



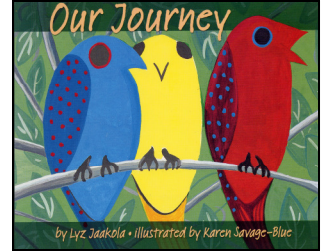
**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**

Title: *Our Journey*

Author: Lyz Jaakola

Illustrator: Karen Savage-Blue

Publisher and Copyright Date: Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, 2001
(Check your local library, or order from www.Oyate.org or Fond du Lac Head Start Program, 1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet, MN, 55620, 218-878-8100)



Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author, Minnesota illustrator, Minnesota publisher

Summary: This is a board book that portrays two young Ojibwe children living a traditional life. At its simplest level, it is a poetic, repetitive and reassuring book for very young children. For older children, the rich artwork provides a guide to introducing the stories of the Ojibwe. The text bids “Anin” (Hello) and “Miigwech” (Thanks) to the East, South, West, North, Sun, Earth, and “the One who gave me my birth.”

Suggested ages: 0-3, 4-6, 7-10, all ages

Tips for Reading:

- Introduce “Anin” (ah-noon’) and “Miigwech” (mee-gwech’) as Ojibwe words that mean “Hello” and “Thanks,” respectively.
- Name colors, count birds, etc. (with very young children) before reading in order to draw attention to the book.
- Read each page slowly because the text is short, allowing time to look at the illustrations.
- Read the book a second time, asking the children to say “Anin” and “Miigwech” with you.
- Go back and look at the pictures and talk about what’s in them: the birds and animals, the boy and girl, the village, the cradleboard, etc. For older children, use this book to introduce and to end a program exploring Ojibwe culture and stories.

Questions before reading:

- When do we say “Hello” and “Thanks”, and why do we say those words?
- What do you know about the Ojibwe (or other native) people in Minnesota?
- What does it mean to take a journey? What are some journeys that you have been on?

To Introduce this story say: We’re going to read a book that will introduce you to a group of people who have lived in Minnesota for a long time, the Ojibwe. This book will introduce you to words from their language and will introduce you to a different way of looking at the earth. Take a close look at the colorful illustrations as we read.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- When we read this book, we said “Hello” and “Thanks” to many things. Are these things you say “Hello” to? “Thanks” for? Why or why not?
- Remember the two different pages that refer to “the One who gave me my birth.” Is there a difference in meaning?
- Look at the borders on the pages. What relationship do they have to the pictures?
- What does it mean to take a journey? What might “our journey” mean to the Ojibwe?
- Is “our journey” past, present or future?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Use individual paintings in the book as a springboard for exploring traditional and contemporary Ojibwe culture and stories. Possibilities include the receiving of a feather, village life, the importance of women and family, respect for elders, the relationship between humans and animals, and respect for the Earth.
- Study cradleboards, moccasins, canoes and other items; design your own in keeping with what you have learned.
- Find or draw a picture that shows something about your culture; create a border for it.

Culture:

- Explore the seasons and their relationship to Ojibwe culture and to the planting and harvesting of corn or the gathering of wild rice, berries or maple syrup. (Use the Related Books listed below for further information, especially *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa*, *The Mishomis Book* and *The Good Path*.)
- Interview someone from another culture.
- Ask what it would be important to say “Hello” to or “Thanks” for in that culture.
- Discuss written vs. spoken language. For example, since Ojibwe existed as a spoken language before it was written, there are variant spellings (for example, anin/aniin) and differing versions of stories. What are the pros and cons of oral tradition and written stories?

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- Re-read the book using English and another language in addition to Ojibwe.
- How do you say “Hello” and “Thanks” in other languages? What other words and gestures say “Hello” and “Thanks” in English?

Related Books:

- ***Boozhoo: Come Play With Us*** (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, 2002)
- ***The Good Path: Ojibwe Learning and Activity Book for Kids*** by Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri (Afton Historical Society Press, 2002)
- ***The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway*** by Edward Benton-Banai (Red School House/Indian Country Communications, 1988)
- ***Morning on the Lake*** by Jan Bourdeau Waboose, illustrated by Karen Reczuch (Kids Can Press, 1997)
- ***Nanabosho Dances*** by Joe McLellan, illustrated by Rhian Brynjolson (Pemmican Publications, 1991)
- ***Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa – We Look in All Directions*** by Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri; foreword by Winona LaDuke (Afton Historical Society Press, 2002)
- ***Powwow Summer: Family Celebrates the Circle of Life*** by Marcie R. Rendon; photographs by Cheryl Walsh Bellville (Carolrhoda Books, 1996)
- ***The Sacred Harvest: Ojibway Wild Rice Gathering*** by Gordon Regguinti; photographs by Dale Kakkak; foreword by Michael Dorris (Lerner Publications, 1992)
- ***SkySisters*** by Jan Bourdeau Waboose, illustrated by Brian Deines (Kids Can Press, 2000)

