



GROUNDWOOD STUDY GUIDES

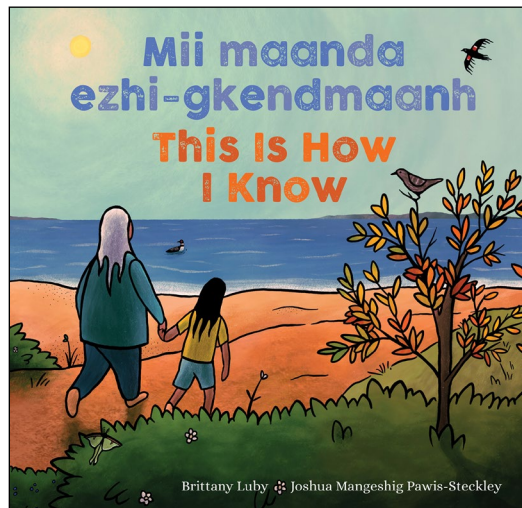
Mii maanda ezhi-gkendmaanh / This Is How I Know

Niibing, dgwaagig, bboong, mnookmig dbaadjigaade maanpii mzin'igning /
A Book about the Seasons

Written by Brittany Luby

Illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley

Translated by Alvin Ted Corbiere and Alan Corbiere



An Anishinaabe child and her grandmother explore the natural wonders of each season in this lyrical, bilingual story-poem.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Ages 3 to 7 / Grades PreK to 2

JUVENILE FICTION / People & Places / Canada / Indigenous; Science; Social Studies

Full-color illustrations / 8.75 x 8.5 / 44 pages

Hardcover with jacket / \$18.95 / 978-1-77306-326-3

Ebook / \$16.95 / 978-1-77306-327-0

groundwoodbooks.com



BOOK DESCRIPTION

In this lyrical story-poem, written in Anishinaabemowin and English, a child and grandmother explore their surroundings, taking pleasure in the familiar sights that each new season brings.

We accompany them through warm summer days full of wildflowers, bees and blueberries, then fall, when bears feast before hibernation and forest mushrooms are ripe for harvest. Winter mornings begin in darkness as deer, mice and other animals search for food, while spring brings green shoots poking through melting snow and the chirping of peepers.

Brittany Luby and Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley have created a book inspired by childhood memories of time spent with Knowledge Keepers, observing and living in relationship with the natural world in the place they call home — the northern reaches of *Anishinaabewaking*, around the Great Lakes.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Show the cover of the book to the class. Ask the students what they notice about the title. What languages do they think are in the story?

Ask the class what they notice during summer. Fall? Winter? Spring?

POST-READING DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITIES

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

After reading the book, ask students the following comprehension questions:

- Why did the author make this book?
- What kind of story is this? How can you tell?
- Do you do special activities with an adult like the characters in the story?
- Where could this story take place?

DETAILS

In *This Is How I Know*, the little girl looks for signs in nature to let her know what season they are in. What things in nature do she and her Grandmother see that let them know which season they are in?



WORLD STUDIES ACTIVITY

In the story, students read about what happens in nature during the four seasons. Students may live in parts of the world that may or may not have four seasons. For JK–1 classes, display a world map by seasons. Identify the areas of the world that have four or more seasons (Bangladesh has six seasons). On a world map handout, have students color the countries that have four seasons. What do they notice about the areas they colored?

For Grades 2–4:

To extend the map activity, students can work independently or in partners to research which countries have four or more seasons. The end product could be in the form of a colored map.

SEASONAL TRADITIONS

We celebrate holidays and traditions throughout the year. On a chart paper, have students share different holidays/traditions and which season they are celebrated in.

For Grades 2–4:

To extend the traditions activity, students can work independently or in partners to complete a research project about a favorite tradition or one they celebrate with their family. Have the students find facts about the tradition and share on a slide deck or poster.

SEASONS FOR THE ANISHINAABE

Historically, seasons had a different connotation for the Anishinaabe people.

Using this site as a reference,

http://anishinaabemodaa.com/lessons?lesson_id=50, students can learn more about what each season meant for the Anishinaabe people.

FAVORITE SEASON

In the story, the narrator knows fall is here “when orange mushrooms emerge one by one” and she knows that winter is here when she can “watch brown Deer strip cedar.” Things in nature happen in each season. As a group or in partners, ask students to share their favorite season or scene in the story, and to draw it. What colors could be used? What animals will be included?

COMPARE/CONTRAST

Each season has special features. There are things that are alike and different about each season. On a chart paper or projection board, have students compare and contrast two seasons using the graphic organizer, a Venn diagram. Note items that are the same between the two seasons in the middle of the organizer.

STORYTELLING

A rich tradition of Anishinaabe culture is oral storytelling. Nature is central to a plethora of Anishinaabe stories. These stories are even passed on through generations. What is being shared in this story? Students can brainstorm a big event that involved their family and nature like the little girl and her grandmother. Ask students to share what their family stories would be about.



AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR AND TRANSLATOR BIOGRAPHIES



Brittany Luby, of Anishinaabe descent, was raised on Treaty #3 Lands in what is now known as northwestern Ontario. She is an assistant professor of history at the University of Guelph and an award-winning researcher who seeks to stimulate public discussion of Indigenous issues through her work. Her debut picture book, *Encounter*, illustrated by Michaela Goade, received wide acclaim. Brittany currently lives on Dish with One Spoon Territory.



Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley is an Ojibwe woodland artist and a member of Wasauksing First Nation. His work aims to reclaim and promote traditional Ojibwe stories and teachings in a contemporary woodland style. He works mainly in acrylics, digital illustration and screen-printing, and he has had several solo art exhibitions across Turtle Island. This is his first picture book. Joshua spends his time living between Vancouver and Wasauksing First Nation.

Alvin Ted Corbiere and **Alan Corbiere**, father and son, are Anishinaabe from M'Chigeeng First Nation. They collaborate to produce curricular materials in Anishinaabemowin for learners of all ages. Alan Corbiere is an assistant professor of Indigenous history at York University in Toronto.