, and pigs and other kinds of birds," Jim explains.

"Giinawaa gidayawaawag bizhikiwag, idash gaye gookooshag, iwe gaye ga-bekaaniziwat bineshiiwag" Jim wiindamowan.

"Gee-nah-waw gih-dah-yah-waw-wag bih-zhi-kih-wag, ih-dash gah-yay goo-koo-shag, ih-way gah-yay gah-bay-kawn-ih-zih-what bih-nay-shee-wag" Jim ween-dah-moh-wahn.

"You raise them and live with them," Jim stated.

"I've been doing this my whole life."

"Gidoombigi'iawag idash gaye gii-wiiji-dama awag" Jim odinaan" mina apane'
bii-izhijigewan minik ga bibimadiziyaan.

"Gih-doom-bih-gih-ahw-wag ih-dash gah-yay
gee-wee-jih-dah-maa-wag" Jim oh-dih-naan "mih-nah
ah-pah-nay' bee-ih-zhi-jih-gay-wahn mih-nihk gah
bih-bih-mah-dih-zi-yawn.



"No you haven't," says the Government man. "I don't see any fences or farming."

"Gaansha" ikdo anishinaabe ogimaa "gaangego niwaabadaziinan
adakobijiganan idash gaye gitigaanan.

"Gawn-shaw" lhk-doh ah-nish-ih-naw-bay oh-gih-maw "gawn-gay-goh
nih-waw-bah-dah-zee-nan ah-dah-koh-bih-jih-gah-nan ih-dash
gah-yay gee-tih-gaw-nan."



“Where are your crops?” the agent asks.

"Aandi dash gigitigaanan?" giigagwede
anishinaabe ogimaa.

"Awn-dih dash gih-giht-ih-gawn-nan?"
Gee-gahg-weh-day ah-nish-ih-naw-bay
oh-gih-maw.





"We use wild rice, we take what we need so it always grows back."

"Manoomin dabijitoomin, ga'abijitoowang eti
dodapinaamin, apane' jibi-azhe-nitaawiging"

"Mah-noo-mihn dah-bih-jih-too-mihn,
gah-ah-nih-too-wung eh-tih doh-dah-pih-naw-min,
ah-pah-ne' jih-bih-ah-zhay-nih-taw-wih-ging."

"What about livestock?" he asks.

" Ogonen dash wiin awakaanag ?".

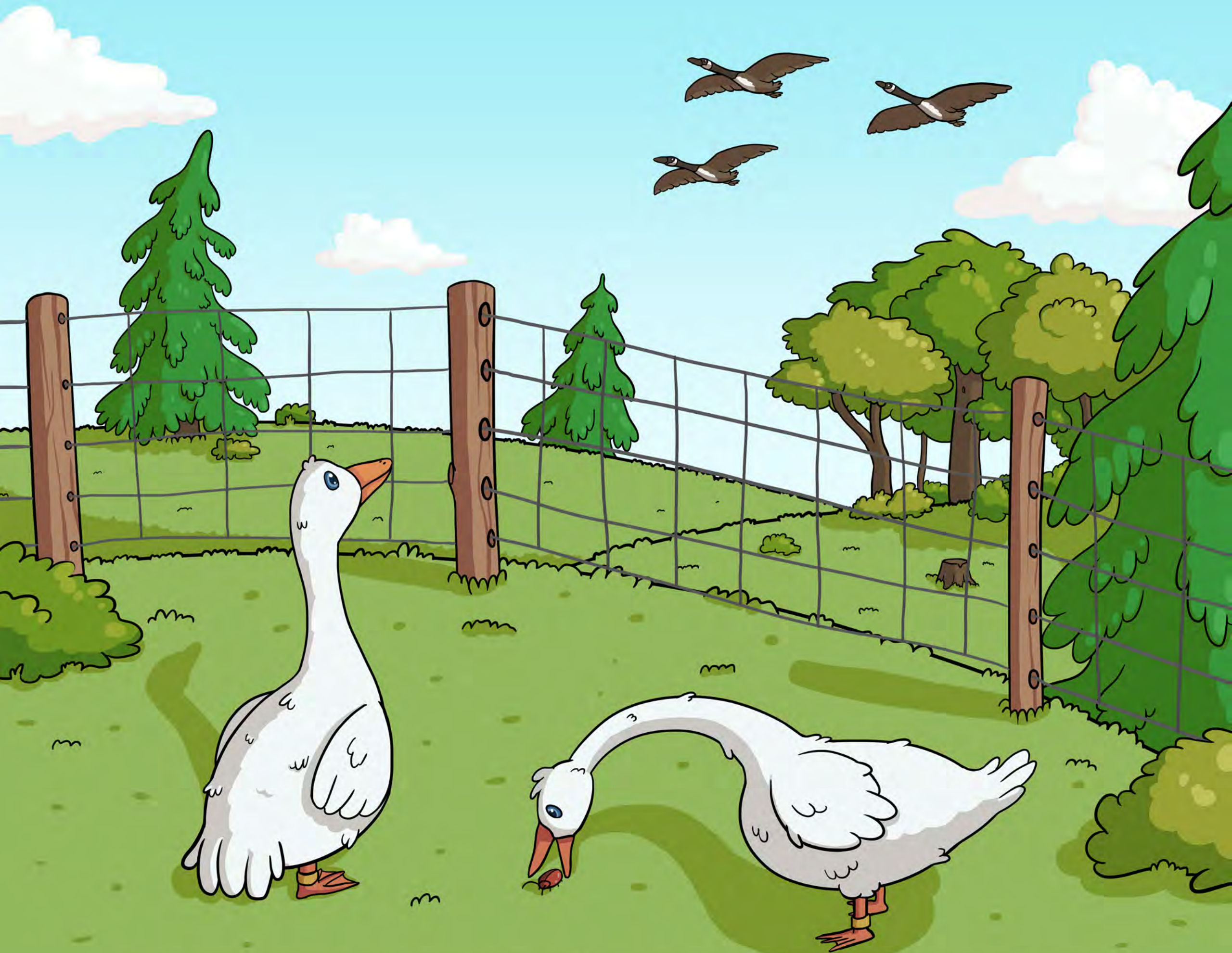
Izhi-gwagwede

"Oh-goh-nehn dash ween

ah-wah-kaan-ag?",

lh-zhi-gwag-way-deh.





"You raise geese by clipping their wings, ours fly free," Jim Responds.

"Gii-gishki-gonigwiizhaawag, gi-omib'akwaa nikag, bizaan niinawind igo bimisiwag" izhi-nagwedam Jim.

"Gee-gish-kih-goh-nih-gwee-zhaw-wag, gih-ohm-ib'-ahk-waw nih-kag, bih-zawn neen-ah-wind ih-goh bih-mih-sih-wag" lh-zhi-nahg-wayn-dum Jim.

"You have cows for food, we use moose," he continues to speak.

"Bizikiwag gidayaawaawaag ji-wiisiniwag,niinawaind dash moosoog," ani gagiigito ge'aabi.

"Bih-zih-kih-wag gih-dah-yah-waw-waw-wuhg jih-wee-sihn-nih-wag, neen-ah-wah-ind dash moo-soog." ani gah-gee-gih-to gay-aw-bih.





"You have chickens, we have partridges."

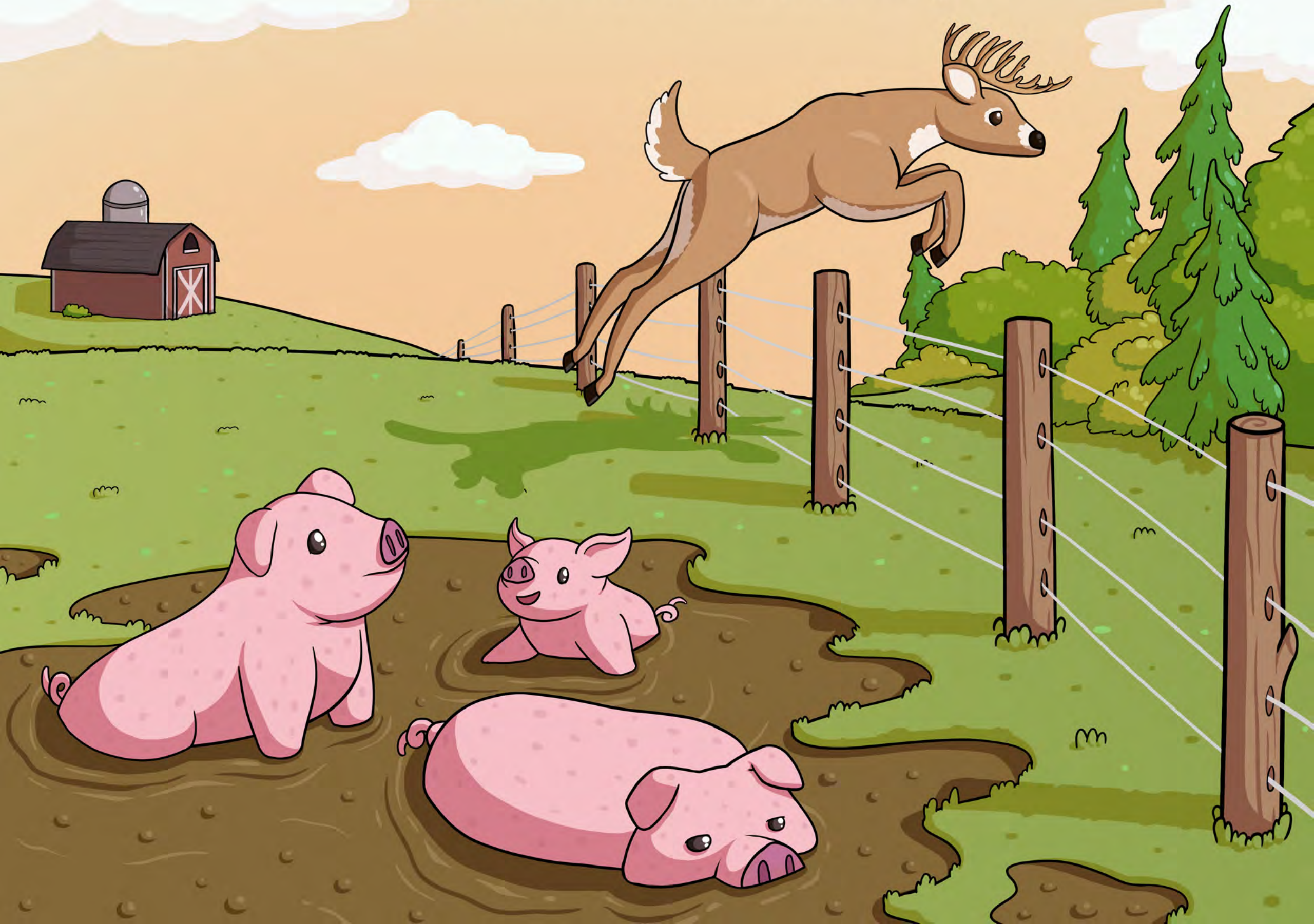
"Baaka'aakwag kidayawaawaawag , niinawind dash bineyag".

"Baw-kah-aw-kwag kih-dah-yaw-waw-wag, neen-wind dash
bih-ahg".

"You have pigs, we have deer."

"Baaka'aakwag kidayawaawaawag , niinawind dash
bineyag".

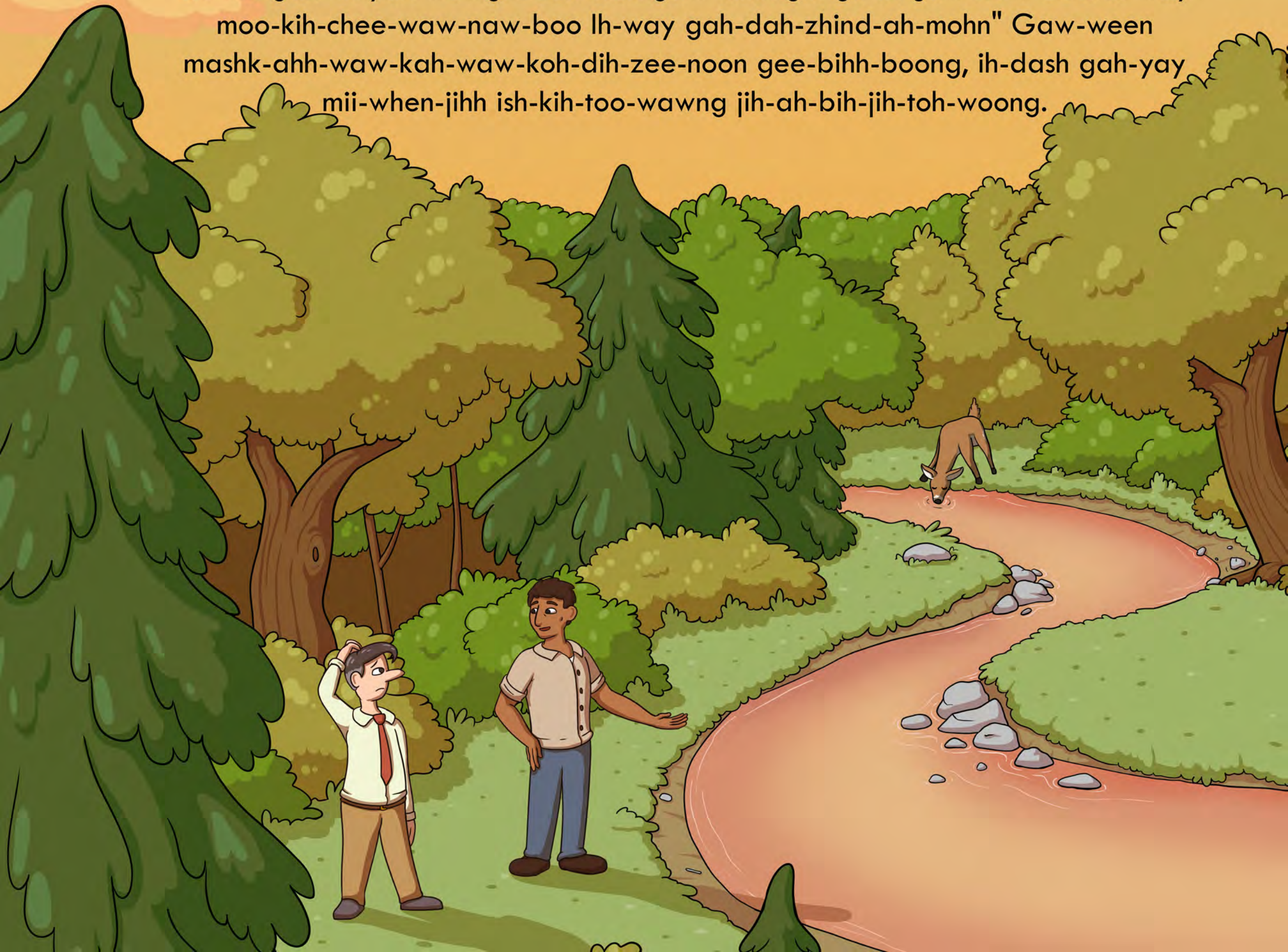
"Goo-koo-shag kih-dah-yaw-waw-wag, neen-wind
dash waw-wawsh-kih-sheh-wag".



"We have running water that is better than what you have. Your farm water is polluted. The water I am talking about is pure running water. It doesn't freeze in the winter and that is how we supply it."

"Nawaj minowegamin ga-ba-miji-wang nibi ga'iyaa-ang piidash ewi ga'iyawaag. Binadagaamin gigitigaanaaboo. Iwe mooki-chii-waanaaboo. Iwe gadazhindamon. Gaawiin mashkawaako-dizii-noon gii-biboong, idash gaye mii-wenji ishkitooawang ji-abijitowoong."

"Nah-waj mih-noh-way-ga-min gah-bah-mih-jih-wang nih-bi gah'-ih-yah-ang pee-dash eh-wih gah'-ih-yah-wawg. Been-dah-gaw-mihn gih-git-ih-gaw-naw-boo. Ih-way moo-kih-chee-waw-naw-boo lh-way gah-dah-zhind-ah-mohn" Gaw-ween mashk-ahh-waw-kah-waw-koh-dih-zee-noon gee-bihh-boong, ih-dash gah-yay mii-when-jihh ish-kih-too-wawng jih-ah-bih-jih-toh-woong.

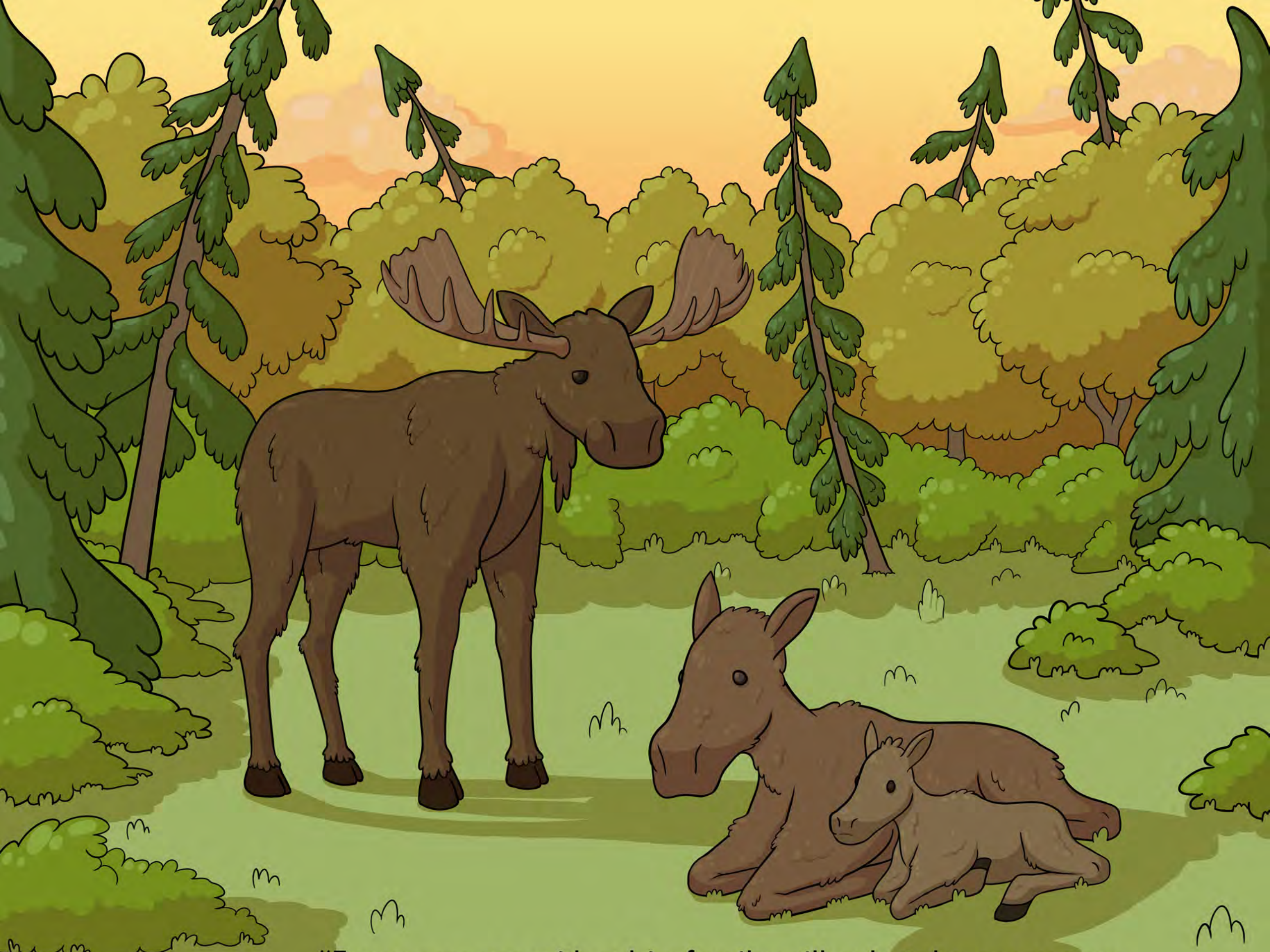


"We raise everything on our farm but we do not use fences."

" Gina gego nitawegitoomin oma gitigaanan, Gaawiin dashwiin
dabijitoosii-min adakobijiganan."



"Gih-nah gay-goh nih-tah-way-gih-too-mihn oh-mah gih-tih-gaw-nan, Gaw-ween dash-ween
dah-bih-jih-too-see-mihn ah-dah-koh-bih-jih-gahn-ahn."



“Even someone with a big family will only take one moose.
We don’t kill more to save for our future.”

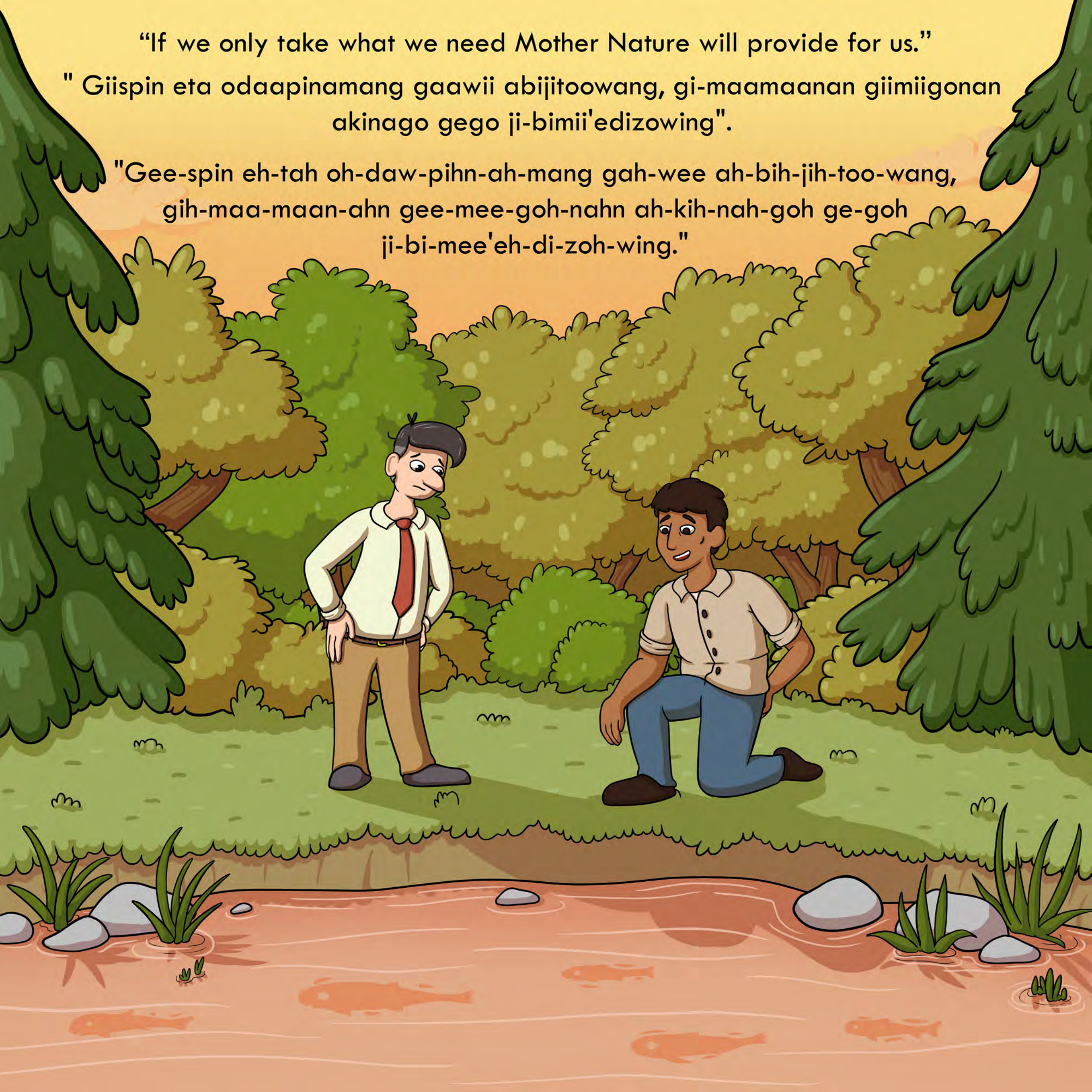
“Misawago anigii osaamiiniwat ga'inawendiwat Bezig etago moosoon
otodaapinaawan,manachi-aananing”.

Mih-sah-wa-goh ah-nih-gee oh-saw-mee-nih-waht- gah'-ih-nah-when-dih-waht
beh-zihg eh-tah-goh moo-soon oh-to-daw-pihn-aw-ahn, man-ah-chi-awn-ahn-ing”.

"If we only take what we need Mother Nature will provide for us."

"Giispin eta odaapinamang gaawii abijitoowang, gi-maamaanan giimiigonan akinago gego ji-bimii'edizowing".

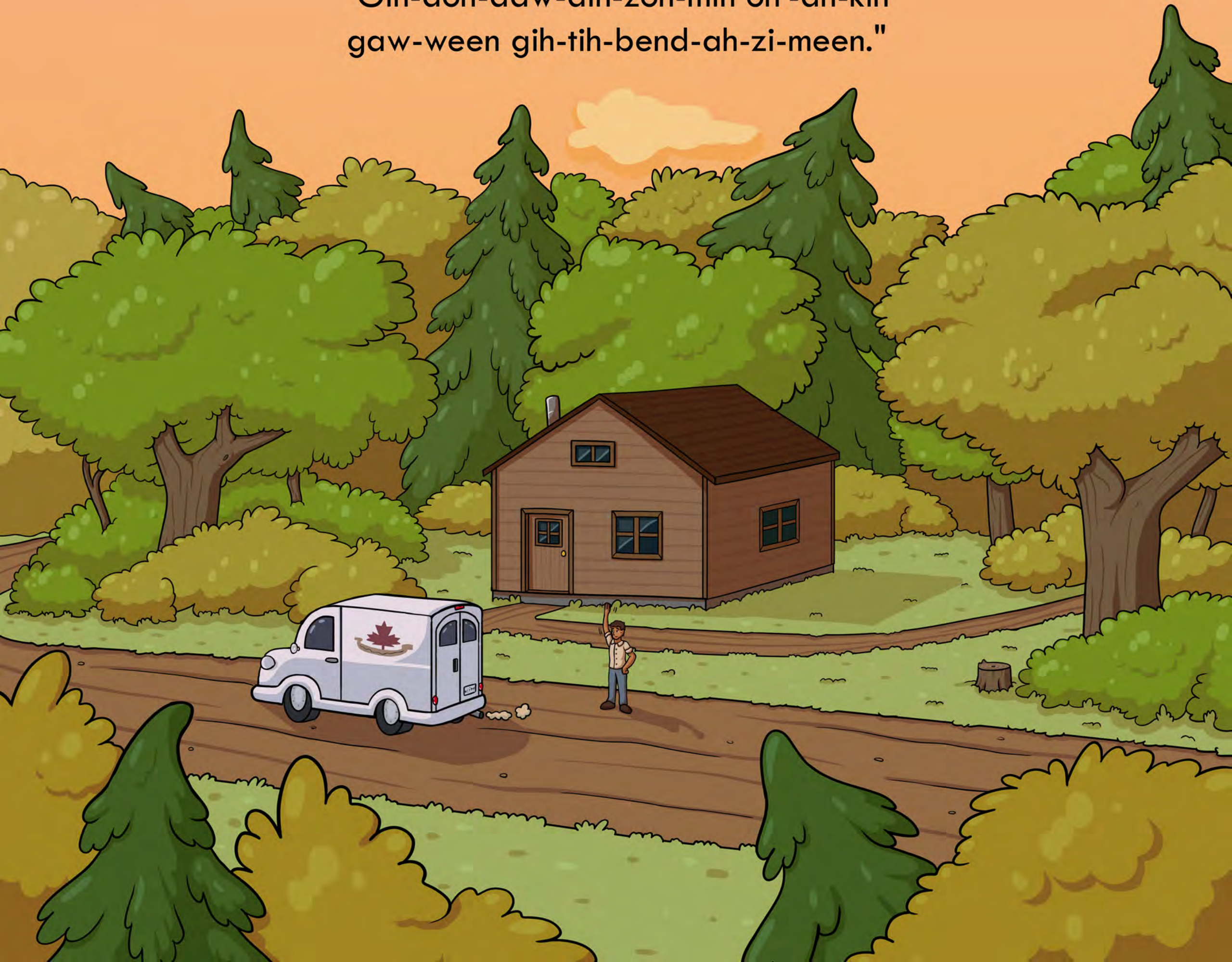
"Gee-spin eh-tah oh-daw-pihn-ah-mang gah-wee ah-bih-jih-too-wang, gih-maa-maan-ahn gee-mee-goh-nahn ah-kih-nah-goh ge-goh ji-bi-mee'eh-di-zoh-wing."



"We do not own the land we farm on. It provides for us
as long as we live the good life, so life goes on."

"Gidodaadizomin o'aki gaawiin gitibendaziimin".

"Gih-doh-daw-dih-zoh-min oh'-ah-kih
gaw-ween gih-tih-bend-ah-zi-meen."



The Government man gets back into his car and drives away.

Gii-boozi ima odoodaabaan anishinaabe-ogimaa ga izhi ani-maajii-bizod.

Gee-boo-zih ih-mah-oh-doo-daw-bawn ah-nish-ih-naw-bay-oh-gi-maw ga
ih-zhi ah-nih-maw-jee-bih-zohd.

