Gwich’in Language

Camping

Dinjii Nìihàa

Jane Montgomery
Old Crow, Yukon
The story booklets in this series are paired with interactive multimedia versions in which the text is spoken by the author.

For more information see the website www.ynlc.ca or contact the Yukon Native Language Centre.

Original black and white illustrations by Susan McCallum.
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She was born in Old Crow, Yukon and is a fluent speaker of Gwich'in. A pioneer in the development of modern Gwich'in language curriculum, she has taught at both Yukon College and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Ms. Montgomery holds the Native Language Instructor Certificate and Diploma from Yukon College. In 1996 she was awarded the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Native Language Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 1991 she received an Innovations in Teaching Award from the Yukon Department of Education.
Jii dinjii tearchik gwà’àn nìihah hahtsyàa eenjit nahadìk.
Vaghàa nidìi.
Nıihah dehk'ıt agwàh'aii ts'át chan kò' dehk'ıt gwahtsìi.
Didich’ei seenjii
ninjii’adhàt.

Didich’ei gweejii adats’at nuu.
Kò’ hahtsyàa eenjit didich’eei oonjìi.
Et’ee chan kò’ gweejìi niindhan.

Dicheet’ìt kò’ agwàh’àii.
Kò’ agwàh’àiì
ts’ât et’ee
nàgwàjàhk’ìì.
Dinjii ëh ch’ùh ahch’ùu.

Shòh nilìi.
Dinjjii Ɂuχ ch’uh ahtsàn, vizhìgwìłts’ik.
Et'ee lùh ch'ùh dhich'uuu ts'ât ya'aa.

M-m-m, lùh ch'ùh vagwaandàii.
Khanh too nìgwìniìndhat
ts’àt dinjìi nùuchìì.

Too tthak gwiinzìi iinchì’ ts’àt
vành khàcheeda’àìì.
1 Jii dinjii ttecik gwà’àn nìihah hahtsyàa eenjit nahadik.
   The man is looking for a place to camp by the creek.

Vaghàa nidìi.
   His packsack is heavy.

2 Nìihah dehkit agwàh’aii ts’at chan kò’ dehkit gwahtsìi.
   He found a place to camp and he is making a fireplace.
Didich‘eii eenjit nìinji’adhàt.
He is thinking about dry wood.

Didich‘eii gweejii adats’ât nuu.
He is asking himself, “Where is dry wood?”

Kò’ hahtsyàa eenjit didich‘eii oonjii.
He is gathering dry wood for the fire.
5. Et'ee chan kò’ gweejii niindhan.
He is wondering, “Where are the matches?”

Dicheet’it kò’ agwàh’ài.
He found the matches in his pocket.

6. Kò’ agwàh’ài ts’at et’ee nàgwàjàhk’ii.
He found the matches so he is lighting the fire.
7 Dinjii Ɂuh ch’üh ahch’uùu.
*The man is cooking bannock.*

Shòh nilii.
*He is happy.*

8 Dinjii Ɂuh ch’üh ahtsàn, vizhìgwïlts’ik.
*The man smells the bannock, he is hungry.*
9 Et’ee ëuh ch’ùh dhich’uuu ts’ât ya’âa.
The bannock is cooked so he is eating it.

M-m-m, ëuh ch’ùh vagwaandâii.
M-m-m, the bannock is delicious.

10 Khanh too nigwiniindhat ts’ât dinjii nùuchii.
Darkness fell quickly and the man went to sleep.

Too thak gwiinzii iinchì’ ts’ât vânñ khâcheeda’âii.
He slept well all night and woke up in the morning.