



# Lexiconography 1

## Aabjito'ikidowinan 1

### Used Words 1

for Nichols and Nyholm  
Zhaabadiis Naano-zhoomaanke  
miinawaa Earl Otchingwanigan

We used them long ago, clothespins.  
Mewenzha n'gii ziinaakwa'igemi  
Long ago we clothes-pinned

We can taste them still, clenched in our teeth.  
N'gii gojpidaminan, n'gii ziinibidominan bito-wiibidoning  
We tasted them, we squeezed them between our teeth

We pinched wooden clothespins on clouds,  
N'gii ziinibidominan aanakwadoon  
We pinched clouds

lines of a little child's clothes,  
aanziinan miinawaa waabooanan  
of diapers and blankets

lines of a man's clothes, heavy denim,  
miikanot miinawaa bitomiikanotan  
of pants and underpants

and a woman's clothes—  
gaawiin ziibaaskasiigoodenan  
dresses without jingles

fine white fabric of night gowns,  
nookaa niibing nibaawiiyan  
soft summer sleepwear

under-things, blouses in clouds,  
bidaankwaad biiskaanaan,  
dawn clouds to wear,

sun seen through clouds.  
waasenaakwe'aanakwad giiskanaan  
bright clouds of noon to take off.

We plucked the clothespins,  
Ziinaakwa'iganan n'gii asiginaminan  
We gathered clothespins

collapsed the clouds of clothing.  
N'gii bisikiigaminan biizikiigan-aanakwadoon  
We folded clouds of clothing

Wind combed the water, came crying.  
Madweyaasin giwayaan obaasbinaakwaanan  
The sound of the wind combed them dry.

We collected the clothes, the clouds.  
Aanakwadoon miinawaa biizikiigan n'gii asiginaminan  
We gathered the clouds and clothes

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