**Ininaatig igaye Manijooshag**

The Maple Tree and the Bugs

Mewinzha niibowa manijooshag gii-biindigewaad owe Ininaatig.

*A long time ago, a lot of bugs went into the maple tree.*

Ogii-ginagishkaago’ onzaam imaa gii-izhi-biindigewoodewa’ owanagekong.

*They made maple tree too itchy when they crawled into the tree’s bark.*

Ogii-giiwinaachi’igoo’ a’awe Ininaatig.

*He was going crazy that maple tree.*

Ogii-paanetoon ji-chichigiid misawaa go ani-gii-ayaad otikwaanensan ini idash igaye ojiibikaanan.

*He was not able to scratch even though he had those branches and his roots.*

Odandomaa’ owiijiiyaagana’ iwe awesiinyag.

*He called for his friends, the animals.*

“Gonage awiiya nindaa-bi-wiiji’ig, ji-ishkwaa-ginagiziyaan,” ikido.

*“I wonder if somebody can come help me stop being itchy,” s/he says.*

Amik imaa gii-pi-izhaa ininaatigoong.

*The beaver came to the maple tree.*

Gichi-maang-gaabide amik.

*The beaver has really big teeth.*

“Gidaa-wiiji’in igo, giishpin dash jiichiigwandamaan giwanagek gidaa-wiisage-ayaawin,” ikido amik.

*“I could help you, but if I chew on your bark I could hurt you,” said amik.*

Miinawaa waawaabiganoojii omaa gii-pi-izhaad ininaatigoong.

*And a mouse came here to the maple tree.*

“Ininaatig, nindaa-dawaanike go iwidi gijiibikaaning.”

*“Maple Tree, I could dig there at your roots.”*

“Ogowe dash ge waawaabiganoojiiyag daa-wiiji’itwaawag,”

*“These mice should be able to help out,”*

“O-maagizhaa ji go ge’e gidaa-wiisagibinigoo,” ikido waawaabaginoojii.

*“Perhaps they might hurt you,” says mouse*

Miinawaa go makwa omaa go gii-pi-izhaad, gichi-oshkanzhii odayaawaa makwa.

*And a bear came here, the bear has big claws.*

“Gidaa-wiiji’in igo, maagizhaa dash gaakaashgibitoyaan iwe giwanagek gidaa-wiisagibinin,” ikido makwa.

*“I could help you, but maybe while I’m scratching your bark I could hurt you,” said the bear.*

Aanind ani-naanaagadawendamoog aaniiin ge-izhichigeyaad.

*Some of them were trying figuring out what they can do.*

Bineshiiyag imaa bimise’o, bezhig idash bineshii aya’aa awe mooningwane

*Birds flew by, but that one bird is a flicker.*

“Ininaatig, nindayaawaa omaa nindinawemaagan, ogaashaani iw okoonzh.”

*“Maple tree, I have my relative here, his beak is sharp.”*

“Gidaa-andawaanikaanig, gaawiin gidaa-wiisagibinigsii,” ikido moonigwane.

“*S/he could dig at you, s/he won’t hurt you,” says moonigwane.*

Gaa-pi-izhi-izhaad baapaase omaa ininaatigoong.

*Woodpecker came here to the maple tree.*

Ani-izhi-maajii-bakiite’aa ininaatigoong.

*S/he starts to peck at the Maple Tree.*

Gaa-izhichigeyaad gakina Manijooshag.

*That is what s/he did to all the bugs.*

Wiinge jiikendam awe ininaatig.

*The maple tree is very happy.*

Gabe-ayi’ii gegoo gii-ani-minose, gezika dash gaawiin gii-ayaasinoon gimiwanaaboo.

*Things were going well for a long time, then suddenly there was no rain water.*

Wiinge gii-baate iw aki, dash igaye go awensiinyag gii-noonde’aabaagwewag.

*The earth was really dry, then the animals were also really thirsty.*

Zaagi’iganan onowe igaye ziibiin ge-ani-baate’on, dash igaye go awensiinyag gaawiin wii-gikendaziinaawaa aandi ge-izhaawaad.

*The lakes and these rivers were beginning to dry up, and the animals didn’t know where to go.*

“Aaniin ge-izhiseying giishpin gegoo nibi ayaasinog ji-minikweying,” ikidowag awensiinyag.

*“What is going to happen to us if we don’t have any water to drink?” said the animals.*

Awe Ininaatig ogii-noondawa’.

*The Maple tree heard them.*

“Ningii-wiiji’igoo iwe awensiinyag gii-gagwaadagitooyaan, gii-gagwaadagii’iwaad ige manijooshag. Ginoonde-wiiji’ininim idash noongom,” ikido Ininaatig.

*“The animals helped me when I was suffering; when they made me suffer, those bugs. Now I want to help you all,” said the maple tree.*

“Baapaase, bakiita’igen imaa waasa niwanagekoong, ge-izhi-baabii’owin.”

*“Woodpecker, peck there deep into my bark, then you will wait.”*

“Wiiba go ziinzibaakwadaaboo da-maajiise mii dash i’ ge-izhi-minikweyeg iwe ziinzibaakwadaaboo.”

*“Soon sap will start running and then you guys will drink that sap.”*

Maanoo gaa-izhi-gojitood awe baapaase.

*So, the woodpecker went ahead and tried it.*

Mii dash gii-izhichiged niibowa ziinzibaakwadaaboo gii-pi-gichibide imaa ininaatigoong.

*And then when he did it, a lot of sap came out of there from the maple tree.*

Mii dash awe miinigoziwin gaa-bimaaji’igowaad gakina go awiiya awensiinyag.

*This is gift that gives life to all the animals.*

Mii go baamaa gii-bi-gimiwang, gii-pi-azhe-giiwemagak i’ nibi imaa zaagi’iganing, imaa dash igaye ziibiinsing.

*Until after the rain came, when the water came back to the lakes and rivers.*

Mii awe miinigoziwin gaa-gii-onjiseg imaa ininaatigoong gii-miinindwaa awensiinyag

*This is the gift from the maple tree that was given to the animals.*

Mii imaa gaa-onji-gikendamowaad anishinaabeg ji-ozhitoowaad zhiiwaagmizigan, awe igaye ji-negwaakwaanaawaad ininaatigoo’ gii-bimijiwong iwe ziinzibaakwadaaboo.

*That is where the anishinaabeg learned how to make maple syrup and how to tap maple trees when the sap flows.*

Zhiiwaagmizigan gichi-nendaagwad memindage go apii gii-biboong, miinan gii-ayaasinog gii-agaasiinak dash gaye miijim.

*Syrup is highly thought of, especially during the winter, when there weren’t any berries and there was also very little food.*

Mii o’apii ge-gichi-miigwechiwendamaang iwe miinigoziwin gaa-miigiiyeg awe Ininaatig.

*This is the time we are grateful for the gifts that the maple tree provides.*