

MARGARET NOODIN

Gikendaan Gikendamaazoo

Learning to Sense

Bizaan igo ji-pimaadiziyan; enishigo waabandaman giizhig baaji-wayaaaseyaagin; gaye zhayigwa giizis ba-mooka'angin ezhi-onaan-igwendaagwag, ji-izhi-onaanigwendaman.

To live in peace; each day watch the way the sky begins to shine; and as the sun appears joyfully on the horizon, allow that joy to shape your thoughts.

—*Nokomis, to her grandson Nanabozho*

Apii mooka'am wiikwedong
Each new day is a bay

goshkobizhigooyang bagamised
where the unexpected docks

mii dash gabaad danaadizid
and comes ashore to stay

gaye mashkosiw miinawaa ataagib
where the grass and the algae

bagwaji-niitaawisag aawiwaad
are uncontrolled cousins

mii gikendamaazooyang
and we learn to sense

ezhi-onaanigwendamang
the kind of joy

ji-zhaaboshkamang
needed to survive

mishi-namegwe
the great sturgeon

ani-gonzhi'inang endaso giizhig.
who swallows us daily.