

Maajii-Ojibwemowag
(They Begin to Speak Ojibwe)

Asemaa

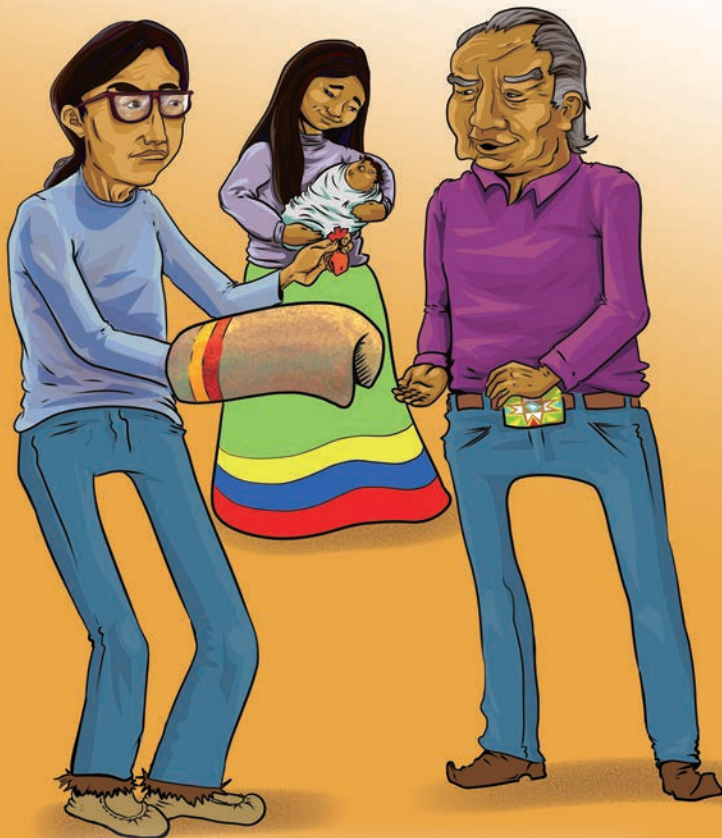


Stories of the Plants:
A Zhaawanong Book

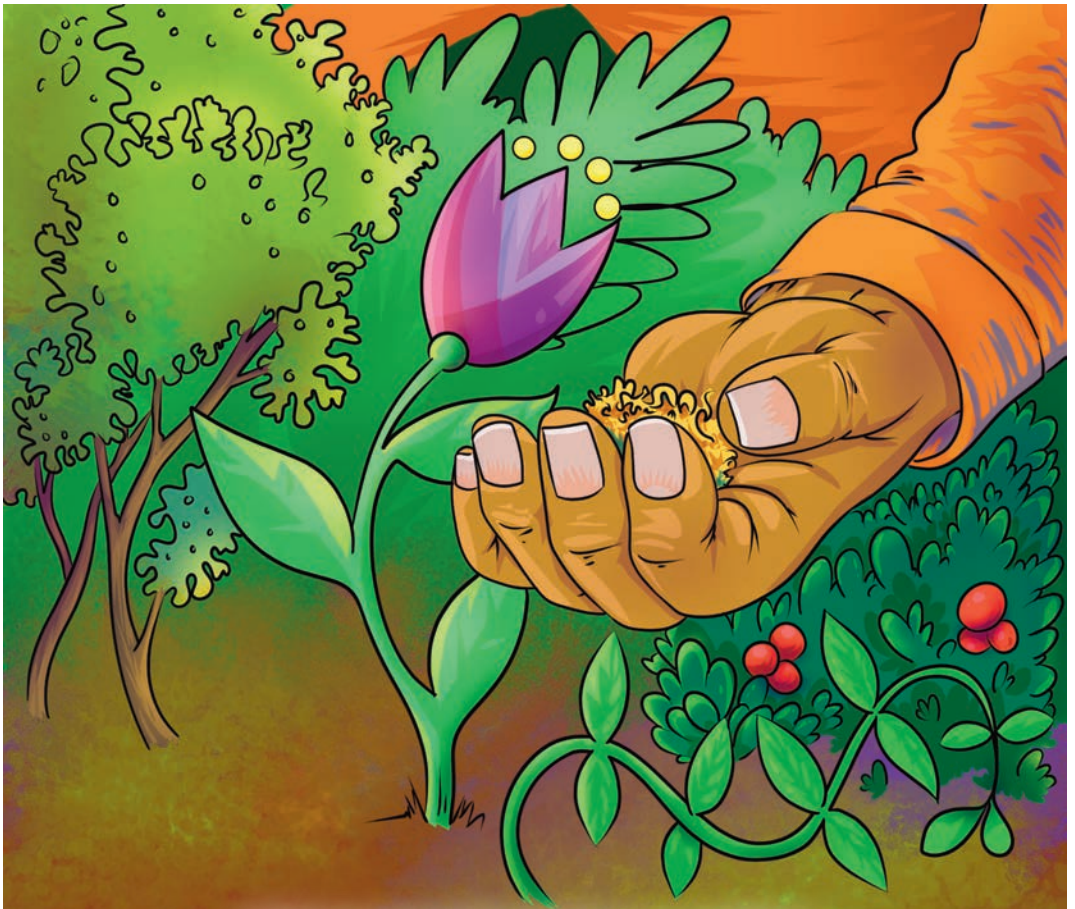


Asemaa is very important to the Anishinaabe people.
We use it to say our prayers and do our ceremonies.

I remember my mother asking me to bring asemaa to an elder for a memorial wiikongewin for my father.



And later that year, we gave asemaa to hold a naming ceremony for our daanis.

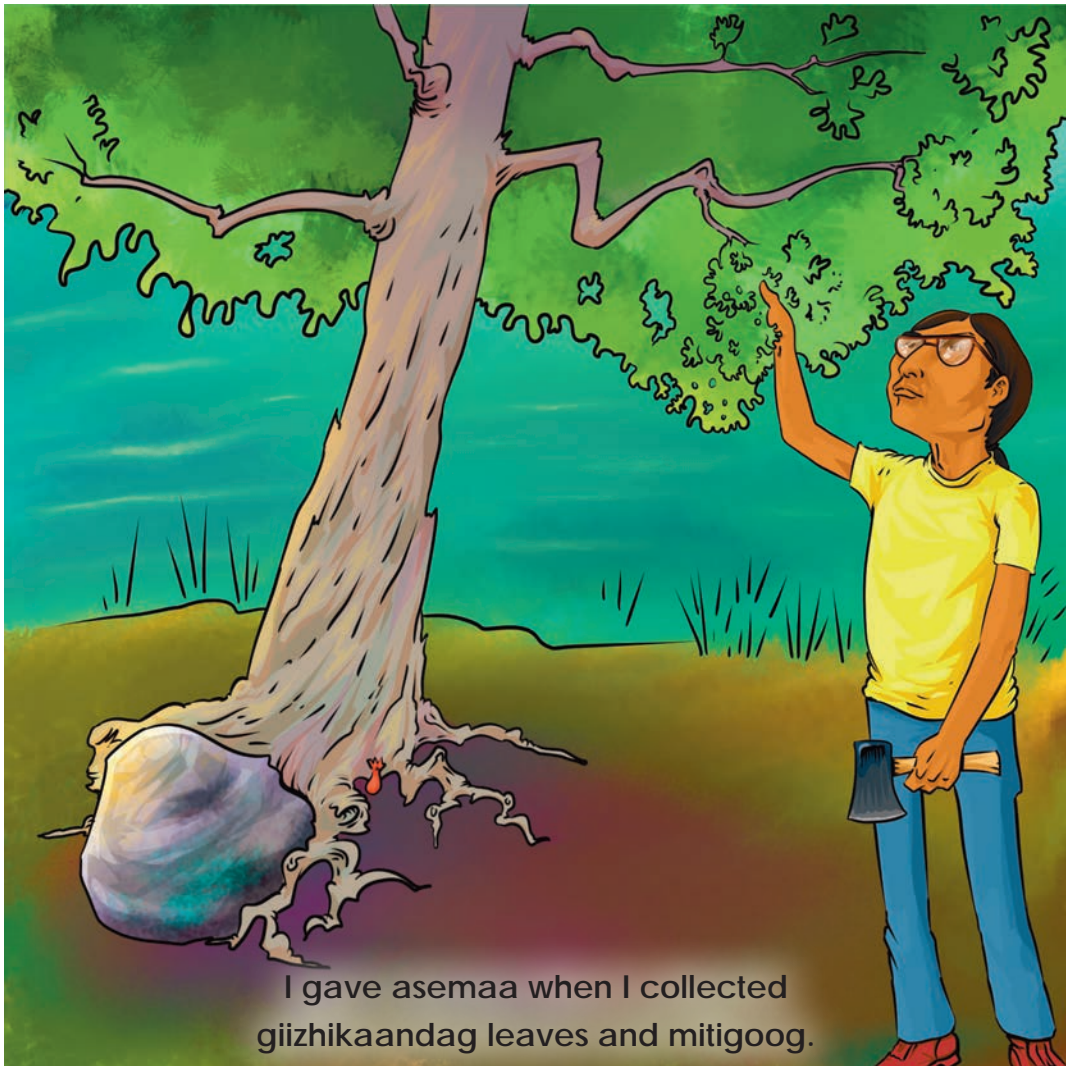


Gibiindaakoojigemin for many things.
This is the way we show respect for the spirit of the plant
or the animal. Apiitendaagwad.

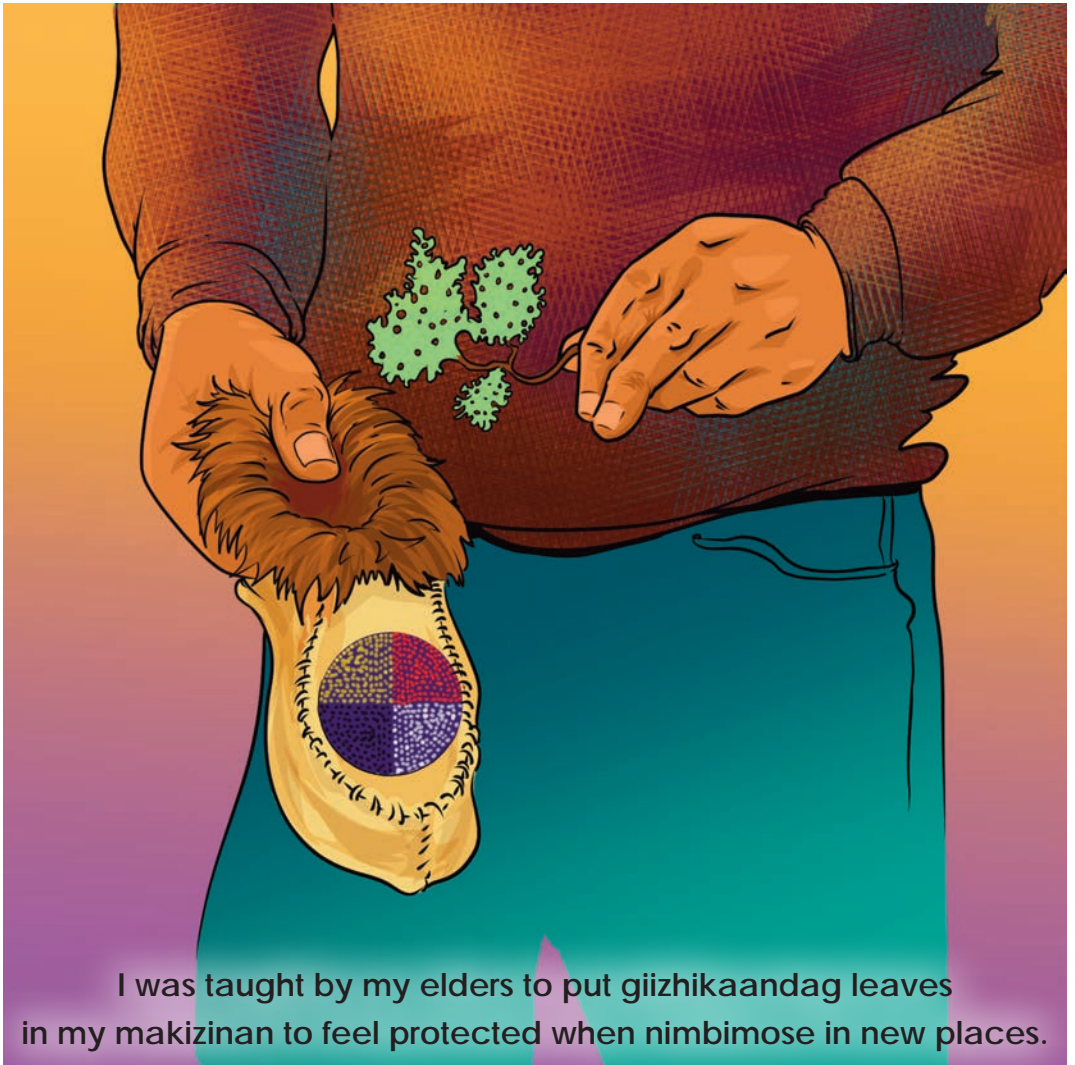
Asemaa is a sacred mashkiki for our people.
It is the way we offer thanks and speak with the Gichi-manidoo.



Tobacco ties can be used to offer asemaa, like this miskwaa one.



I gave asemaa when I collected
giizhikaandag leaves and mitigoog.



I was taught by my elders to put giizhikaandag leaves in my makizinan to feel protected when nimbimose in new places.



I used the giizhikaandag mitigoog
to carve a dikinaagan for my daughter.

My wife offers asemaa when harvesting wiingashk.



Mino-maagwad!

She braids the wiingashk and gives it to inawemaaganag as gifts.



They say miigwech!



We offer asemaa when we gather wiinisigobag and berries.
Their leaves are shiny and dark aniibiishan-inaande.



We drink wiinisigobag aniibiish and eat wiishkobi-bakwezhigan
with wintergreen berries on top.

I offer asemaa when picking wewaagaagin near endaayaan.



The wewaagaagin make good wewaagaagin nabooob.



Minopogwad!

Using these mashkikiwan help your spirit feel good.



It is good to offer asemaa endaso-giizhik.

Remember, aabaji' asemaa in a good way.



Mii iv!



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Zhaawanong Book Set:

Stories of the Plants



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