

**Shąhshù' Gwiindaih Jì'**

**May You Live To Be As  
Old As Me**



**Guuk'iighe' Leslie McCartney ts'at Joan Nazon  
By Leslie McCartney with Joan Nazon**

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**Shahshù' Gwiindaih Jì'**

*As long as me    May you live*

**May You Live To Be  
As Old As Me**

**Joan Nazon v̇lzhìh.**

*Joan Nazon I am called.*

My name is Joan Husky.

**Shaghàii nihk'ii ḋaą iḣih.**

*My years eight I am.*

I am eight years old.



**Shahanh ah Mary Kyikavichik**

*My mother Mary Kyikavichik*

**diinch'ùh.**

*she is.*

My mother is  
Mary Kyikavichik.

**Old Crow ah vigòonlìh.**

*Old Crow she was born.*

She was born in  
Old Crow.

**Aachin kat nakhwitat nègiinjìt dàì',**

*Strangers among us they came when,*

**shù'ah Kyikavichik ginùh.**

*could not Kyikavichik they say.*

When new people came  
to our area, they could  
not say Kyikavichik.

**Ehzii ts'ajj ah guuzrì' gaftsàjj,**

*Different way their names they made,*

**jùk ah Kay guuvàazhìh.**

*now is Kay their names.*

So, their name was  
changed to Kay.

**Shityè' ah Jimmy Husky.**

*My father is Jimmy Husky.*

My father is  
Jimmy Husky.

**Vizheh k'oo gwàhshìndaih kwàh.**

*His family I know them not.*

I do not know much about  
his family.



**Drin tagwinàach'ùu shiiyuughwàn kat ts'àt**

*Day every my parents and*

**Aanjò kat edzheech'ii k'eejit gèshooginahtàn.**

*Elders something new they teach me.*

My parents and Elders teach me something every day.

**Shèk shihanh akòo dì'shàhnùh**

*Always my mother tells me*

**"Aanjò kat guudhìdhahch'èjjì."**

*"Elders listen to them."*

My momma always tells me to listen to what the Elders are saying to me.

**Geetak guudhìdhahch'èjh kwàh.**

*Sometimes I listen not.*

Sometimes I am not listening.

**Yee'èt ch'ii'àn ginìinji'ihthàt.**

*Around over there I am thinking.*

Sometimes I am just daydreaming.

**Ih̀òk ah didd̀ỳ màmaa eenàhèe.**  
*Once granny mom was visiting.*

Once my granny was visiting  
my mother.

**Didd̀ỳ ah shits'at g̀j̀khìh.**  
*Granny to me was talking.*

My granny started to talk  
to me.

**Gwìt, ch̀itajj zhoh zhìt**  
*But, outside snow in*  
**tsèetiishiiyaa ẹ̀j̀j ah giniinji'ihthhàt.**  
*I play that I was thinking of.*

But, I was daydreaming about  
going to play outside in the  
snow.

**Didd̀ỳ g̀j̀khii jìhth'ak kwàh.**  
*Granny talking I hear not.*

I was not listening to  
my granny.

**Màmaa shinah'ìh.**  
*Mom saw me.*

My mother saw that I was  
not listening.

**Akò d̀ishahnùh, "Joan, nits̀ỳ**  
*This she told me, "Joan, your granny*  
**nits'at g̀j̀khìh.**  
*to you talking.*

She said sternly to me, "Joan,  
your Granny is talking to you.

**Uudhìdhahch'èjh.**

*Listen to her.*

You listen to her.

**Nits'àt tr'igjìkhii jì' ginjih tthak**

*To you talking words all*

**nichì' zhìt nìniinlìh."**

*your head in put them."*

When someone talks to you, you listen good and put all those words in your head."

**Shehk'ąg gònlih.**

*Puzzled I was.*

I was puzzled.

**Ginìinji'ihthhat nit'sòo da jii**

*I was thinking how these*

**ginjih kat shichì' zhìt nìtih'ah?**

*words my head in I put?*

I thought to myself, how am I going to put those words in my head?

**Dìshàhnuu gàhshìndaih kwàh.**

*What she told I don't know.*

I did not understand what she was telling me.

**Drin tthak ginìinji'ihthhàt.**

*Day all I thought about it.*

I thought about it all day.

**Drin shigwitr'it t'it'ii tthak,**  
*Day my work doing all,*

Even when I was gathering wood  
as part of my chores that day,

**shihành dìnuu yinihtthàn.**  
*my mom what she said I wondered.*

I thought about what  
my momma said.

**Gàhshìndaih kwàh.**  
*I don't know.*

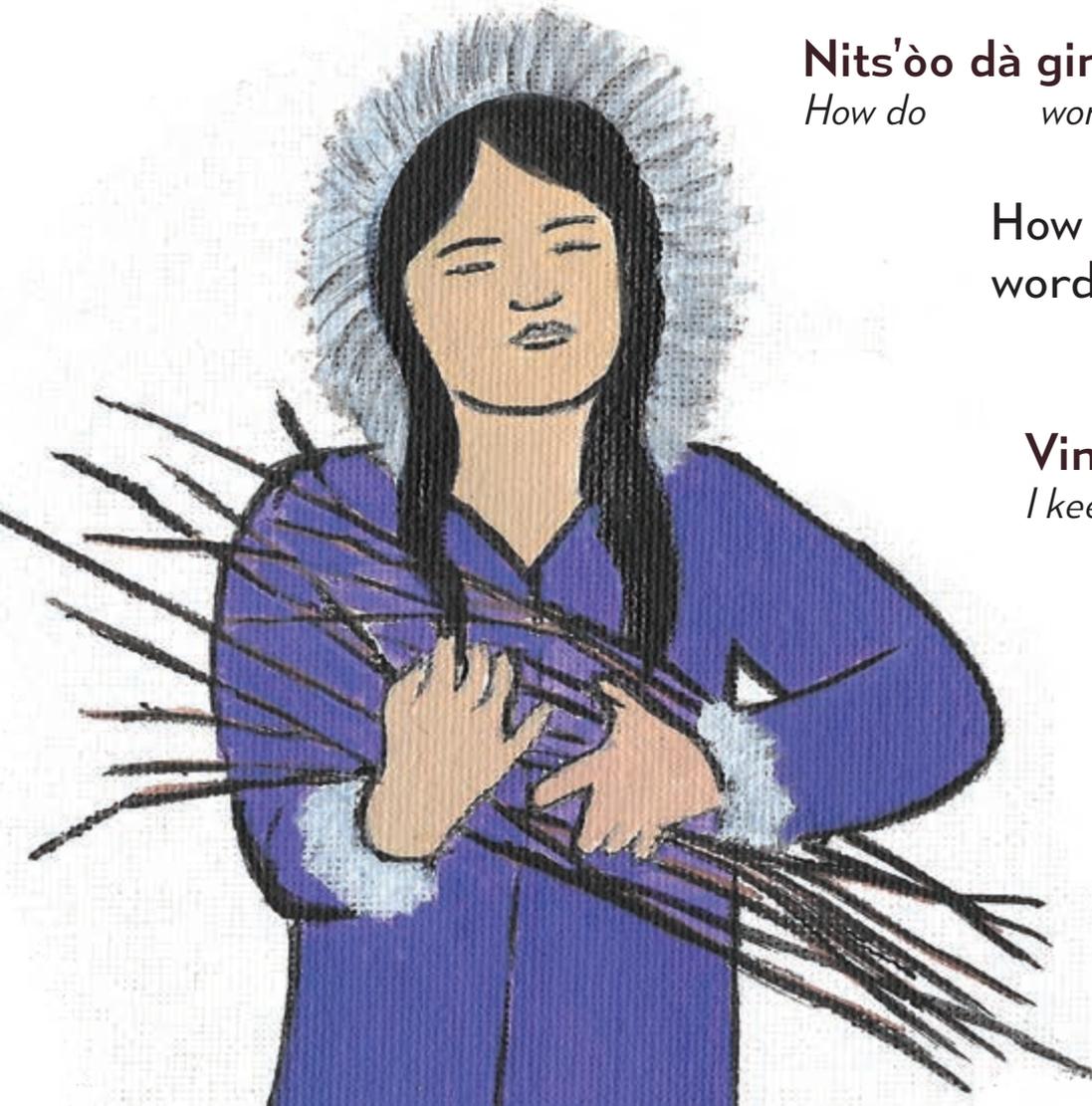
I still could not figure it out.

**Nits'òo dà ginjih shichì' zhìt tihfàh?**  
*How do words my head in I put?*

How was I supposed to put those  
words in my head?

**Viniinji'ihthàt.**  
*I keep thinking of it.*

I kept thinking about it.



**Shizheh gwits'at ihhaa shijàh**  
*My house too I was walking my friend*  
**Laura Martin vik'endeeniizhèh.**  
*Laura Martin I came upon.*

As I was coming  
home I met my friend,  
Laura Martin.

**Laura jùu dèvahnh, "Shitsuy shahanh**  
*Laura this I told her, "Granny mom*  
**eenàahee ts'at ah shits'at gjikhìh.**  
*was visiting and to me she was talking.*

I said to Laura, "My  
friend, my granny  
came over to visit  
my mother and she  
began talking to me.

**Uudhìdhefch'èjh kwàh.**  
*I was not listening.*

I wasn't listening.

**Shahanh shinah'ii ts'at jùu dìshàhnùh,**  
*My mom saw me and this told me,*

My mother saw this and  
she sternly told me,

**Nitsuu nits'at gjikhii,**  
*Your granny to you talking,*

Your Granny is talking  
to you.

**Oodhìdhàhch'èjh.**  
*Listen to her.*

You listen to her.

**Nits'at tr'igjikhii daj',**  
*To you talking,*

When someone talks to you,

**gwiizii guudhìdhàhch'èih ts'at**  
*good listen to them and*  
**ginjih nitchi' zhìt nìniinlìh."**  
*words your head in put them."*

you listen good and put all those words in your head."

**Edi'ts'at ginìinji'ihthath ah,**  
*To myself I'm thinking,*

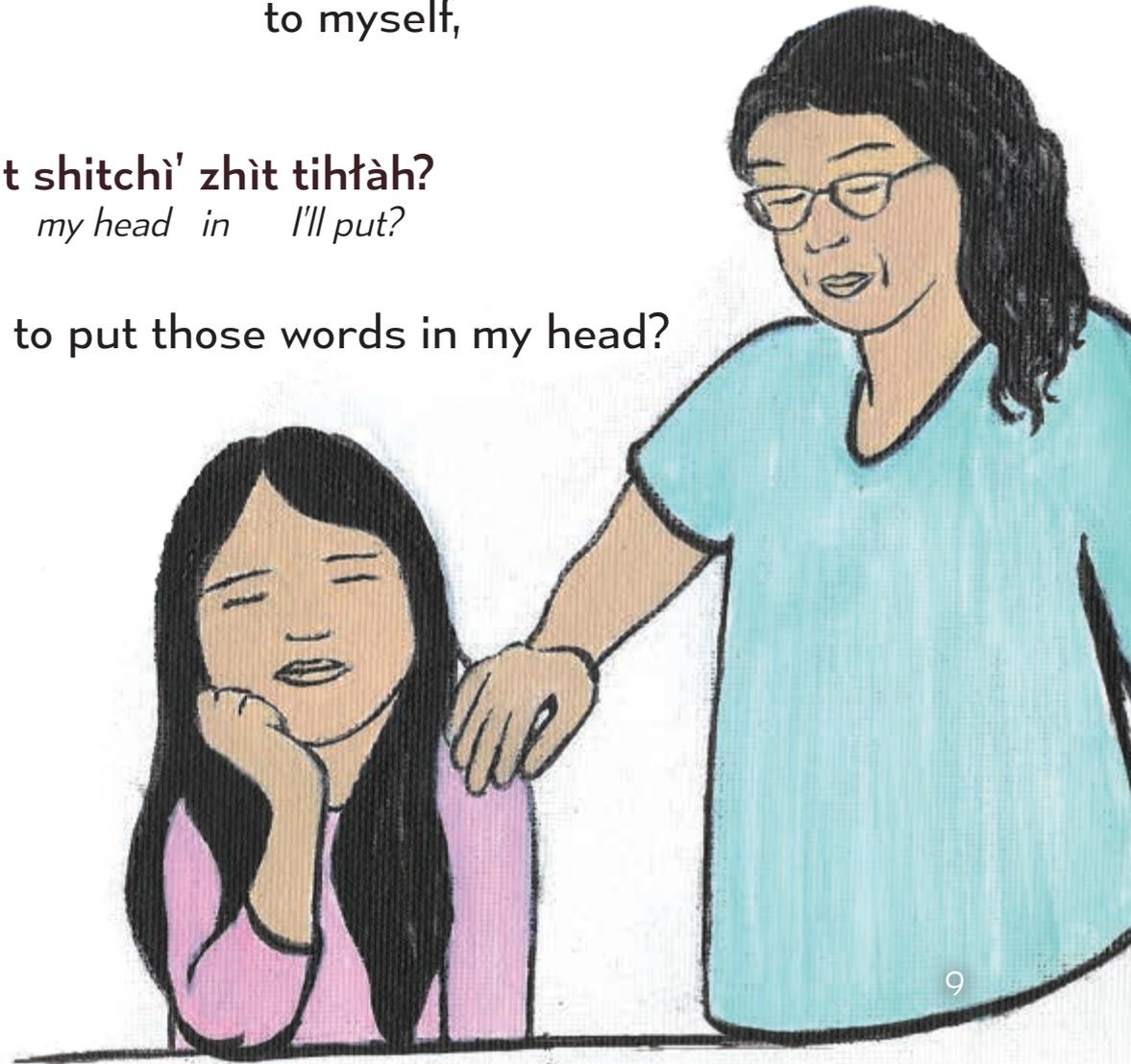
I have been thinking to myself,

**nits'òo da jii ginjih kat shitchi' zhìt tihfah?**  
*how these words my head in I'll put?*

how am I going to put those words in my head?

**Shu' ah ginìinji'ihthath.**  
*Can't think of how.*

I still can't figure this out.





**Laura gwiintl'àth adlàh.**

*Laura really hard is laughing.*

Laura just burst  
out laughing.

**Shahanh dìnuu ah gàhdìndàih.**

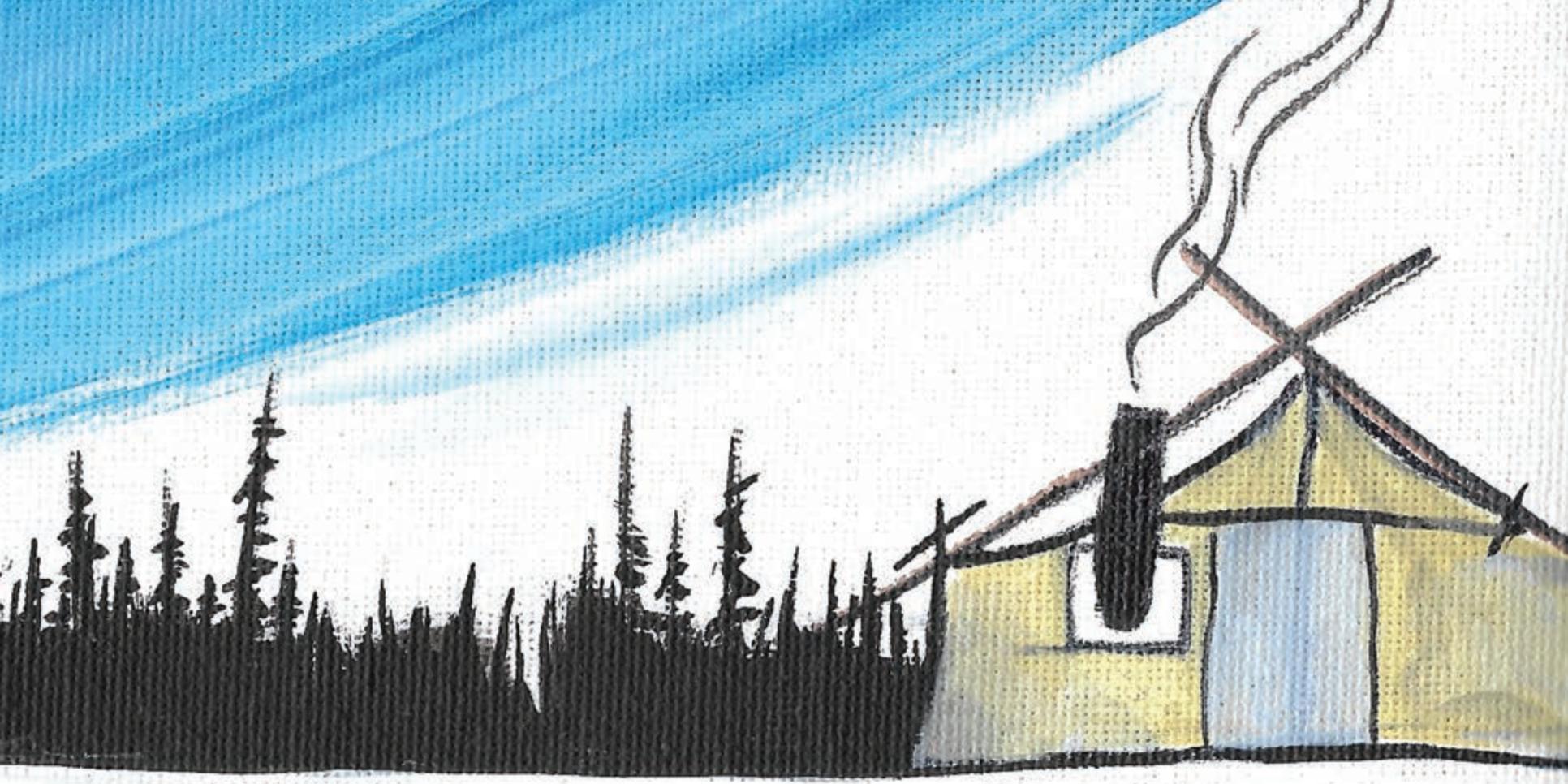
*My mom saying she knew.*

She knew what my  
mother meant.

**Jùu dìhshàhnùu, "Shijàh, nahanh**

*This she told me, "My friend, your mom*

She said, "My friend, what  
your momma said to you



**jùk drin eenjit gǔkhih kwàh**  
*today for talking not*  
**gwit yeendoo eenjit ah t'inùh.**  
*but future for she's talking.*

is not for today but for  
some time in the future.

**Duulèh naghàii gònlii dàj' dìnuh**  
*Maybe your years is more than she said*  
**gàhtiindendàih.**  
*you'll know.*

Maybe when you get  
a lot older, you will  
understand what she  
meant by this.

**Yeendòo vik'it naagh'àiì gònlii**  
*In the future like her your years when*  
**gwìndòo ah eenjit jùk nits'àt gǐjkhìh."**  
*around why now to you talking."*

She is talking to you for  
the time when you are  
as old as her."

**Dlòk nìdhii'èih.**  
*Smile I had.*

I smiled.



**Tth'aih ah gàhshìndaih kwàh.**  
*Still I didn't know.*

I still wasn't sure that  
I understood.

**Shahanh vik'it là Aanjòo tihfàh?**  
*My mother like her Elder I will be?*

As old as my momma?

**Shaghàii akòo dahfèjj shu'**  
*My years that much couldn't*  
**ginìinji'ihthàt.**  
*think about.*

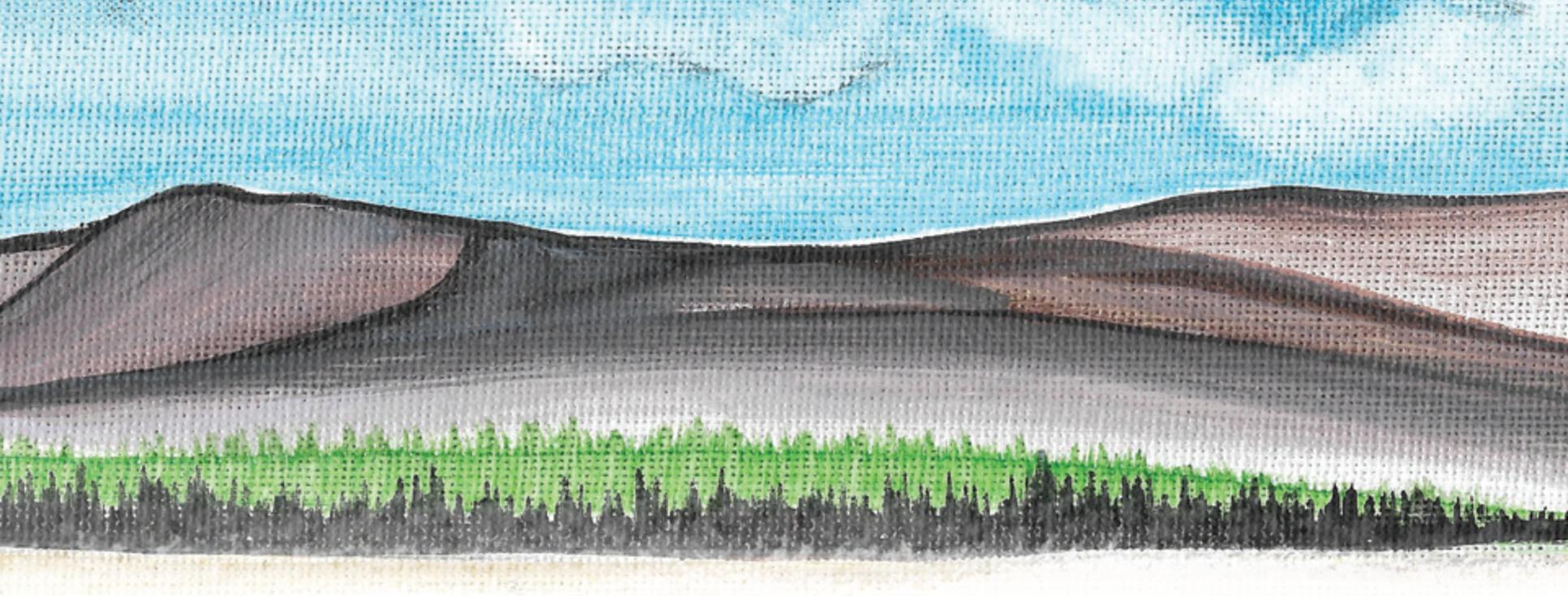
I couldn't imagine being  
that old.

**Shahanh viginjik chan.**  
*My mom her words too.*

I thought about my momma's  
words for a very long time.

**Gwit nits'òo dà èjj ginjih**  
*But how these words*  
**shichì' zhìt nitihfàh?**  
*my head in I put?*

But I kept wondering, how  
can I put words into my head?



**Shiiyuughwàn kat da dichan tat**  
*My parent land too*  
**gwits'at gi'chùujit tthak jii**  
*they went all this about I*  
**eenjit ginìinji'ihthàt.**  
*thought of.*

I still kept thinking about this  
when our family went out on  
the land again.

**Ddhah zhìt nitr'itadàt,**  
*Mountains in we travelled,*  
**niizhùk tr'eedàh.**  
*long ways we travel.*

When we travel to the  
mountains, we travel for  
long distances.

**Ejìn gwits'at tiidìdaa gwiilejji**  
*Where to we are going many times*  
**nèdhìidàhàh.**  
*we camped.*

We have to set up camp  
many times before we get to  
where we are going.



**Kwàn deek'it tàatsaa,**  
*Camp we make,*

**gwiizii vagwitr'it t'agwàa'ih.**  
*good its work we will do.*

**Shiiyuughwàn kat shèk jii**  
*My parents always this*  
**t'igwàh'jh shi'gàhnùh.**  
*do this they tell me.*

**Geetuk git'iinihtthan kwaa**  
*Sometimes I don't like not*  
**guugàà akòodishì'jh.**  
*even that I do it.*

**Niivyaa nìtr'ìchii guuzhik**  
*Tent we set up while*  
**gwitr'it tsal shi'jh.**  
*work little I have.*

**Màmaa ts'at bàbaa niivyaa nìgiinchih,**  
*Mom and dad tent they are setting,*

When we were going to  
set up camp,

we have to do it  
properly.

My parents sometimes  
tell me what to do.

I am always doing what  
they ask, even if I don't  
want to.

I have several things  
to do when we set up  
camp.

As my mother and  
father set up our tent,





ah' ihchàh.  
*spruce boughs I chop.*

I go and cut spruce boughs.

Ts'at niivyaa zhùy nìdìnih'ih  
*And tent into I place them*  
dechanchyàh eenjit.  
*floor for.*

I pack them back to our tent  
and then lay them out to  
make the floor in our tent.

Gwiizii va'gwaatsan ts'at niivyaa zhìt  
*Good it smell and tent in*  
gwiizii gùugwìdeech'ình.  
*good it looks.*

It smells so good and looks  
so nice when it is done.



**Khàhts'at vakak dhìidàchìh,**  
*Night time on top we sleep,*

And when we lay down our  
blankets on them to sleep,

**nakhweenjigwiizii ts'at iidìdhàh.**  
*we feel good and we are warm.*

I feel so safe and warm.

**Tiidìchaa gwichih troo nihdènihìh,**  
*We sleep before wood I bring in,*

But before we can sleep,  
I need to collect wood

**vakak tàach'uu ts'at niivyaa**  
*cooking and tent*  
**tinèeddhaa eenjit.**  
*stay warm for.*

for the fire so we can  
cook and keep our  
tent warm.

**Tadh ihłak nèdhiidàhàh.**  
*Night one we camp.*

We camp for only  
one night.



**Vành ah chitàjǵ tsèeshì'ǵh.**

*Morning outside I play.*

In the morning, I get to play outside.

**Shigwidàl nànilzhìh guuzhik Aanjòo**

*My clothes I put on while Elders*

**tr'iinin kat ìidìlii nakwits'at gigjǵkhìh,**

*children we are to us they talked,*

As I get dressed to go outside, the Elders would say to me and the other children travelling with us,

**"Jùk drin chitàjǵ tsèekhwì'ii,**

*"Today outside you play,*

**tr'iinin kat nizii ùh'ìh.**

*children good you be*

"Today, when you are playing outside, I would like you to be good children.

**Nihfàdhooghaih kwàh.**

*Fight (bunch of them) not.*

Do not fight with one another.

**Ihfee teetree ohtsih kwàh.**

*One cry make (a bunch) not.*

Do not make one another cry.

**Shek Aanjào nuh'ii gwiizii guuts'at ginuhkhìh.**

*Always Elder you see good to them you talk.*

Also, talk to your Elders nicely.

**Aanjào noh'ii daj', Khanh guuts'at ginuhkhìh."**

*Elder you see, right away to them you talk."*

As soon as you see an Elder, say something to them right away."

**Aanjòo kat d'ishàhnuu guudhìdhefch'èjh.**

*Elders what they tell me I listen too.*

I would listen to the Elders tell me this.

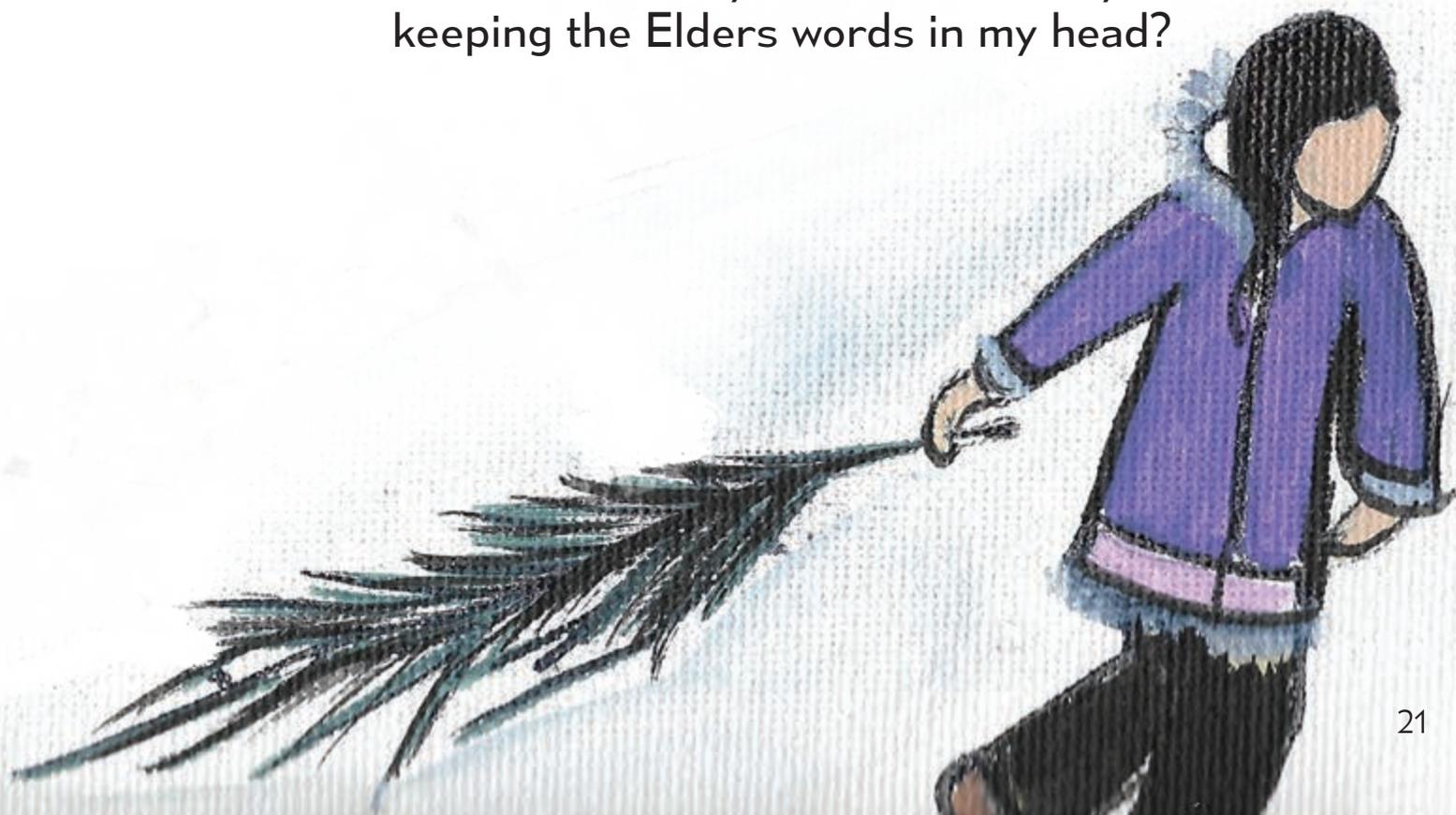
**Jii làa màmaa t'ishàhnuu, Aanjòo kat guuginjik**

*Is this what mom she told me your Elders their words*

**nichì' zhìt nìniinlìh?**

*your head in put them?*

Was this what my momma meant by  
keeping the Elders words in my head?



**Gehndoo khaii Nagwidindàih Drìn gwit'sàt**  
*Next year Easter getting to*  
**gweedhaa Teet'it Zheh k'enaìidìdàt.**  
*it is Fort McPherson we all arrived.*

The next year, when it was getting near Easter, we came back to Teet'it Zheh.

**Han gehkhee ah nìivyaà nàachìh.**  
*River close tent we set up.*

We set up our tent near the bank of Teet'it Gwinjik.

**Nakhwakhee gwà'àn chan nìivyaà gòonlìh.**  
*Close to us around too tents lots.*

There were other tents close by.

**Jùk ah zheh dìidìch'ùh,**  
*Now town we are,*  
**shìiyuughwàn kat ah shek akòodìshàgàhnuu**  
*my parents always they tell*  
**oo'òk shinaaghàn kat nikhwaakhee**  
*nearby old grannies close to us*  
**guugwich'in guuts'àt tr'inìinjii shigàhnùh.**  
*they live to them you help they tell me.*

Now that we were back in town, my parents would always tell me to go and help the old grannies who lived in the nearby tents.





**Vanh tagwinàach'uu shihanh shii**  
*Morning every my momma me*  
**chan gwit shijàh kat jù nàkhwìgahnùh,**  
*and my friends this they tell us,*

Every morning my  
momma would tell  
me and my friends,

**"Tr'iinin kat, nakhwhi'Aanjòo kat goonoh'ih.**  
*"Children, your Elders go see them.*

"You children, go  
and see the Elders.

**Gwàh dhohdyèh. Duulee edzhèech'ii**  
*Sit with them. Maybe something*  
**giiniiddhàn.**  
*they want done.*

Go visit the  
Elders. Maybe  
they need help.

**Ts'àt gwitr'it gweenjit t'ahgoh'ih.**  
*And work for them you do.*

Maybe they need  
some work done.

**Duulèh guuts'àt nìnuu gùu**  
*Maybe them help or*  
**gweenjit gwitr'it t'ahgoh'ih."**  
*for them work you do."*

You help or do the  
work for them."

**Ootthàn t'l'en gwits'at doowel**  
*Down shore from driftwood*  
**nàatsìh.**  
*we pick up.*

We would go down the hill to the shore and collect driftwood.

**Ts'at oodak Aanjòo kat doowel guuts'aan àatsìh.**  
*Then up Elders driftwood we give them.*

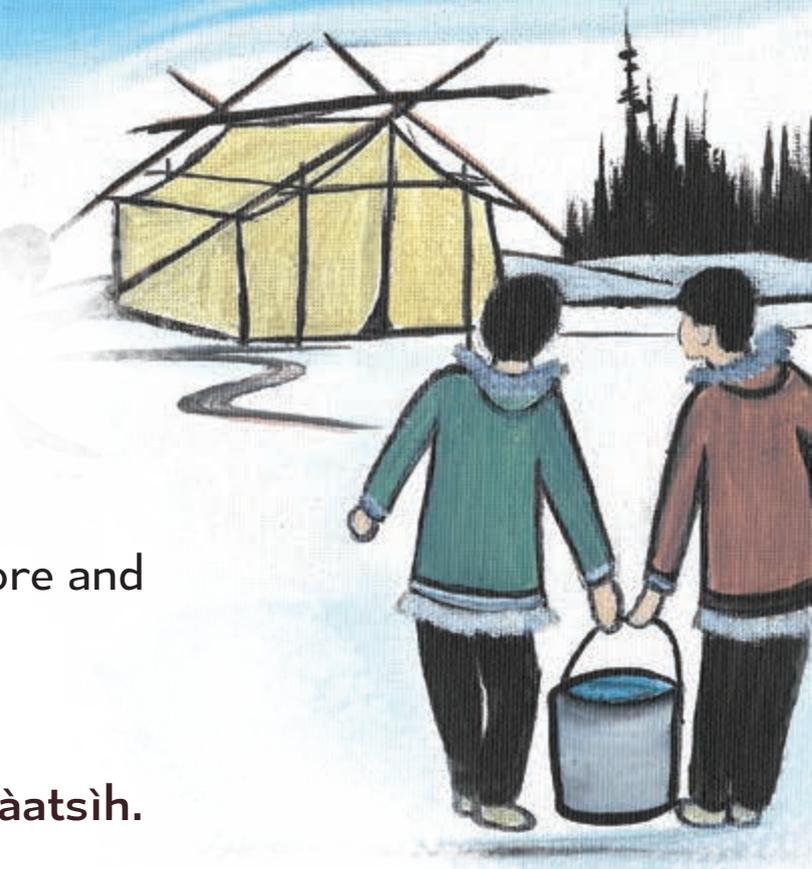
Then we would pack it up the hill and give it to the Elders.

**Drin tthak eenjit doowel guuts'aan àatsìh.**  
*Day all for driftwood we give them.*

We would keep doing this until they had enough wood for the day.

**Chyü chan gwàhtineenjah jì'**  
*Water too running low if*  
**ëjj chan gweenjit t'aa'ih.**  
*that too for them we do.*

Then, if the Elders did not have enough water, we would also do this for them.





**Èjj chan uuchit t'è'n gwits'at oodak**  
*That too down shore from up*  
**chuu nìidàkàh.**  
*water we carried.*

**Geetak chan gweenjit ah**  
*Sometimes too for them spruceboughs*  
**oonìidìnjìh**  
*we go and get*

**nìivyaah zhìt dechanchyàh ah**  
*tent in floor spruceboughs*  
**nìhjè'tigiteelaa eenjit.**  
*they will change it to.*

**Akòo dìidì'ih.**  
*That we would do.*

**T'èe guunìivyaah gwiizii ts'at**  
*After that their tents good it*  
**gwaatsành.**  
*smells.*

We would go down the hill to the shore and then pack water back to them.

Then, the Elders might ask us to go and cut them

new spruce boughs so they could change their floor in their tent.

We would do that.

Then their tent would smell so nice.

**Drin ihʔak ah chuu,**  
*Day one water,*

**troo ts'at ah t'i'i' t'ee**  
*wood and spruceboughs I finished after*

**oozhàk shitsuu neekanh kat**  
*inside my grannies two*  
**guuts'at nihdèniizhèh.**  
*to them I walk in.*

One day after I packed  
the water,

wood and spruce boughs,  
I walked into

the tent where two  
grannies lived.

**Neekanh ts'at shinaghan giinlih!**  
*Two of them old women they were!*

They were both so old!

**Guuninh ts'at guunlè' jidiì**  
*Their face and their hands just*  
**suh nilii.**  
*wrinkles it was.*

Their faces and hands were  
all wrinkled.



**Shitsuu ih̄tee jùu dìvahnh̄h,**  
*Granny one of this I told her,*

I told one of the  
grannies,

**"Didd̄ȳ, jùk drin eenjit troo.**  
*"Granny, today for wood.*

"Granny, I have  
brought you wood.

**Tiind̄iyaa nihd̄eniilh̄h.**  
*You'll have I brought in.*

You have enough wood  
for today.

**Chuu chan neenjit kàadhiizh̄h.**  
*Water too for you I got.*

I have packed water for  
you too.

**Nihk̄ā gwits'at̄ ch̄ȳ tiind̄iyah̄.**  
*Tomorrow till water you will have.*

You have enough  
water to last you until  
tomorrow.

**Dechanchyàh eenjit chan ah**  
*Floor for too spruceboughs*  
**nihd̄eniilh̄h. Jùk dechanchyàh**  
*I brought in. Now floor*  
**k'eejit khoh'ih."**  
*new you have."*

I packed spruce boughs  
for you. Now you have  
a nice new floor."

**Didduy ihfee ah shits'at dlòk nì'èjh.**

*Grannies one of to me smiled.*

One of the grannies smiled  
at me.

**Dacheek'at t'eh gwinah'ih.**

*Her pillow under she looked.*

She looked under her  
pillow on her bed.

**Khè'ts'at yizhuy suugàjj dhandaii.**

*Slowly from it candy.*

She slowly took out a candy.

**Shintf'èni'èjh.**

*She gave to me.*

She gave it to me.

**Shindèe gwitchoo nàgwijàanàih.**

*My eyes real big they became.*

My eyes were so big.

**Shizhik niniitràt.**

*My mouth quickly put.*

I put the candy in my mouth.

**Sheenji dhandaih!**

*For me it is tasty!*

Did it ever taste good  
and sweet!

**Shòh shèłtsàjh.**  
*Happy she made me.*

She made me so happy.

**Vits'at dlok nì'èih.**  
*To her smile I give.*

I gave her a big smile.



**Didduy jùu dìshàhnùh, "Joan, mashi' choo.**

*Granny this told me, "Joan, thank you.*

The grannie said to me, "Joan, mahsi' choo.

**Nakhweenjit gwitr'it t'igwàh'j'.**

*For us you worked.*

You have worked so hard for us.

**Troo eenjit mahsi' choo.**

*Wood for thank you.*

Mahsi' choo for  
bringing us firewood.

**Chuu eenjit mahsi' choo.**

*Water for thank you.*

Mahsi' choo  
for bringing  
us water.



**Niivyaa eenjit ah                      nikhwats'an ahtsii mashi' choo.**  
*Tent      for      spruceboughs      you gave to      us      thank you.*

Mahsi' choo for bringing us fresh new  
spruce boughs.

**Gwitr'it gwiizii tthah̄tsàjj.**  
*Work      good      you did.*

You did good work.

**Shah̄shù' gwiindaih jì'."**  
*As long as me      you live may."*

May you live to be as  
old as me."



**Gwiintf'ath ni'ih.**  
*Real hard I looked at her.*

I looked at her really hard.

**Shinaghan nilih.**  
*Old woman she was.*

She was so old.

**Vininh suh gòonlih!**  
*Her face wrinkles lots of!*

Her face was so wrinkled!

**Jùu diiyènihthàn, duuyeh!**  
*I was thinking this, never!*

I thought to myself, no way!

**Nahshùk nik'it gwihtdaih kwàh.**  
*Long time like you I'll live not.*

I don't ever want to live as long as you.

**Nik'yùu shàgwìdech'inh fòo**  
*Like you I look*  
**yenihthhan kwàa.**  
*I don't want to.*

I don't ever want to look like you.



**Duuyeh suh àh tr'aazhin**

*Never wrinkles with funny*

**shàgwìdeech'ình!**

*I will look!*

I never want to look all  
funny with wrinkles!

**Edineetak ah ginikhii gàhshìndaih**

*Without I was talking I didn't know,*

**kwàh, gùu ah vist'at ginikhiih fee!**

*not but to her I was saying!*

I thought I was just  
thinking this but I said  
it out loud to her!

**Gwiint' àth niizhùk shinah'ìh.**

*Really hard long time she looked at me.*

She looked at me sternly for a long time.

**T'ee adlàh,**

*Then she laughed,*

She then started to laugh,

**ts'at adlàa, ts'at adlàa, ts'at adlàa.**

*and laughed, and laughed, and laughed.*

she laughed, and laughed,  
and laughed.



**Ējj t'ee shitsuu jùu dìshàhnùh,**  
*After that my granny this told me,*

**"Akòo dijiinuu eenjit jùk niizhùk**  
*"That you said for now longtime*  
**gwitiindàih!"**  
*you will live!"*

**Shindee jidii choo nìjàanàjh.**  
*My eyes even bigger it got.*

**Jùk ah naljàt!**  
*Now I'm scared!*

**Vik'yùu là shàgùugwìteech'àh?**  
*Like her am I going to look?*

**Shahanh vits'àt elgig**  
*My mom to her I ran*  
**ts'àt ihtrèh,**  
*and cried,*

Then the granny said to me,

"Because you said that, now  
you are going to live longer!"

My eyes got even bigger.

Now I was scared!

Was I going to get old and look  
like her?

I ran home to my momma  
and cried,

**"Màmaa, oo'èt Didduy ihtee**  
*"Mom, over there granny one*  
**jùudìshàhnùh**  
*she told me*

"Momma, you know what one  
of the oldest grannies

**gweenjit gwitr'i't'agwi'i' t'ee,**  
*for then work I did after,*

over there told me after I  
had finished carrying water,

**troo ts'àt, ah òodhiijik?**  
*wood and spruceboughs I brought for them?*

wood and spruce boughs  
for her?

**Haj' choo shàhnùh.**  
*Thank you very much she told me.*

She told me thank you  
very much.

**Shàhshùk gwiindaih jì.**  
*As long as I you live may.*

May you live as long as I live.



**Giniikhii gàhshìndaih kwàh,**  
*I was talking I didn't know,*

**nahshùk gwitihdaii**  
*as long as you to live*  
**yenihthhan kwaa jihnùh**  
*I don't want to I said*

**vik'it shinaghan shàgwìteech'ah**  
*like her old woman I will look*  
**kwaa vahnùh."**  
*not I told her."*

**Shahanh gwiintt'ath adlàh.**  
*My mom real hard she laughed.*

**Veenjit sints'at t'agwinùh.**  
*For her funny it was.*

**Jùu dìshàhnùu, "Nitsuu**  
*This she told me, "Your granny*  
**gwinaahshii ts'at guuts'at giniikhii**  
*funny to them you speak*

And then I was thinking, but  
I said it out loud,

that I didn't want to live as  
long as her

because I didn't want to look  
old like her."

My momma laughed so hard.

She found this very funny.

She said to me, "You were  
sure brave to talk foolish

**nijat kwaa àh giniikhè'."**  
*fear no with you spoke."*

**Nit'sòo dà ẹjị shitsuu**  
*How that granny's*

**viginjik shichì' zhìt tihfaa**  
*her words my head in I'll put*  
**zràjìh ah ginìinji'ihthàt!**  
*that's all I think of!*

**Anjòo tihfaa ts'àt jidìi suh tihfàh!**  
*Elder I'll be and just wrinkled I'll be!*

**Akò' edìnehtf'eh (fiits'eedinahchùh).**  
*Now paper (turn it over).*

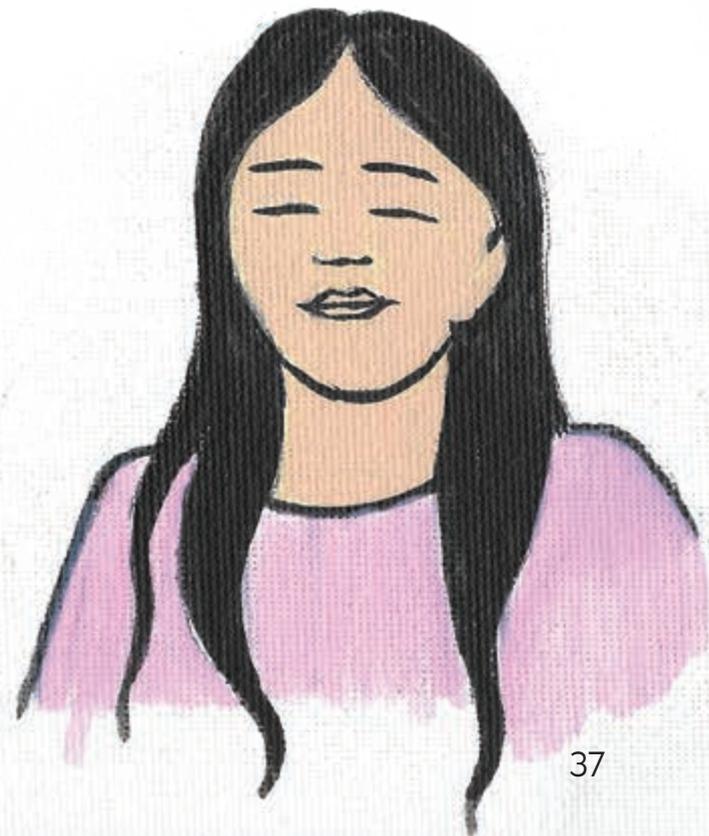
And now (turn the page).

like that to one of  
your grannies."

All I could think of was  
how that granny's

words were going to stay  
in my head!

I was going to get old and  
be wrinkled!



**Shaghài gònlih.**

*My years is lots.*

I am old.

**Suh ihfih.**

*wrinkled I am.*

I am wrinkled.

**Shinaghan ihtee k'it shàgwìdeech'inh.**

*Old woman one of like I look.*

I look like one of those old grannies.

**Gwìt jùk shinaghan kat guuk'it**

*But now old women like them*

**shagwizhè' gònlih.**

*my mind is more.*

But I am also wise,  
just like those  
grannies were.

**Drin tagwinàhch'uu shagooginèftyin**

*Day every day they taught me*

**eenjit shòh ihfih.**

*for happy I am.*

I am so happy my  
Elders taught me  
things every day.

**Shèk ah akòò dìgènùh, "Jùk eenjit geniidìkhih**

*Always they said, "Now for we talk not*

**kwàh gwit yeendòò eenjit t'inàadinùh'."**

*but future for we tell you."*

They always said,  
"We don't tell you  
this for now, but  
for your future.

**Nakhwakwaa gwìndòo aadeenjit**  
*We're gone that time for yourself*  
**gwiizii gwi't'rit t'agwitàhyàh.**  
*good work you will do.*

Even if we are gone, you  
are still going to work  
hard for yourself.

**Jii ah neenjit yenìdiddhàn."**  
*This is for you we want."*

This is what we want  
for you."

**Jùk ah guuginjìk shichì'**  
*Now their words my head*  
**zhìt dhidlèh.**  
*in they are.*

Their words are now  
in my head.



**Èjì danh guudhìdhètch'èjì**

*That time I heard them*

**eenjit shòh ihìh.**

*for happy I am.*

I am so glad I listened  
to my Elders.

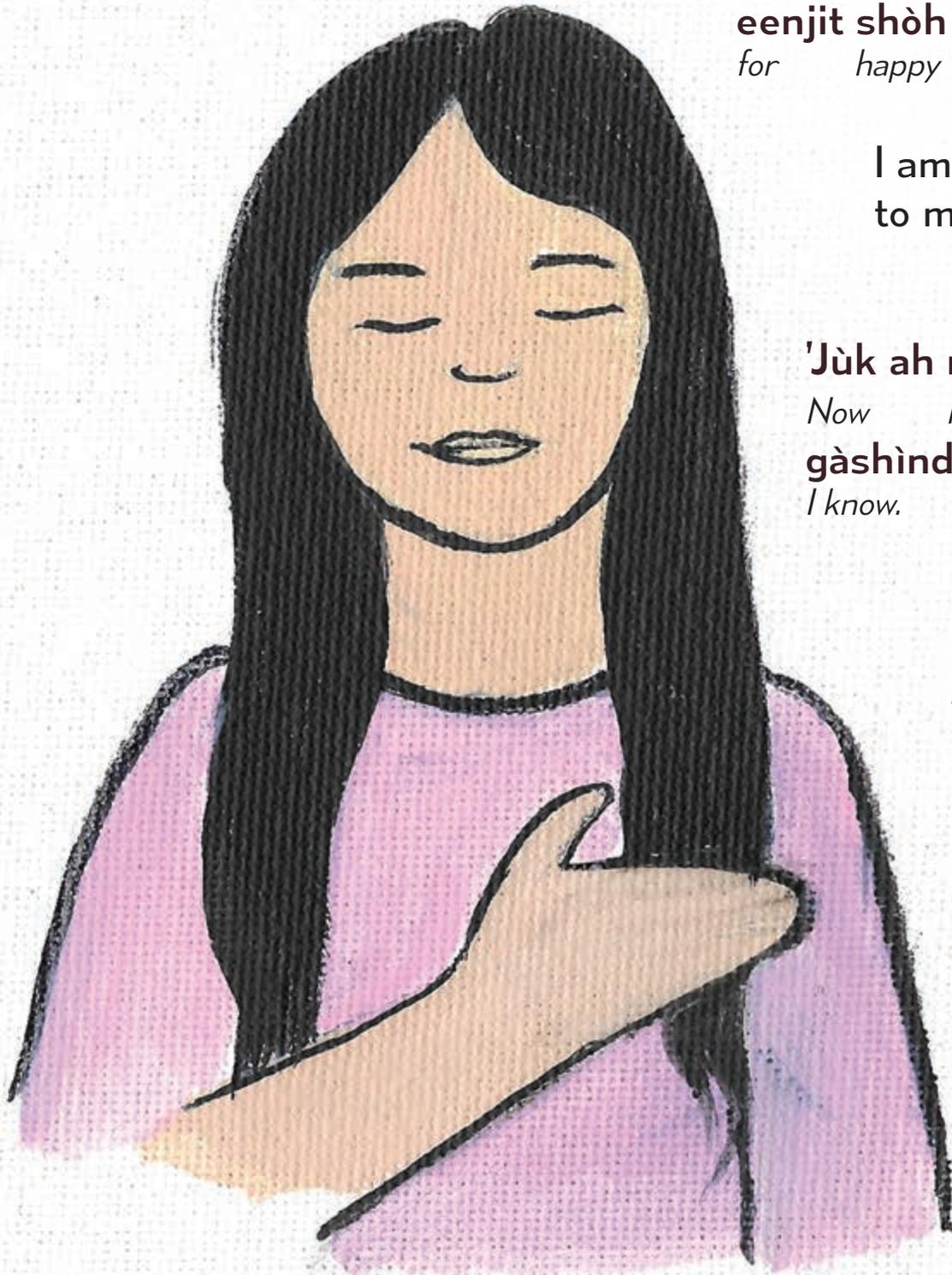
**'Jùk ah màmaa viginjik**

*Now mom her words*

**gàshìndàih.**

*I know.*

Now I understand  
my momma's words  
to me.



**Aanjòo kat guudhìdhohch'èjj jì' eenjit diinjishizhìt.**

*Elders you listen too if for I wish.*

I hope you will listen to your Elders.

**Guuginjìk nikhwachì' zhìt dhoodlee jì' gwiteezàh.**

*Their words your head in put them if it will be good.*

I hope you will keep their words in your head.

**Aanjòo kat guuts'àt tr'inuhjìh.**

*Elders them help them.*

I hope you will help your Elders.

**Èjj jì' niizhùk shik'it gitqhdàih.**

*And if long time like me you will live.*

And if you do, may you live to be as old as me.



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.

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