

Nihtatr'indaii ts'àt Nihk'atr'inaatih Sharing and Caring



Mary Kendi, Joan Nazon, Catherine Mitchell, Elizabeth Greenland ts'àt Annie Benoit
guugwandak Leslie McCartney dinuut'oh
By Leslie McCartney with Mary Kendi, Joan Nazon, Catherine Mitchell,
Elizabeth Greenland and Annie Benoit

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This story is based on the stories that Mary Kendi, Joan Nazon, Catherine Mitchell, Elizabeth Greenland and Annie Benoit told as published in *Our Whole Gwich'in Way of Life Has Changed / Gwich'in K'yuu Gwiidandà' Tthak Ejuk Gòonlih Stories from the People of the Land* by Leslie McCartney and Gwich'in Tribal Council, published by University of Alberta Press (2020).

Published by Gwich'in Tribal Council

Copyright © 2025 Leslie McCartney and Gwich'in Tribal Council

ISBN 978-1-896337-49-4

We wish to thank the following people for all their hard work on contributions to make this book possible.

ELDERS:

Annie Benoit, Elizabeth Greenland, Mary Kendi,
Catherine Mitchell, Joan Nazon

FUNDERS:

Arctic Global Greengrants Fund

Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council

Canadian Heritage, Indigenous Languages & Cultural
Program – Indigenous Language Component

Government of the Northwest Territories Community
Literacy Development Fund

Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Language and
Early Childhood Education

Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Culture & Heritage
for their in-kind support of time

Snowchange Cooperative

University of Alaska Fairbanks for in-kind support
of Leslie McCartney's time

GWICH'IN TEACHERS:

AnnaLee McLeod – Aklavik
Annabelle Tetlich – Inuvik
Gladys Alexie – Fort McPherson

GWICH'IN TRANSLATORS:

Alestine Andre
Lisa Andre
Agnes Mitchell+

Eleanor Mitchell-Firth*
Karen Mitchell
Joanne Snowshoe

ILLUSTRATOR:

Linda Wright
With assistance from Dennis Wright and Alestine Andre

DESIGN AND PRINTING:

Outcrop Communications
Suite 203
5109 48 Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1N5

(867) 766-6700
info@outcrop.com

TEXT REVIEWERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Alestine Andre
Arlyn Charlie
Kristi Benson

John Byrne
Ingrid Kraitsch
Sharon Snowshoe

Thank you to National Park Service, Denali National
Park & Preserve for allowing us to use a portion of their
'Caribou Audio Clip' in the audio version of this book.

Thank you to Reverend Trimble Gilbert for allowing us to
use his Red River Jig as recorded on Neets'all Gwich'in
Fiddlers CD, copyright 2001 Gregory & Trimble Gilbert in
the audio version of this book.



+ Audio reader for stories by Elders Antoine Andre,
Caroline Andre, Pierre Benoit and Joan Nazon

* Audio reader for stories by Elders Mary Kendi,
Mary Martha Firth, Peter Kay, Sr., and Alfred Semple

Nihtatr'indaii ts'àt

Sharing and

Nihk'atr'inaatih

Taking care of each other

Sharing and Caring

Annie vilzhih.
Annie my name is.

My name is Annie.

Shagàii nihk'ii daan nilih.
My age eight it is.

I am eight years old.

Jii sheejii Bella t'iinch'uh.
This my older sister Bella she is.

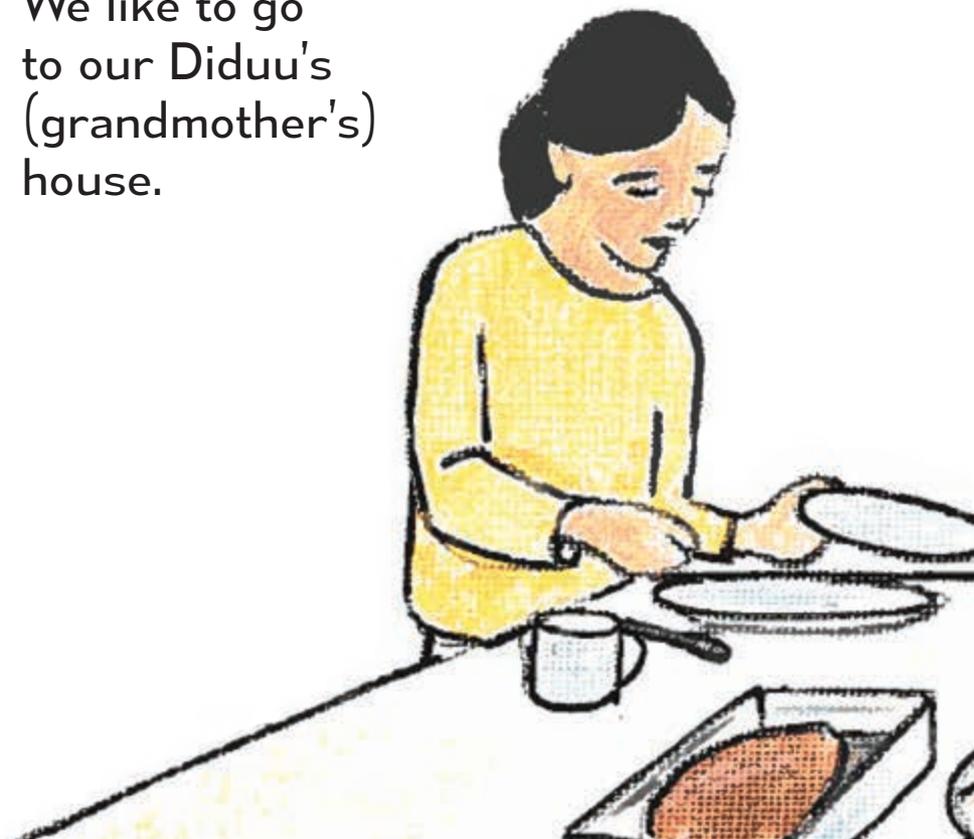
This is my sister Bella.

Vighàii ihfak juutin goonlih.
Her age ten it is that many.

She is ten years old.

Nikhwitsuu vizheh
Our grandmother her house
gwits'àt nachidadal
to we go
gat'iiniidadhanh.
we like.

We like to go
to our Diduu's
(grandmother's)
house.



Shitsuu Mary Kendi t'iinch'uh.

My grandmother Mary Kendi she is.

Shitsuu (my grandmother) is Mary Kendi.

Shitsuu vijaa kat shik giyeenadidaŋ.

My grandmother her friends always they visit her.

Several times a week our Diduu's
(grandmother's) friends come to visit her.

Nikhwitsuu kat nihkhaŋ gijilch'eih, lidii

Our grandmothers together they sit, tea

gidinii, k'è'gijahkai' ts'àt

they are drinking, they are sewing and

nihkhaŋ gugwaandak gat'igiiniindhanh.

together they tell they like.

The grannies like to sit
together, drink tea, sew
and tell stories.







Nikhwitsuu kat k'agiheedidal
Our grandmothers they will arrive
gwichih shii ts'àt sheejii
before me and my older sister
nikhwitsuu gisrii nahahdal
our grandmother she will get ready
geenjit vits'àt tr'iniidinjih.
for that we are helping her.

My sister and I come
to help our Diduu
(grandmother) before the
other grannies arrive.

Vakak ii'aa kak srìi nigwinda'aai
Table on we put it in order
geenjit vits'àt tr'iniidinjih.
for that we are helping her.

We help her set the table.

Lidii eenjit chuu tyah niniidilih.
Tea for it cup we put them.

We put out cups for
their tea.

Ch'ik vakak ii'aa kak niniidilih.
Plate table on we put them.

We put plates on
the table.

Nikhwitsuu vadzaih nilii,
Our grandmother caribou meat,
dinjik nilii, tuk ts'àt tuhch'uh
moose meat, fish and bannock
vikahch'uu hàh vits'àt tr'iniidinjih.
she is cooking with we are helping her.

We help our Diduu
(grandmother) cook
caribou meat, moose
meat, fish and bannock.

Ch'ik ghoo zhìt jii kat ninilii ts'àt
Plate round in it these she put it and
vakak ii'aa kak niniidilii hàh
table on we put them with
vits'àt tr'iniidinjih.
we are helping her.

Diduu (Grandmother)
puts these in bowls and
we carefully carry them
to the table.

Shìh gwiiyeendoo gwiinzii vigwaatsanh.
Food very much good it smells.

The food smells
so good.

Gwiiyeendoo niidhaa ts'àt teezirh
Very much it is hot and steam
vits'àt tr'inah'inh.
from it it is seen.

It is so hot, steam
rises from the bowls.

Shitsuu lidii tyah choo vizhit
My grandmother tea pot big in it
lidii vakak ii'aa kak dadhakaih.
tea table on she put it.

Diduu (Grandmother)
brings a large pot of tea
to the table.

Ats'andoo nikhwitsuu kat k'agididaŋ.
Eventually our grandmothers they arrived.

Soon the grannies arrive.

Sheejii hàh guuvehgee dhiididii
My older sister with her beside them we sat
ts'àt guuvuudhidhaach'eii gat'iiniidadhanh.
and we listened to them we like.

My sister and I like to sit near and
listen to them.

Dinjii zhuh k'yuu nihts'àt gigjkhiih.
Indian language to each other they are talking.

The grannies talk to each other in
Dinjii Zhuh (Gwich'in language).







Nihkhah gugwaandak
With each other they are talking
guuzhik gwiintf'oh geedlah.
meanwhile very much they are laughing.

Dinjii zhuh k'yuu giniidikhiih kwaa
Indian language we are talking not
gòo nikhwitsuu kat daginuu
but our grandmothers what they are saying
gah'iidandaih.
we know.

"Zhat vakak ii'aa gwa'àn nihkhah
"Here table around together
dhiididii gwiinzih," Shitsuu
we are sitting it is good," my grandmother
Joan nuh.
Joan she said.



"Shih ts'àt lidii hàh tthak Mary
"Food and tea with all Mary
nikhweenjit a'tsaii gwinoh'inh.
for us she made all of you look.

And they laugh and
laugh at the stories they
tell each other.

Even though we might
not speak Dinjii Zhuh
(Gwich'in language) well,
we understand what the
grannies are saying.

Grannie Joan says,
"It is nice for us to
sit together here at
this table."

"Look at all the food
and tea Mary has
made for us.

Mary, nikhweenjit lavatsaa dhàhtsaih."
Mary, for us feast you made."

Mary, you have made us
an old-time lavàsdaa."

Shii ts'at Bella nihfinyaa'inh.
Me and Bella we looked at each other.

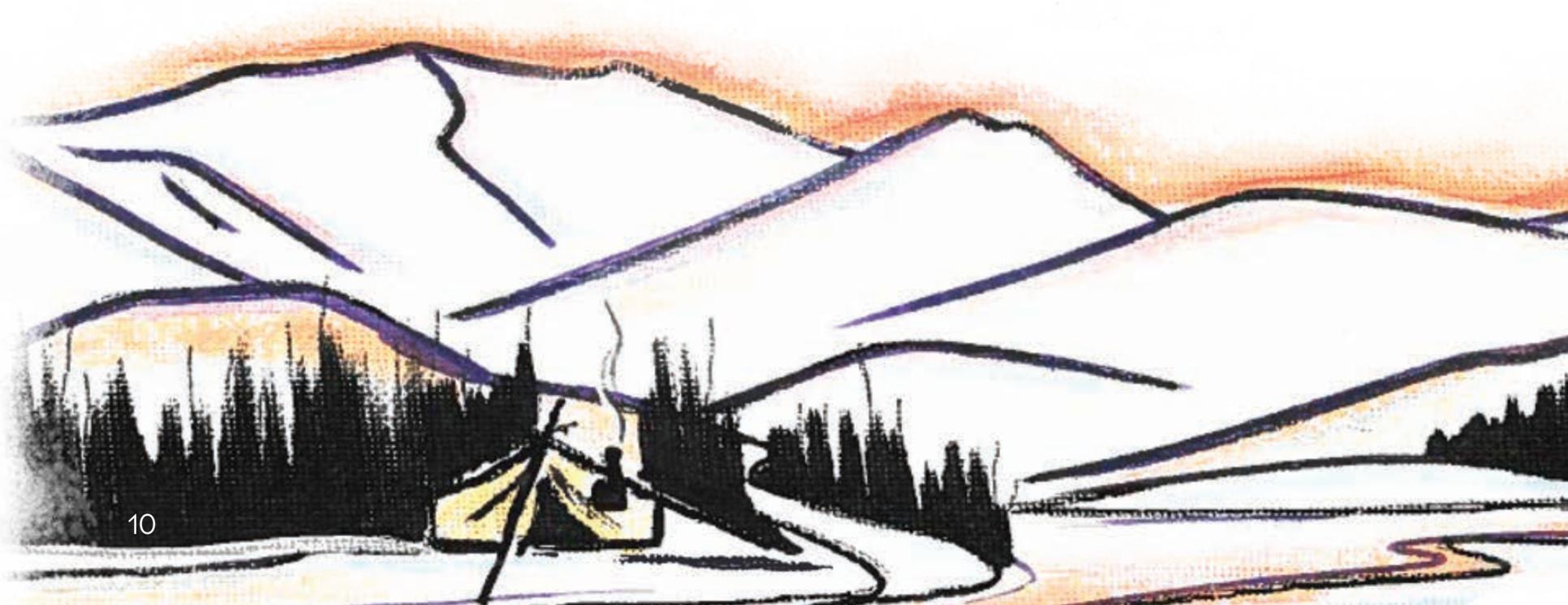
Bella and I looked at
each other.

Lavastaa jidii dee diinch'uh?
Feast what it is?

What is lavàsdaa?

Nikhwitsuu nikhwinah'in ts'at
Our grandmother looked at us and
jùu dinuh, "Nikhwitsuu kat
this she said, "Our grandmothers
gwiieendoo gwiinzii gugwiindai'.
much more good they lived.

Our Diduu (grandmother)
saw our faces and
said, "Diduu kat (our
grandmothers) lived a
very rich life, a good life.



Guuveenjit gugwiintri' giiniindhanh
For them it was difficult they thought
kwàh. Nagahdinjik ts'àt ddhah kak
not. They traveled and mountain on
k'agiheedadal gwichih ts'iivii goonlih.
they will arrive before trees there are many.

They did not look
at it as a hard life.
They would travel
and before you reach
the mountains, there
were trees.

Tsiivii choo zù'.
Tree big nice looking.

Beautiful, big trees.

Ezhik danh, niihah k'it giftsaih.
At that place, camping place they made.

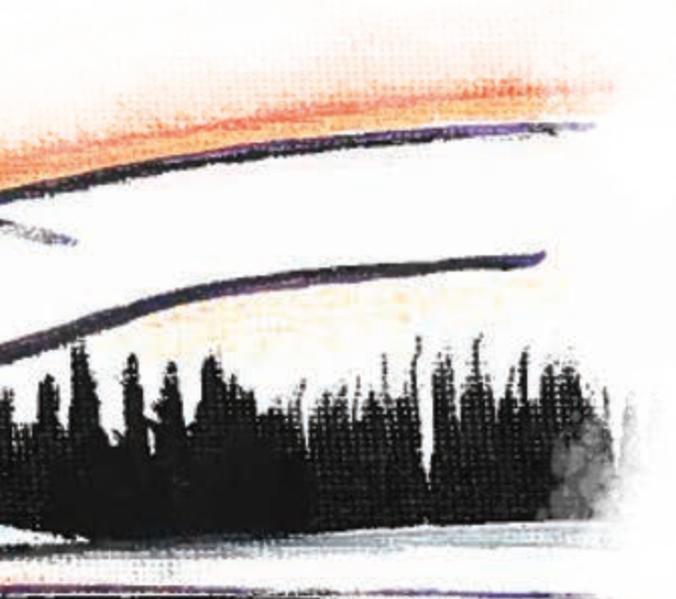
There, they set up
their camp.

Ahtr'aih dàì' aii zraih gijitth'ak.
Wind at that time that only they heard.

When the wind came
up, they only heard the
rustling of the wind.

Ahtr'aih guuveenjit ihloh t'igoonch'uh kwàh.
Wind for them something it is nothing.

The wind was not a problem
to them.



Niihah k'it gwiizhit gwiinzii
Camping place inside good
t'igiinch'uh.
they were.

They were well sheltered.

Sreendit nigwiizhit, at'at
Spring time it is becoming now
zhoh nadhaghaih.
snow it is melting.

As spring came, the snow started to melt.

Taii gwinjik nagahdinjik
Trail along it they are traveling
k'iinjik nagihdinjik.
back to they traveled.

They would begin to trek their way back on the trail that they had come on.

Nan gwizu' goo'aih.
Land very nice looking it is there.

The land was so beautiful.

Khaii gòò shin nagihdinjik
Winter or summer they are traveling
guuveenjit gi'gwidhanh.
for them it is easy.

It made life a lot easier, whether they travelled in the wintertime or summertime.

Nagihdinjik, guuzhik geetak
They are traveling, at that time sometimes
niihah k'it gahtsih.
camping place they are making.

During their travels, they
sometimes set up their camp.

Ezhik gwats'àt nigaazrih.
There from they are hunting.

They would hunt from there.

Guudivee gwiinzii jì' ihṭee
Their living good if one person
dinjik gò vadzaih gaghanh.
moose or caribou they killed.

If they were lucky, someone
would kill a moose or
a caribou.



Aii gwats'at dinjik gòo vadzaih

That from moose or caribou

nilii làt uu'ok

meat some others

guuts'an gahtsih.

theirs they make.

Then, they would give some of this moose or caribou to someone.

Lavahtsaa gahahtsaa geenjit jùu

Feast they will make for it this

digidi'inh, jii t'at niinzhit dàì'

they are doing, this is long time ago

gwilavasataa gwiiyeendoo

its feast very much

nizii diinch'uh.

good it is.

They did this so the person could make lavàsdaa, which is a great old-time feast.

Nilii nihfi'ejuk vikagahch'uu

Meat different kinds they are cooking

ts'at dinjii kat i'gah'ah.

and people they feed them.

They cooked the meat in many different ways and fed the people.

Aii t'ee nilii tr'ooniniindhat

That after meat left over

dinjii kat goont'atr'ahchit.

people they give it to them.

Then, they shared the rest of the meat with the people.

Jii gwinjik nikhwah gwich'in kat

This following our people

gugwiindai'.

they lived.

That was the way our people lived.

Nikhwah gwich'in kat ezhik gwinoo

Our people at that time

gwichil'ee gugwiindai'.

it is rich they lived.

Our people lived very rich lives in those years.

Gugwindak gwichil'ee."

Its story it is rich."

The stories are rich."

"Ahà'," nikhwitsuu Joan nuh,

"Yes," our grandmother Joan said,

"Nikhwitsuu kat aii gwik'it

"Our grandmothers that the same

gugwiindai'."

they lived."

"Yes," said Grannie Joan,
"That is how Diduu kat (our grandmothers) lived."





Ih̄teh ḡj̄khih kwaa
For a while she is speaking not
ts'at̄ kaiichan ahstii k'ajahkài'.
and mukluks she is making she is sewing it.

She pauses to stitch
the mukluks she is
working on.

Vik'ajiikài' zhàk niniinlih.
Her sewing down she put it.

She puts her
sewing down.

"Jii gwandak k'iighè' k'eejit ih̄tii
"This story because if it young I am
dài' geenjit niinji'ihthat.
at that time for it I'm thinking.

"This story reminds me
of when I was young.

Uu'ok kat shahanh
People out there my mother
gwiiyeendoo giyat'iiniindhàn.
much more they loved her.

My mother was a
person people loved.

Veenitr'idi'oo dài' guuveenjit
She is visited at that time for them
vika'ahch'uh.
she is cooking.

When people visited
her, she cooked
for them.

Nilii ts'at tuk vikahan'uu ts'at lidii
Meat and fish she is cooking and tea
goont'akaih.
she is giving them.

She cooked meat,
fish and gave them
a cup of tea.

Juk drin Mary nikhweenjit
Now day Mary for us
akoo didi'in gwik'it.
she is doing that the same.

Just like Mary has
done today for us.

Aii ts'at veenitr'odi'oo t'ee cheegidi'oo
And they visit her after they leave
dai' shih nizii uu'an
at that time food good home
guuheendal geenjit guunt'a'ahchak.
they will take for that she gives them food.

And, when the
person left, she
always gave them
something good to
take home.

Jii gwik'it t'iinch'uh.
This the same as she is.

She was this kind of
a person.

Uu'ok kat nikhweenigidi'oo
People out there they visit us
gwiiyeendoo gat'igiiniindhanh.
much more they like to.

People used to love
coming to visit us.

Anjoo kat chan giyeenadi'oo

Elders too they visit her

gat'igiiniindhanh."

they like to."

Elders used to love
coming to visit her too."

Shitsuu Catherine dlok nuu'aih.

My grandmother Catherine she is smiling.

Grannie Catherine
smiled.

"Shahanh nahanh Joan hah

"My mother your mother Joan with

dhidii ganaldaih.

she is sitting I remember.

"I remember when my
mother used to visit with
your mother Joan.

Nahanh zhùu ghadidich'uu shik nùh."

Your mother she is loving always she said."

She always said what a kind person
your mother was."

Catherine chan gwiintsaf kè'jahkai'.

Catherine too a little bit she is sewing.

Catherine sews a few more stitches.



“Tr’oochit dàì’ k’è’dinohkàì’
“First at that time you all sewed
lèè ganaondaih? guuvuudahkat.
do you all remember? she asked them.

Tr’iinìn iidilii dàì’ dahiidyà’aa
Children we are at that time what we will do
aachin aa’ii nikhwitr’iìtsaii ts’at
we watch we were made to do and
nits’oo jùu dihiidyà’aa nikhwitr’ahnùh.
how this we will do we are told.

Shichaa veenjìt kaiitrih
My younger brother for him moccasins
haìtsaa geenjìt shahanh
I will make for it my mother
gashooniìtinh.
she taught me.

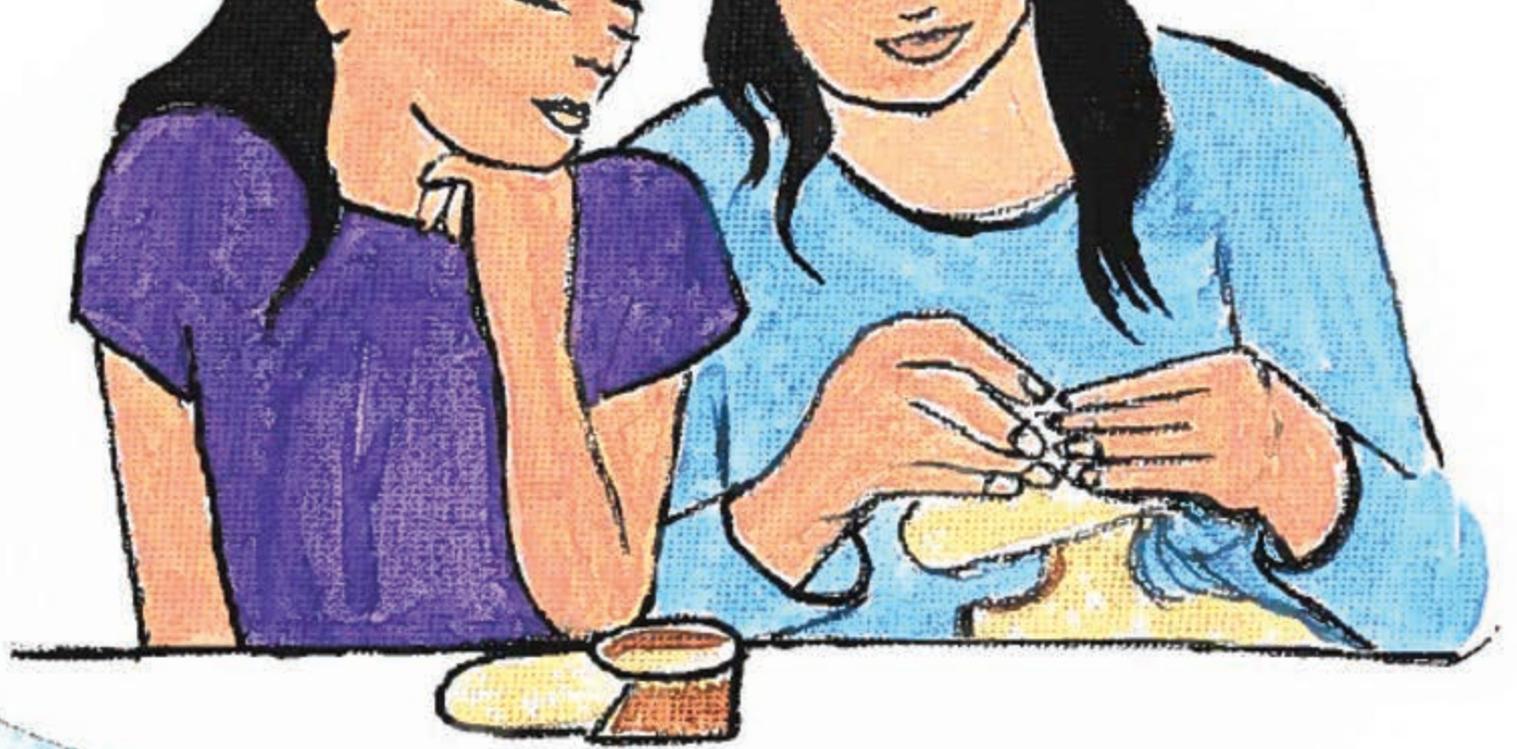
Gòò’ eìts’ik nijaanaih.
But sick she became.

She asks the others,
“Do you remember when
you learned to sew?”

As kids we were shown
and told how to do things.

My mom started to show
me how to make a pair
of moccasins for my
little brother.

But then she got sick.



Eřts'ik zheh gwizhìt diinch'uh.
Hospital inside she is.

She was in the hospital.

Sheejii Joan vâh
My older sister Joan with her
t'ihihch'aa geenjit zhat gwits'àt
I will stay for it here to
chidhiizhiih.
I went.

I went to live with my cousin
Joan here.

Joan lee vaninaandaih?
Joan do you remember her?

Do you remember Joan?

Nahanh nits'oo aii kaiitrih
Your mother how those moccasins
k'ahadaŋkà' gashuuniŋtin.
I will sew she taught me.

It was your mother who
showed me how to finish them.



Aii t'at, tr'oochit kaiitrih dhiŋtsaih.
That is first moccasins I made.

That was the first pair of
moccasins I made.

Nits'òo k'è'hadaḥkà' gashitr'ooniḥtin
How I will sew I was taught
ts'àt shighaii ihḥak juutin ts'àt nihk'ii tik
and my age ten and six
dài' jidii tthak nits'oo khakhaḥt'al
at that time all of it how I will cut it out
ts'àt k'è'hadaḥkà' gahshindaih.
and I will sew it I know.

Tthak kat Drin Tsal geenjit
Everyone Christmas for it
k'è'gijahkài'.
they are sewing.

Nikhwitsuu kat tr'iinin kat eenjit
Our grandmothers children for them
geh ik ts'àt geh thaḥ giḥtsaih.
rabbit coat and rabbit pants they made.

Nikhwijaa guuveenjit k'è'dinyaakai'
Our friends for them we sewed
ts'àt agidanh chan nikhweenjit k'è'gijahkài'.
and them too for us they sewed.

I kept learning how to sew and by the age of sixteen, I knew how to cut out and sew everything.

Oh, and everyone would sew for Christmas.

Our Jijuus (grandmothers) would make the younger children rabbit-skin coats and pants.

We would sew for our friends, and they would sew for us.

Naagaii, laswee ts'at ch'oo vi'i'di'ee
Beads, silk and porcupine quills its colour
nihtinehch'i' t'ajaach'ù'.
different kinds we used.

We used beads, silk and
dyed porcupine quills of
all different colours.



Jii hàh dzhirh ts'at iyehdak ik niniltsi'
This with mitts and parka fancy
kheenjit aatsih.
for ourselves we are making.

We would decorate
our mitts and parkas
with these.

Shijaa dzhirh niniltsi' vits'an ełtsii ts'at
My friend mitts fancy hers I make and
adanh gwijihkkeh sheenjit dazhoo
she in exchange for me fur
kaiichan aatsih.
mukluks she is making.

I would give a friend
a decorated pair of
mitts, and she would
make me fur mukluks
in return.

Aii gwik'it nikhwijaa nihkhah t'iidich'uh.
That the same our friend together we are.

That's how we got
along with our friends.

Yaa gwinyoh'inh, shicheii k'eejit
All of you look at this, my grandchild new
veenjit kaiitrih ełtsih."
for him/her moccasins I'm making."

Look, I am making
these moccasins for
my new grandchild."

Tthak kat gwiiyeendoo nizii giiniindhanh.
Everyone very much nice they think.

Everyone agrees, they
are beautiful.

Chan hee guuk'ajiikài' k'agijahkài'.
Again their sewing they are sewing.

They continue with
their sewing.

Shitsuu Elizabeth dlok nuu'aih.
My grandmother Elizabeth she is smiling.

Grannie Elizabeth smiles.

"Ihfat dòi' duuyeh kè'dinafkài'.
"One time never I will sew.

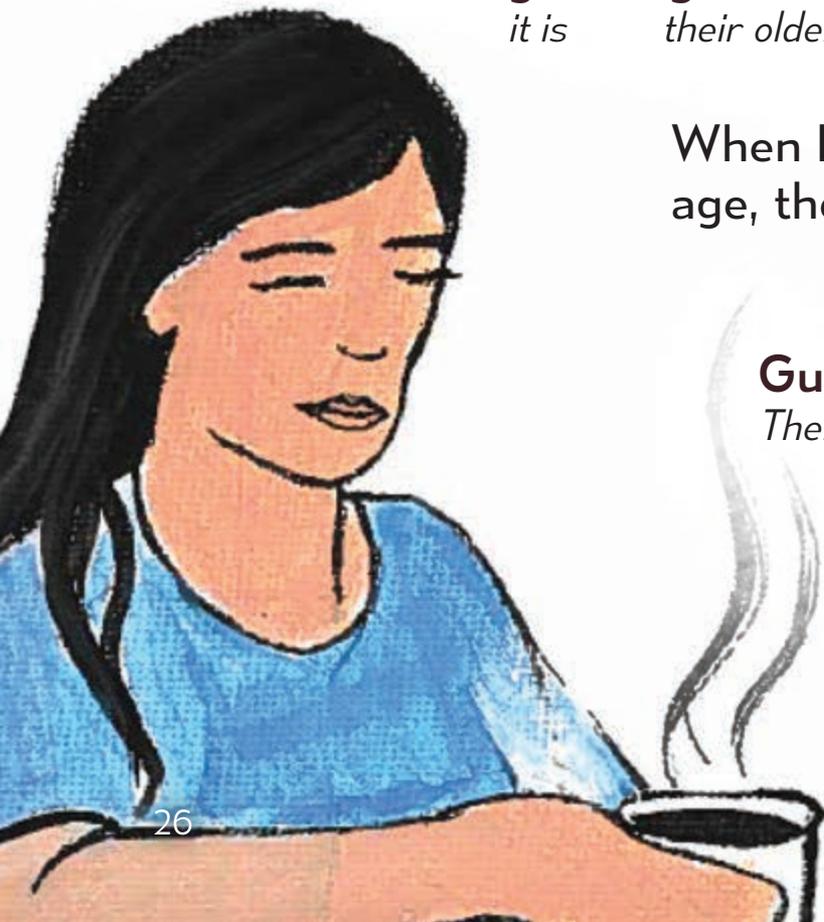
"I once could not sew at all.

K'eejit ihfii dòi', shijaa kat, shik'it guughaii
Young I am at that time, my friends, like me their age
goonlii guuvuundee gòo guuchaa goonlih.
it is their older brother or their younger brother there is.

When I was young, my friends, girls my own
age, they had brothers.

Guuveejii gòo guujuu' goonlih.
Their older sister or their younger sister there is.

They had sisters.



Guuyuuhgwan kat goonlih.

Their parents there is.

They had parents.

Guuvuundee gòo guuchaa kat

Their older brothers or their younger brothers

chiitaii gugwitr'it hàh gwits'àt tr'igiinjih.

outside its work with to they help.

Their brothers
helped with the
outside work.

Nich'it kat guuvuundee gòo guuchaa

Girls their older brother or their younger brother

eenjit k'e'gijahkà' gaguutr'ooni'tinh.

for him they sew they were taught.

The girls learned
how to sew for
their brothers.

Nits'òo kè'gahdahkà' guuhanh

How they will sew their mother

gagoovooni'tinh.

she taught them.

Their mothers
would teach them
how to sew.

Nahanh Catherine nits'òo k'è'hadahkà'

Your mother Catherine how you will sew

ganuuni'tin gwik'it.

she taught you the same.

Just like your
mother Catherine
taught you how
to sew.

Shii shuundee gòo shichaa
Me my older brother or my younger brother
goonlih kwàh.
there is nothing.

Sheejii gòo shijuu
My older sister or my younger sister
goonlih kwàh.
there is nothing.

Shiyuughwan goonlih kwàh.
My parents there is nothing.

Shitsuu hàh gwhich'inh.
My grandmother with I am living.

Gwiiyeendoo vighaii leii.
Much more her age lots.

Gwitr'it tthak veenjìt t'igwi'inh.
Work all for her I'm doing.

But me, I had no brothers.

I had no sisters.

I had no parents.

I lived with Shitsuu
(my grandmother).

She was very old.

I had to do all the work
for her.





Troo iht'ii, chuu t'i'inh,
Wood I'm cutting, water I'm doing,
ʔuu t'i'inh ts'àt gyah diht'ih.
ice I'm doing and snares I'm tying.

I cut wood, carried water,
got ice and set snares.



Chiitaii gugwitr'it tthak t'ishi'inh.
Outside its work all I'm doing.

I did all the outside work.

Shijaa kat guuk'it t'ihihch'aa
My friends like them I will be
geenjit diinjishizhit.
for I long for.

I wished to be like my
girlfriends.

Agidanh gwizhit guudii ts'at nits'òo

Them inside they sit and how

k'è'gahdaaka' gaguutr'onahtanh.

they will sew they are being taught.

They could stay inside and learn to sew.

Shijaa kat nits'oo nilee dzhirh

My friends how gloves

k'agahdaakà' gaguutr'onahtanh.

they will sew they are being taught.

My girlfriends were learning how to sew gloves.

Aii gwik'it dihiisha'aa

That the same I will do

gwiiyendoo geenjit diinjishizhit.

much more for it I long for.

Oh, how I wanted to
learn how to do that.



Drin ihfat nits'oo nilee dzhirh

One day how gloves

hałtsaa shii khè' gik'ahaldal

I will make by myself I will learn

nihthanh.

I thought.

One day I decided I would teach myself to sew gloves.

Adhoh làt t'adiidhat.

Moosehide some I got.

I got a piece of moosehide.

Nijin gwats'àt t'adaldhat

Where from I got it

ganaldaih kwàh.

I remember not.

I don't remember where I got it from.



Nilee dzhirh hałtsah.

Gloves I will make.

I was going to make some gloves.

Kheenjit gwik'it dhiłt'oh.

For myself the same as I cut it.

I just started to cut out my own pattern.

Nilee dzhirh dhiit'ał tı'ee laswaa

Gloves I cut it after silk

hàh vakak k'è'danałkài'.

with on it I sewed.

Once I cut out the glove I started to do the embroidery work.

Nizii vigwideech'in geenjit vakak

It is nice it looks like for that on it

jidii tsal k'è'danałkài'

something small I sewed

guk'agwihdaih.

I tried.

I tried to make tiny stitches so it would look nice.

Gwiniint'aih gwitr'it t'igwił'inh.

Strongly work I did it.

I worked very hard.

Nilee dzhirh k'it tagwiłtsi' dhałtsaii
Gloves the same as I made
ts'àt nilee dzhirh dhiłt'uu kheenjit
and gloves I cut it for myself
shòh ihłih.
happy I am.

I was very proud of how I made the patterns and cut out the gloves.

Vakak laswee hàh kè'danałkài'
On it silk with I sewed
kheenjit shòh ihłih.
for myself happy I am.

I was proud of the little embroidery I did on them.

Vakak kè'danałkài' tł'ee tthak
On it I sewed after all
nihts'àt k'adanałkài'.
together I sewed it.

When I finished I assembled the whole thing.

Gwiiyeendoo kheenjit shòh ihłih.
Much more for myself happy I am.

I was so proud.

Gwiiyeendoo nizii nihthan.
Much more it is nice I thought.

I thought, oh, that is so nice.



Jii t'at tr'oochit k'è'danaŋkài'.

This is first I sewed.

This was my first attempt to sew.

Nilee dzhirh tthak k'edanaŋkài' t'ee vizhit dalnjik.

Gloves all I sewed after I put my hand in it.

When the gloves were finished, I tried them on.

Zhaagah, jaghadeh shinli' niŋ'inh kwah?

Goodness why my hand I looked at it not?

My goodness, why did I not look at my hand?

Jaghadee shinleeth'ak niŋ'inh kwah?

Why my fingers I looked at it not?

Why didn't I look at my fingers?

Tthak nizii gòo' vanchoh ts'at
All of it it is nice but thumb and
inleetth'ak ih'oo gwinli' vakak goo'aih.
fingers five on it it is there.

Everything was alright
but I had the thumb and
five fingers.

Nihk'ii tik agwah'ei vakak goo'aih!
Six that many on it it is there!

So there were six
altogether!

Nits'oo dèe akoo dishi'inh?
How I did that?

How did I do that?

Vikhyuu ts'aii nani'at ts'at
Along the side I took it apart and
inleetth'ak ih'ak gwats'at dhiit'uh.
finger one from it I cut it.

I undid my sewing on the
side and I took the last
finger off.

Nilee dzhirh ejuk dhi'tsaii
Gloves different I made it
t'ee chan k'adina'kai'.
after again I sewed it.

I reshaped the glove and
sewed it back together.



Shijaa kat daiishi'in' gahnah'ah

My friends what I did they will see

gat'iinihthanh kwàh.

I want not.

I did not want my friends to see what I had done.

Chan k'è'danaḥkài' t'ee sheenjit

Again I sewed it after for me

gwiinzii vigwideech'inh.

it is good it looked like.

It looked okay to me when it was all finished again.

Gehndoo shijaa kat jii geenjit

After that my friends this for it

guuvah gwildak.

I told them.

Later on, I shared this story with my friends.

Gwiint'oh ageedlah.

Lots they laughed at it.

They sure had good laugh about it.

Ezhik dàì' tr'oochit k'è'danaḥkài'.

At that time first I sewed.

That was my first attempt to sew.

Sheenjit gugwiintri' ts'àt vakak
For me it was difficult and on it
inleeth'ak ih'foo gwinli' ts'at vanchoh
fingers five and thumb
vakak dha'łtsaii gaa' uu'an
on it I made it even though away
chidhii'at kwàh.
I threw it not.

Although it was hard for me to do this piece of sewing, and I had made five fingers and a thumb, six altogether, I did not get discouraged and throw it aside and not do anything with it again.

Khanh nanii'at.
Fast I took it apart.

I undid it right away.

Ekhè' uujihnuh kwàh.
I left it alone not.

I didn't give up.

Nanii'at ts'àt srinaihfik.
I took it apart and I fixed it.

I undid it right away and fixed it again.

Kheenjit shòh ih'ih.
For myself happy I am.

I was proud.



Nilee dzhirh k'eejit shi'in ts'àt vizhit jidhijnjik.

Gloves new I have and I put my hand in it.

I had a pair of new gloves and I wore them.

Geenjit shòh ihfih.

For it happy I am.

I was proud of it.

Juk drin gwiinzii k'è'danafkài' ts'àt laswee hàh

Now day good I sew and silk with

gwiinzii k'è'danafkài' uu'ok kat tthak gahgwidandaih."

good I sew others all they know."

And today, I am known for my beautiful sewing and embroidery."

Nikhwitsuu kat tthak dlok ginuu'aii
Our grandmothers all they are smiling
ts'àt geedlah.
and they are laughing.

All the grannies were
smiling and laughing.

"Ahà' nik'ajiikài' zù' goonlih.
"Yes your sewing nice looking there is.

"Yes, your sewing
is beautiful.

Ekhè' guujiinuh kwah ts'àt juk drin
You left it alone not and now day
jidii k'adinyahkài' gwinyah'inh.
what you are sewing look at it.

You did not give up and look
at what you can sew today.



Uu'ok kat tthak guuveenjit
Others all for them
kaiitrih hàhtsaa
moccasins you will make
giiniindhanh," Mary nùh.
they want," Mary she said.

Everyone wants a pair of your
dancing slippers," Mary said.

Nikhwitsuu kat tthak ahà' ginuh.

Our grandmothers all yes they said.

Drin ndòo gwichuudhat.

Day after it happened.

Nikhwitsuu kat k'è'gijahkài',

Our grandmothers they are sewing,

nihkhàh gugwaandak, aga'aa

to each other they are talking, they are eating

ts'àt lidii gidinih.

and tea they are drinking.

Ats'andoo ch'ik ghoo zhìt gwahaljih

Eventually bowl in it there is nothing

ts'àt lidii tthak geedini'.

and tea all they drank.

Drin nihkhah geedi' gwiiyeendoo

Day together they sat much more

gwiinzii gugwiniindhat tthak ginuh.

it is good it happened all they said.

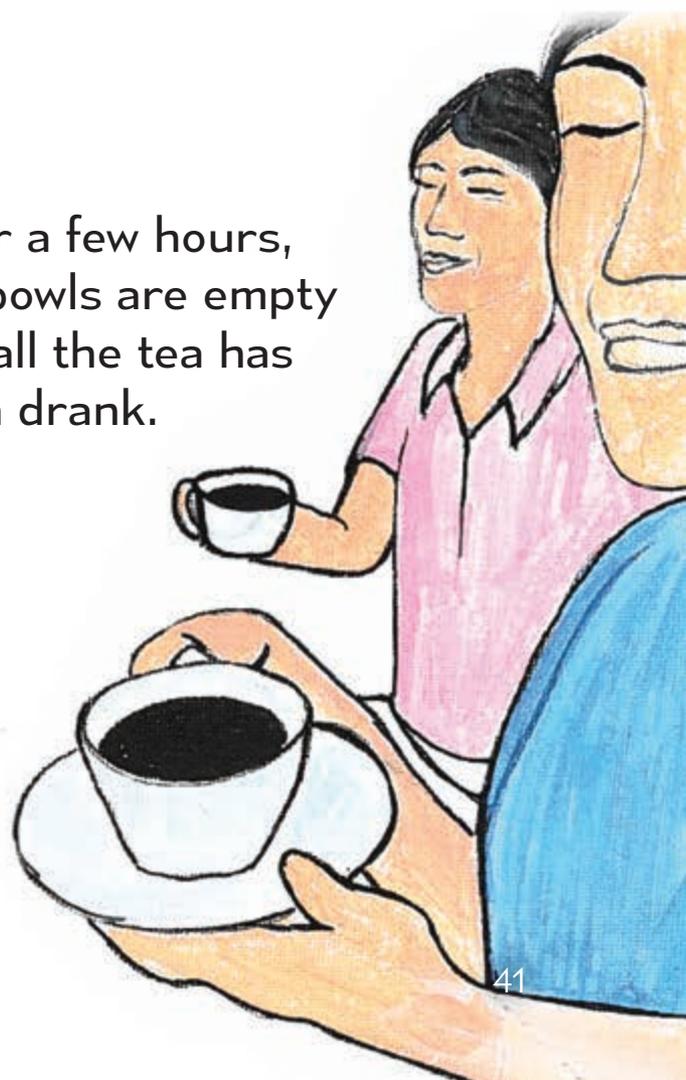
Everyone agrees it has been a wonderful afternoon and visit.

All the grannies agreed.

The afternoon goes by.

The grannies sew, tell stories, eat and drink tea.

After a few hours, the bowls are empty and all the tea has been drunk.



"K'eejit ih̄ii ganaldaih,"

"Young I am I remember,"

nikhwitsuu nùh.

our grandmother she said.

Our grannie says,

"I remember when I was young.

"Shahanh vijàa kat giyeenadi'oh.

"My mother her friends they visited her.

"My mother would have her
friends visit her.

Nikhwik'it, shijaa kat juk

Like us, my friends now

drin sheenoh'oo.

day you are visiting me.

Just like you, my friends, are
visiting me today.

Shahanh dijaa kat gwiiyeendoo

My mother her friends much more

at'iiniindhan gahgiheedandaii

she loved they will know

geenjit shik ejiich'ii guuts'an

for that always things theirs

ahtsih.

she is making.

My mother would always give
her friends something special
or important to show them
how much she cared and
loved them.

Juk drin aii gwik'it t'ihiiisha'ah.

Now day that the same I will do.

I am going to do the
same today.

Nikhweenjit k'è'dinaḱkài'.

For you all I'm sewing.

I have been sewing for you.

Tthak ts'àt nikhwiinjit chidhi'ee

All and I respect you all

geenjit oozhii nikhwits'an haḱtsah.

for that gift yours I will make.

I am giving you these gifts today because I respect you all.

Shik sheenoh'oo

Always you all visit me

geenjit gwiiyeendoo shòh ihḱih.

for it very much happy I am.

I feel so blessed that you always come to see me.



Shahanh dijaa kat gwiiyeendoo guuvat'iiniindhan

My mother her friends very much she loves them

gahgiheendaii geenjit guuts'àt gwiinzii t'iinch'ù', aii

they know for that to them good she was that

gwik'it shìk t'ihisha'aa nihthanh."

the same always I will do I want."

I want to carry on the tradition of showing how much I love and care for you like my mother did for her friends."

Doll ahstii geenjit tthak kat giiyahdindaii,

Doll she makes for that everyone they know her

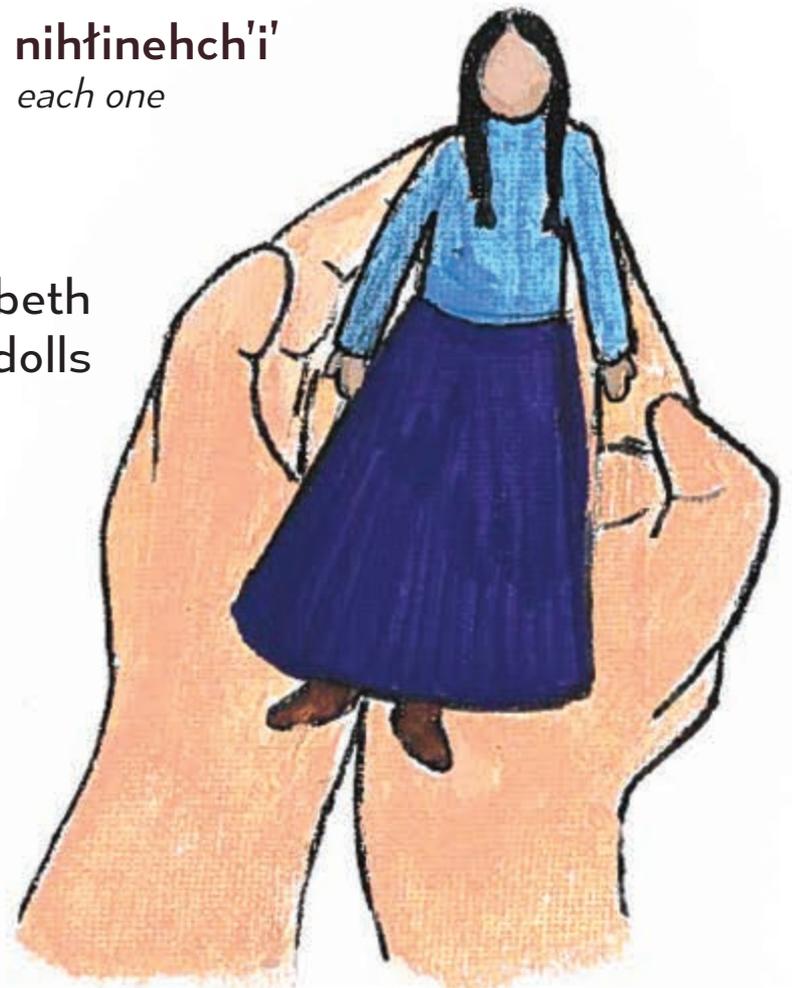
Catherine, Elizabeth ts'àt Joan doll ihlak nihfinehch'i'

Catherine, Elizabeth and Joan doll one each one

guuts'an ałtsaih.

theirs she made.

She gives Catherine, Elizabeth and Joan one of the small dolls she is famous for making.



Mahsi' choo **giyahnuh,**
Thank you very much they told her,
mahsi' choo.
thank you very much.

Mahsi' choo they all say
to her, **Mahsi' choo.**



Bella ts'àt shii dlok nidhiida'aih.
Bella and me we are smiling.

Bella and I smile.

Shòh iidilih.
Happy we are.

We are happy.

Nits'oo nihtatr'indaii ts'àt
How to share and
nits'oo nihk'atr'ahnahtyaa
how to will take care of each other
nikhwitsuu ganikhuuniñtinh.
our grandmother she taught is.

Our Diduu (grandmother)
has taught us what sharing
and caring really means.

Jii gwandak tr'oohadhahch'aa geenjit jii
This story it will be listened to for this
thumb drive gwakak diinch'uh.
thumb drive on it it is.

The thumb drive enclosed here will allow you
to listen and read along to this story.

This story talks about the Gwich'in values of:

Yiinjinih'tetr'ichil'eh (Respect)

Chigwijuu'ee Tri'igwindaii (Honesty)

Yiinjitr'ichil'eh (Honour)

Tr'eedlaa (Laughter)

Zhuh Ghat T'igwidich'uu (Kindness)

Nihk'atr'inaatii (Sharing and Caring)

This story talks about Gwich'in Principles of:

Our Elders play a crucial role as teachers. They are keepers of our knowledge, history, language, protocol and culture.

Our Youth are the future of our Nation. We must listen and hear their perspectives and provide opportunities for them to learn, understand and develop into our future leaders.

Our way of life is based on a unique and special economic and spiritual relationship between each other and the land, air and water.

The preservation and respect for the land are essential to the well-being and subsistence lifestyle of our people and our culture.

Our family history and linkages to our relatives in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska is important to our identity.

Cross-cultural understanding and awareness between Gwich'in and non-Gwich'in, is essential in building a new relationship based on respect, reconciliation and cooperation.

