



**I AM
PROUD
TO BE OJIBWE**

HONORING JOHNNY SMITH, WAYSAGWONNABE

**NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN**

By Students from Anishinabe Academy
and Fair School

I AM PROUD TO BE OJIBWE HONORING JOHNNY SMITH, WAYSAGWONNABE
Words & music by LARRY LONG with STUDENTS from SHERRY HEBERT'S 4TH & 5TH
GRADE CLASS of FAIR SCHOOL.

Illustrations by ANISHINABE ACADEMY STUDENTS under the guidance of ART
INSTRUCTOR Charlotte Mann.

PHOTOGRAPH of JOHNNY SMITH, WAYSAGWONNABE by Tony Nelson.
OJIBWEMOWIN TRANSLATION by BAWDWAYWIDUN, Edward Benton-Banai

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Box 581601
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Email: larrylong@communitycelebration.org

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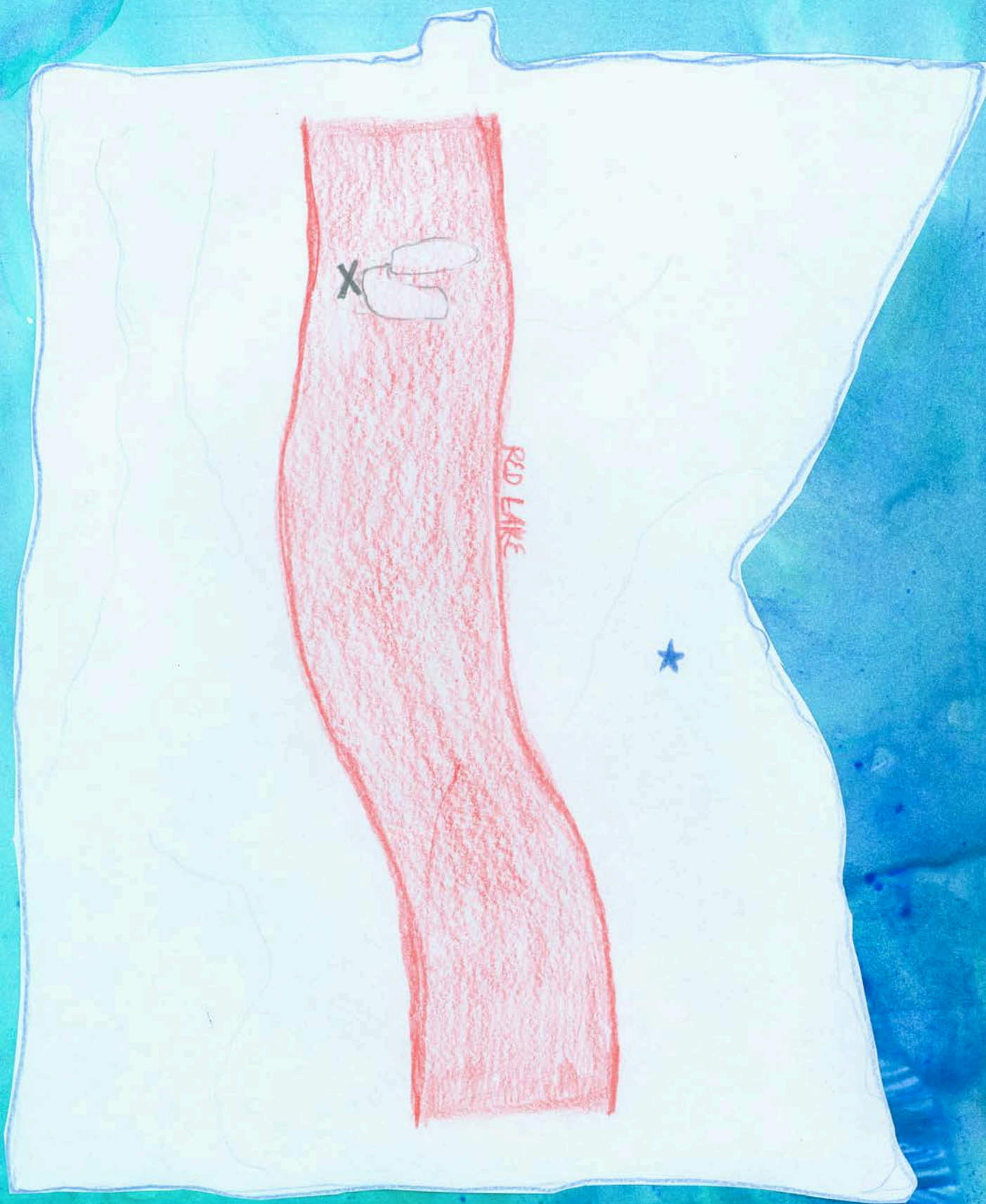




I AM PROUD TO BE OJIBWE

HONORING JOHNNY SMITH, WAYSAGWONNABE

**NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN**



**My name is Johnny Smith,
from the Red Lake Band,
Chippewa- Anishinabe.**

**First people of this land, Waysagwonnabe,
Yellow Feather, given on my Naming Day.**





**Raised by my grandparents.
I'm proud to be Ojibwe**

**NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN**



NIM MIGWETCH I AW GIZHAY MANIDOO.

Thank-you Great Spirit

Gizhay Manidoo

For all you have given

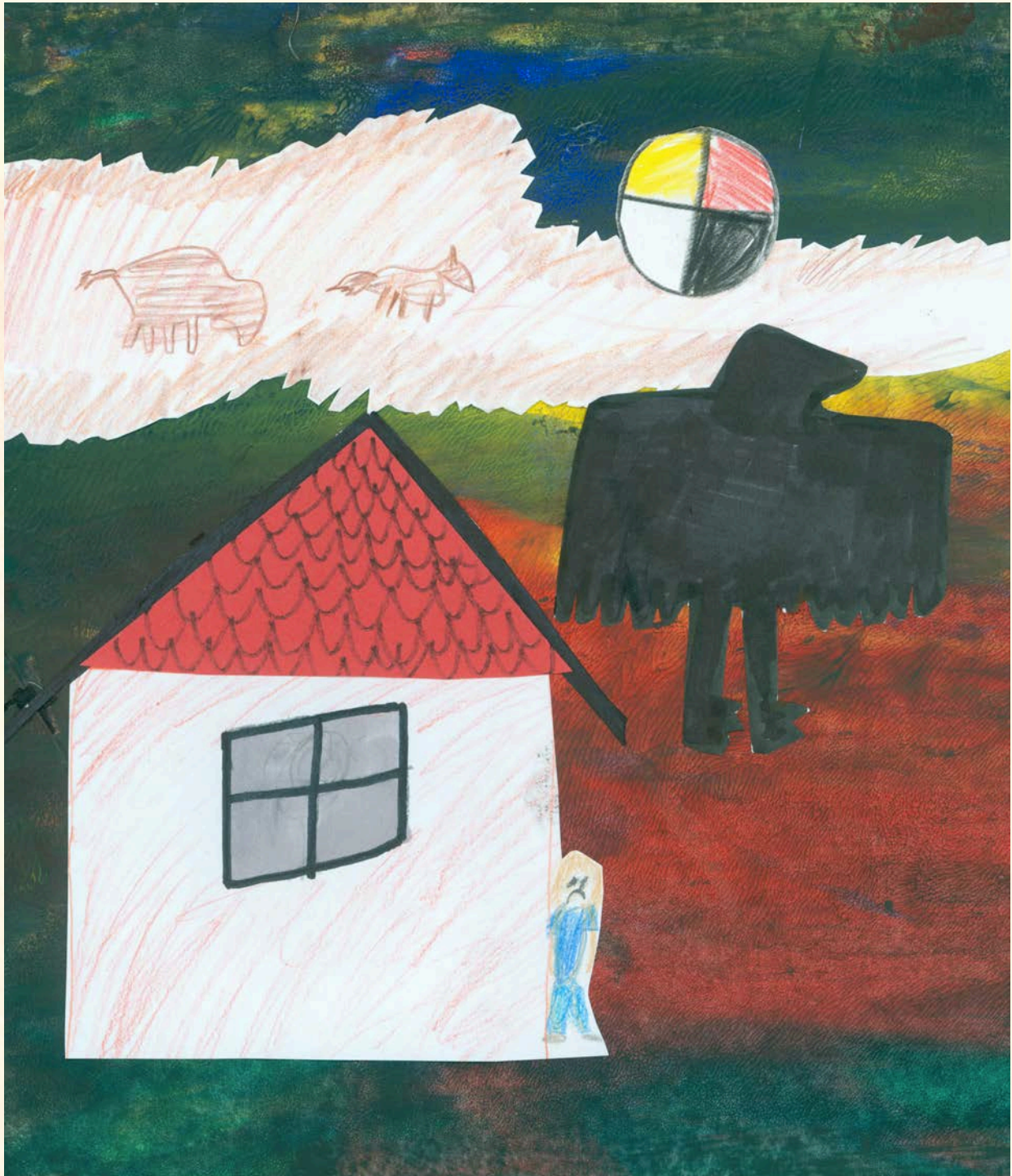
To help us through



**They called us pagans.
They thought we had no belief in the Great Spirit
in this world we call home.**

**Sent my people to the mission
to learn their white man ways.
We have our own traditions.
I'm proud to be Ojibwe**

**NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN**





NIM MIGWETCH I AW GIZHAY MANIDOO.

Thank-you Great Spirit

Gizhay Manidoo

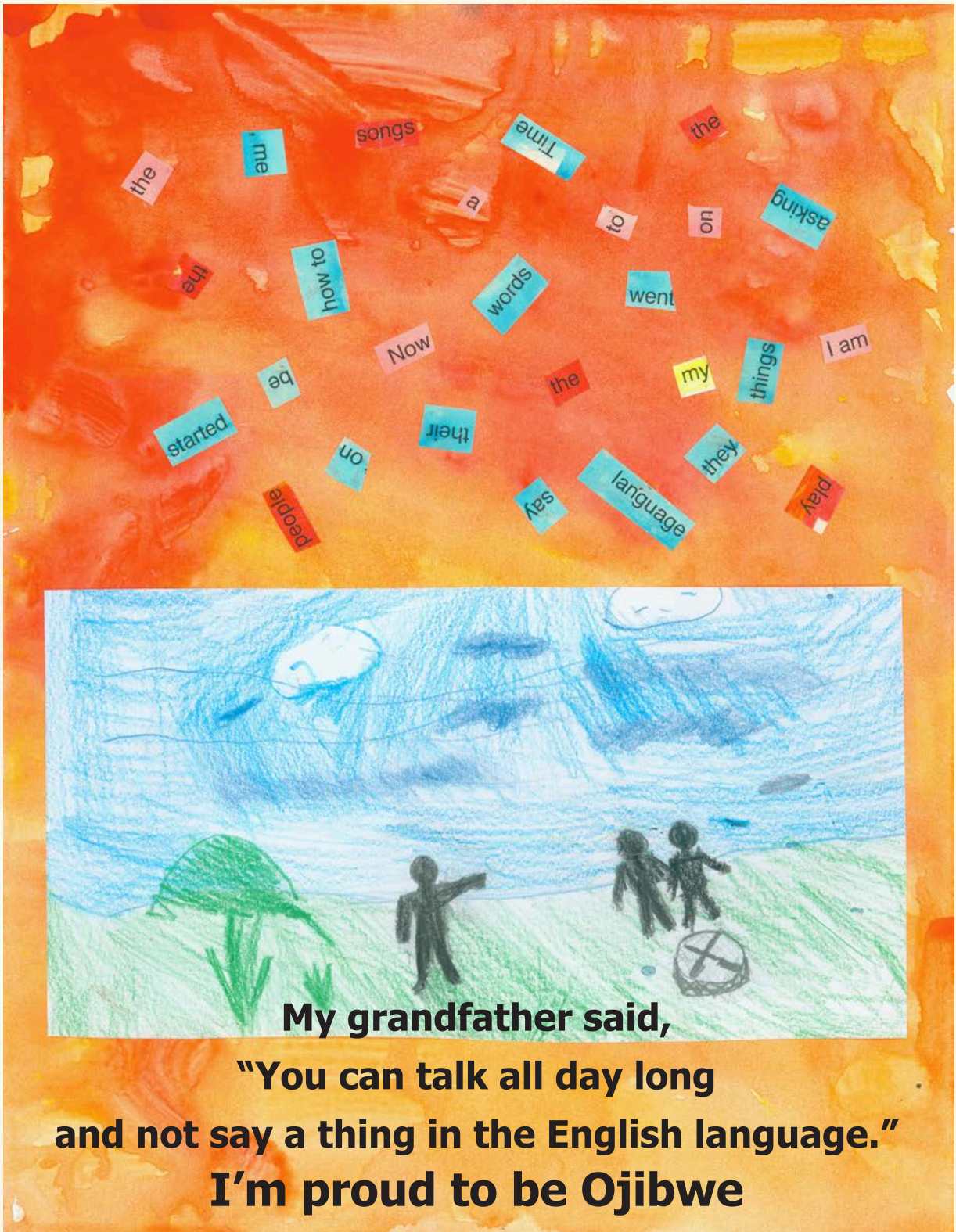
For all you have given

To help us through

**I could not speak English,
I flunked the second grade.**



**Held me back until I learned
how to speak their English ways.**



**My grandfather said,
"You can talk all day long
and not say a thing in the English language."
I'm proud to be Ojibwe**

**NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN**



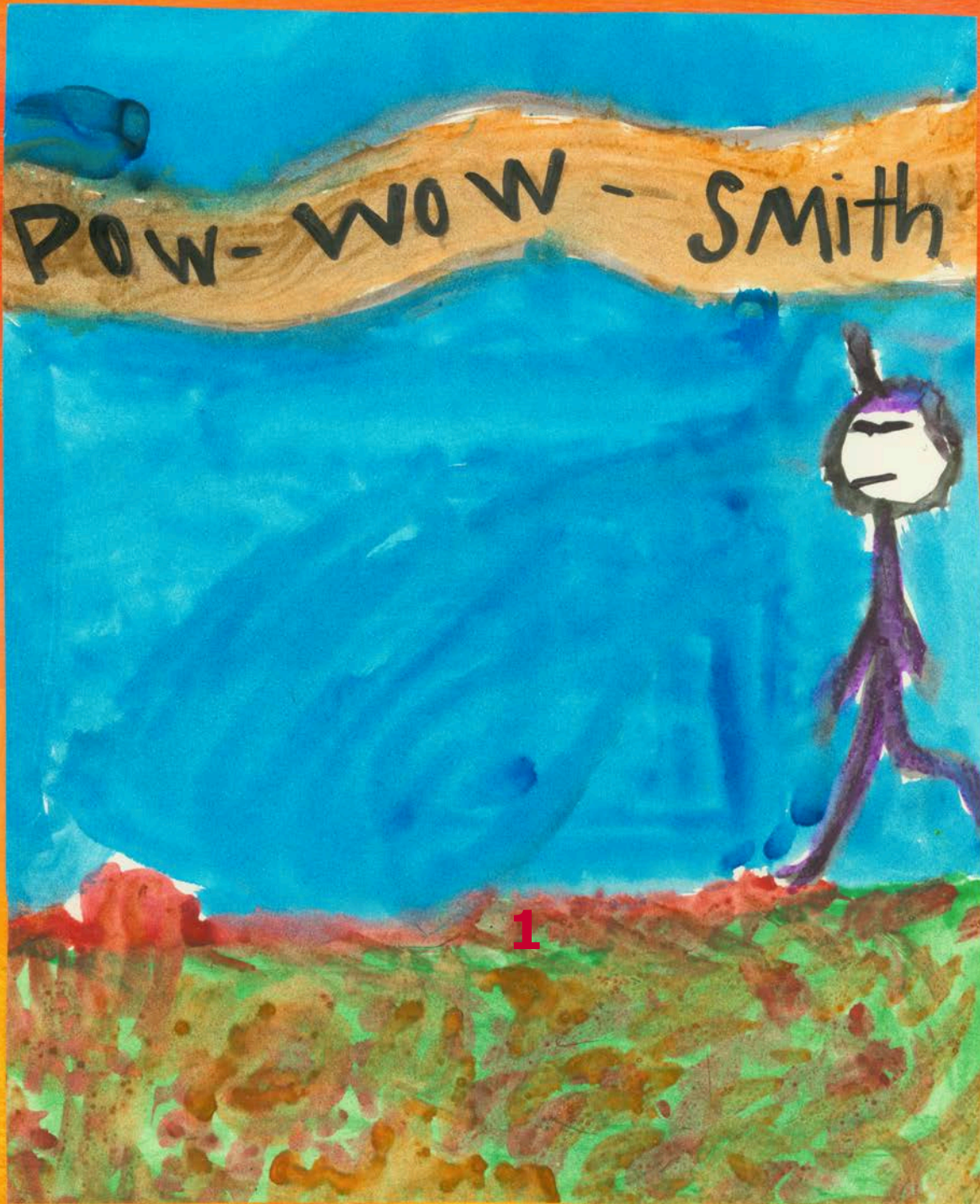
NIM MIGWETCH I AW GIZHAY MANIDOO.

Thank-you Great Spirit

Gizhay Manidoo

For all you have given

To help us through



Kids use to tease me,
they called me Pow Wow Smith.

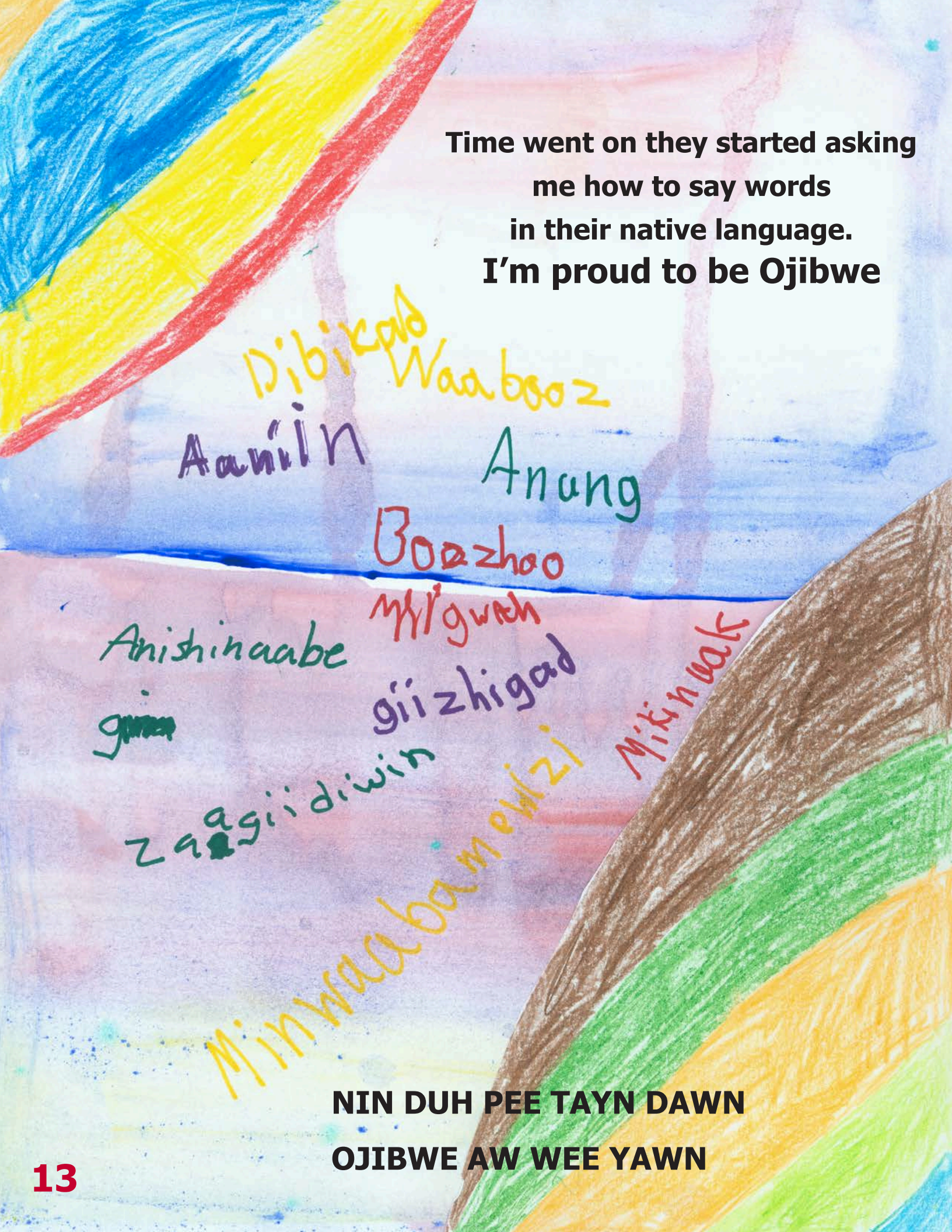
**Ran me down for speaking my language,
I didn't care about it.**

Speak
English!



Boozhod!





Time went on they started asking
me how to say words
in their native language.
I'm proud to be Ojibwe

Dibikab
Waabooz
Aaniin

Anung

Boozhoo

Migwan

Anishinaabe

gim

gii zhigad

zaagii diwin

Minwaa baamewizi

Mikinaak

NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN



NIM MIGWETCH I AW GIZHAY MANIDOO.

Thank-you Great Spirit

Gizhay Manidoo

For all you have given

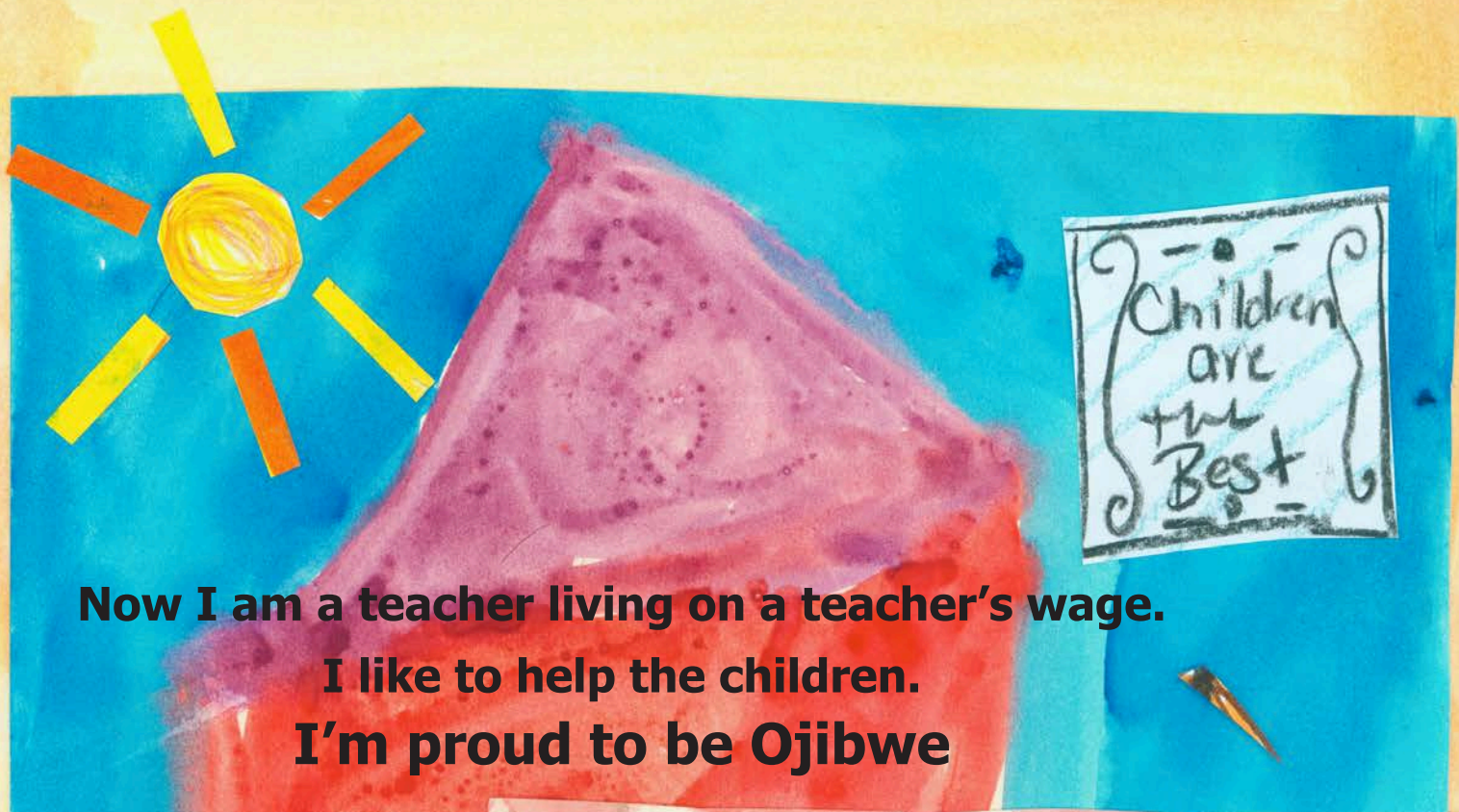
To help us through



**At sixteen became a pulp cutter,
swung an axe with both hands.**

**Learned the old songs and dances
from the elders in my clan.**





**NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN**



NIM MIGWETCH I AW GIZHAY MANIDOO.

Thank-you Great Spirit

Gizhay Manidoo

For all you have given

To help us through

**Treat people kindly,
be respectful of all things.**





**Gizhay Manidoo is happy
when he hears the people sing.**

**Feed the drum and feed the people.
At the Pow Wows
I love to play songs for my people.
I'm proud to be Ojibwe**



**NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN
OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN**



NIM MIGWETCH I AW GIZHAY MANIDOO.

Thank-you Great Spirit

Gizhay Manidoo

For all you have given

To help us through

ABOUT THIS BOOK:

I AM PROUD TO BE OJIBWE was produced through an educational and cultural program created by Smithsonian Folkways Recording artist Larry Long, entitled Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song. Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song is a program of Community Celebration of Place, a non-profit organization, which works with communities through music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children, elders, and people of different backgrounds-economic, faith, racial and cultural-in order to build intergenerational and multicultural opportunities for all schools and communities to prosper. Dr. Tony Seeger, Curator Emeritus of Smithsonian Folkways, writes, "When senior members of a community talk about their lives and work and children write songs with Larry Long about what they have learned from the elders, they create a remarkable celebration of humanity and hard work."

About book illustrations:

The images in this book were created by Anishinabe Academy students grades 1-8. At Anishinabe Academy we have a diverse culture of Native American students, including Ojibwe and Dakota. The artwork in this book consists of student's personal reflections of the text and is not necessarily historically or culturally accurate.

- Charlotte Mann, Art Instructor

About Ojibwemowin, via phonetics, translations:

The phrase "I am proud to be Ojibwe" cannot be captured and framed exactly that way in Ojibwemowi. There is no singular word for "PROUD" because it is a promoting expression.

"NIN DUH PEE TAYN DAWN OJIBWE AW WEE YAWN." means "I think highly of being Ojibwe", which is literal in translation and as close to the phrase as can be done.

"NIM MIGWETCH I AW GIZHAY MANIDOO." means "I give thanks to the great and kind spirit."

- Bawdwaywidun, Edward Benton-Banai



To learn more about
Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song:
www.communitycelebration.org

JOHNNY SMITH, WAYSAGWONNABE

**Chippewa-Anishinabe Instructor, Elder Advocate,
Director of the Red Lake Embassy, Keeper of the Drum**

My name is Johnny Smith. I'm a Red Lake Chippewa Indian from Red Lake, Minnesota. I graduated from high school when I was 22 years old. I had quit school and tried to get a job, but I was too dumb, so I went back and got a diploma. I've gone to many different schools to learn a lot of different skills. I have learned to be an accountant, barber, teacher, draftsman, counselor and a business administrator. I learned the importance of education from my second grade teacher.

I speak the Chippewa language. There aren't many people left who speak the Chippewa language. I travel all over the United States and sing and dance at a lot of Pow Wows. I have learned much about all the different cultures and can understand many of their languages. No language is hard to learn if you put your mind into it.

My Ojibwe name is Waysagwonnabe. It means Yellow Feather. We had a big naming ceremony. It was time to carry another name. My first name used to be Little Man. They brought out a horse and a rifle and brought gifts. They gave me this name and said now you carry this name. You have to carry on my ways and my teachings. I've tried my best to follow.

I got my name Johnny Smith when the government came in to count us up. They keep track of you if you are Indian. When they asked my name, I said, "Waysagwonnabe." They could not say it or spell it so they gave me a name. I am named after my grandfather, John Smith.

I went to a mission school. They taught their own religion. They expected us to talk in English. If we didn't know the English word, they hit us. They would pull our hair. They were mean and cruel to us back then. We didn't know their ways and rules and they beat that into us. They wanted to convert us into Christians. They called us Pagans because they thought we had no spirit. They didn't understand that we have a whole way of living.

My grandparents raised me. I had a better learning situation with my grand folks. I didn't feel threatened and didn't feel lost in the home of my grand folks. My uncles taught me how to treat people through Indian medicines. They taught me some songs. They taught me the old ways, the spiritual ways of the old people.

I live for singing and dance day after day, even though kids my age that were the same as me made fun of me when I was young. I didn't care about that. I knew what I did was good because I felt it in here. I have been dancing and singing for seventy-two years. It has always been important for me to learn the Honor Songs and the background and culture of the Chippewa-Ojibwe Nation.

I was a teacher at Oh-Day-Aki (Heart of the Earth) School. I am now the Director and Elder Advocate at the Red Lake Embassy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I teach American Indian history and American Indian singing and dancing.

I was talked into being a teacher even though I didn't want to do it. I went back another year and then got my teaching license. The reason I stayed there is all those little kids grew on me, even though I could have other jobs and make more money. It is rewarding to watch young people and see them learn.

My spirituality works like this: when I go back home, I take my hand drum with me and go out in the woods and sing 'praising' songs. I sing Honor Songs that praise our Creator for what he gives us. I honor people who do extraordinary things. A traditional life to me is just doing the things I learned. Being respectful of all things. Treating people kindly. Doing the things I learned that mean something to me in my heart.

WORDS OF ADVICE: Most of you know that this world we live in is rough out there. There are a lot of people who will hurt and harm you. You watch out for them. Stay away from alcohol and drugs. Do not join a gang. Don't be lazy and just watch TV. Stay in school because without education you can't get a job anywhere. The more education you have, the more earning power you have.



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