

ANNO KITSIKSÄÄHKOMINNON

THIS IS OUR LAND



A BLACKFOOT GRAPHIC NOVEL

EXPERIENCE THIS
COMIC IN AR



WHEN GREEDY LAND DEVELOPERS threaten to demolish sacred hunting grounds, it's up to Janie, Mooch, and Quentin to put a stop to it.

Following an old story, Janie and her friends race against the clock to find a sacred buffalo skull that proves the land belongs to their Nation.

Read along in both Blackfoot and English in this thrilling, bilingual graphic novel or take the experience to the next level with the *IndigiPRINTS* app: featuring fully voiced pages and mini-games, all in *Augmented Reality*!

EXPAND YOUR LEARNING
BY DOWNLOADING THE
INDIGIPRINTS APP



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AATSIMOYIHKAAN

BLACKFOOT PRAYER BY ELDER HELEN SPOTTED BULL

Aayo Apistatoki

Calling the Creator

Ayao Napi Natosi

Calling the Old Man, the Sun

Ayao lihtsipaitapiyo'pa

Calling the source of life

Isspommookinnaan Annohk Ksiistsiko

Help us this day

Kimmokinnaan

Be kind to us

Ais'stamattsookinnaan

Show us

Soka'piyi, Ikkina'piyi, Mokamo'ta'piyi

All the good is, all that is gentle, all that is honest

Ayao Kimma'tookinnaan

Calling to be kind to our

Nookoossinnaaniksi Ninnanniksi

Children, Fathers

Niksisstsinnaaniksi Naahsinnaanniksi

Mothers, Grandparents

Ok Kaamotaani

And now to be sacred

Misamipaitapiysinni

A long life

DISCLAIMER

This is a work of fiction. Any similarity to persons living or dead is either coincidental or expressed consent was authorized. The story depicts graphic scenes and is intended for a 14A audience. All events are loosely based on stories, opinions, and experiences of selective Indigenous youth in Calgary. This graphic novel is not to be sold for profit by USAY or any other persons, however, donations can be made at usay.ca.

Several dialects of Blackfoot exist; only one dialect is represented in this work. Traditional Blackfoot legends, stories, and characters inspired the artists and storywriter. This work is intended to be used as a language-learning tool, which should be combined with resources to be effective in producing a proficient speaker. Readers are encouraged to consult fluent speakers to learn more about pronunciation and stress patterns. Readers should also consult our Blackfoot Learning Guide at usay.ca or on our YouTube channel for further language development.

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**URBAN SOCIETY FOR
ABORIGINAL YOUTH**

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Heritage**

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canadien**

IT ALWAYS BEGINS WITH
AN INTRODUCTION.

I AM JANIE
I AM NIITSÍTAPIYAAKI FROM KAINAI
PART OF THE BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY

THEY CAME WITHOUT INTRODUCTION... ONÓÓTSSKIYAAWA.

THEY WERE HUNGRY FOR LAND,

HUNGRY FOR WATER...

HUNGRY FOR CARNAGE.

NIKSI NIITSÍTAPIKS BATTLED BRAVELY
BUT WITH THE SOLDIERS' FIRE POWER
IT WAS A LOSING FIGHT.

THE SOLDIERS BEGAN TO
TAKE WHAT THEY WANTED.

AND THEN, AMONG THE CHAOS,

MAKÓYI IKSÍKKÁ'YI APPEARED.

SEEING THE BATTLE,

HE KNEW HOW TO PROTECT OOKÓÓWAYI KI ÓKSO'KOWAIXI.

THE SOLDIERS ITOMÁTAPO'TSIMIAAWA EVERYTHING.

THEY WERE TAKING WHO THEY WERE.



HE KNEW HE HAD TO HIDE THEIR NAATOWÁ'PIIWA. THE KEY TO WHO THEY WERE.

HE WOULD HIDE IT DEEP IN THE EARTH,
IN THE SPIRIT WORLD,

AND PASS ON THE STORY OF ITS LOCATION
FOR WHEN NIKSI NIITSÍTAPIKS NEEDED IT AGAIN.



THIS IS MY FAVOURITE PART! THE JOURNEY TO THE SPIRIT WORLD.

I NEED MORE CHIPS.

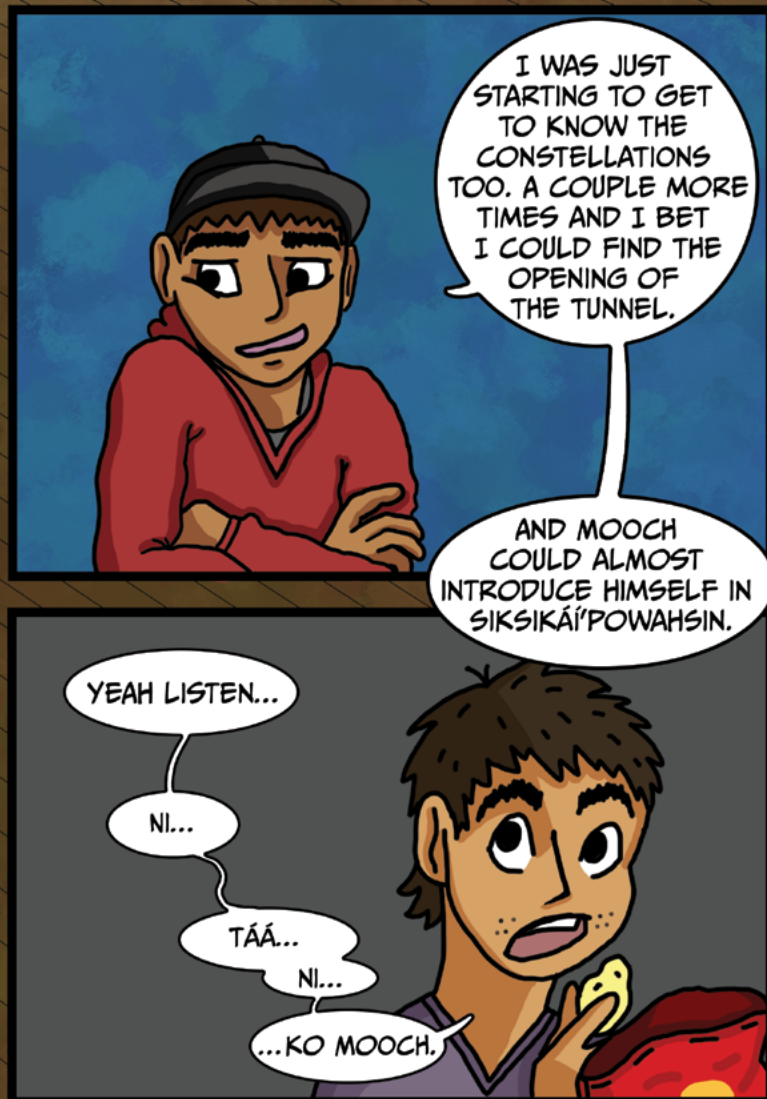
SHH
ÁNNIAYI!
BOTH OF YOU.
WANT ME TO FINISH?



SAA,
IN A WAY I DON'T.

NIISTÓWA,
THIS COULD BE
OUR LAST STORY.

SLUMP



I WAS JUST STARTING TO GET TO KNOW THE CONSTELLATIONS TOO. A COUPLE MORE TIMES AND I BET I COULD FIND THE OPENING OF THE TUNNEL.

AND MOOCH COULD ALMOST INTRODUCE HIMSELF IN SIKSIKÁI'POWAHSIN.

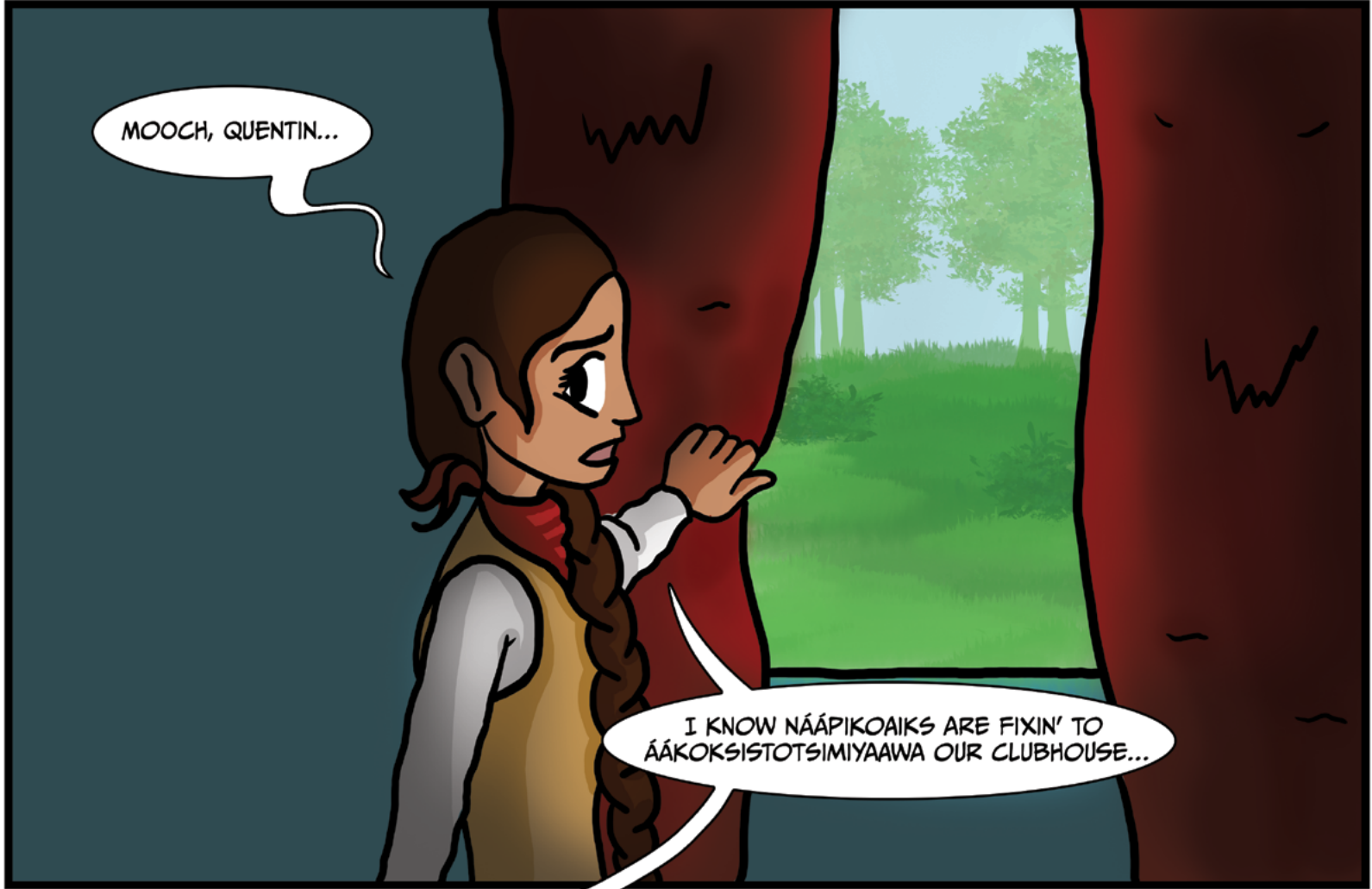
YEAH LISTEN...

NI...

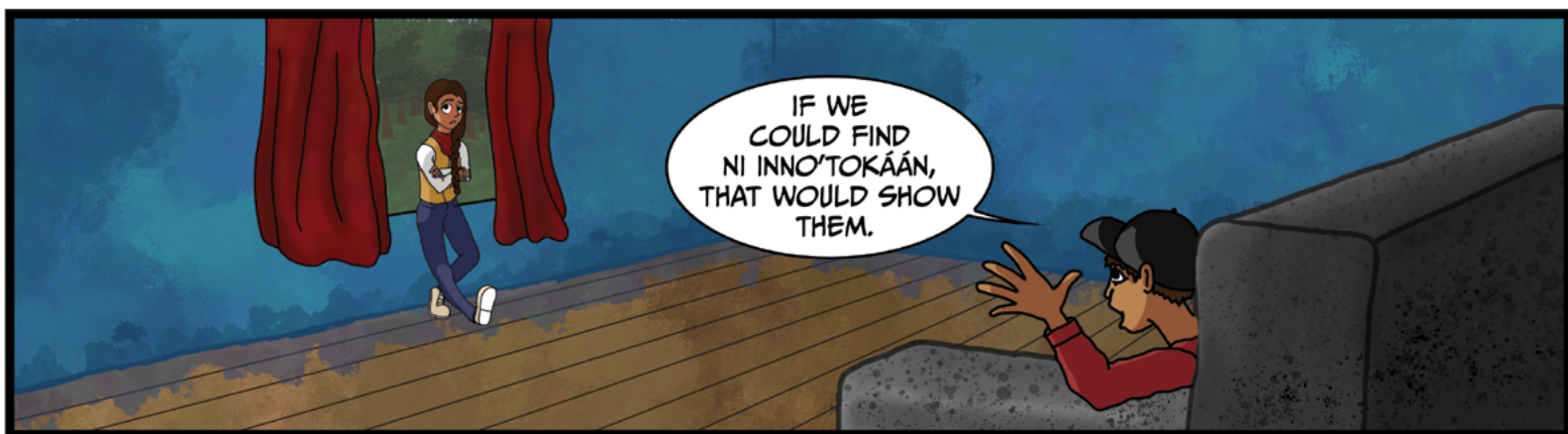
TÁÁ...

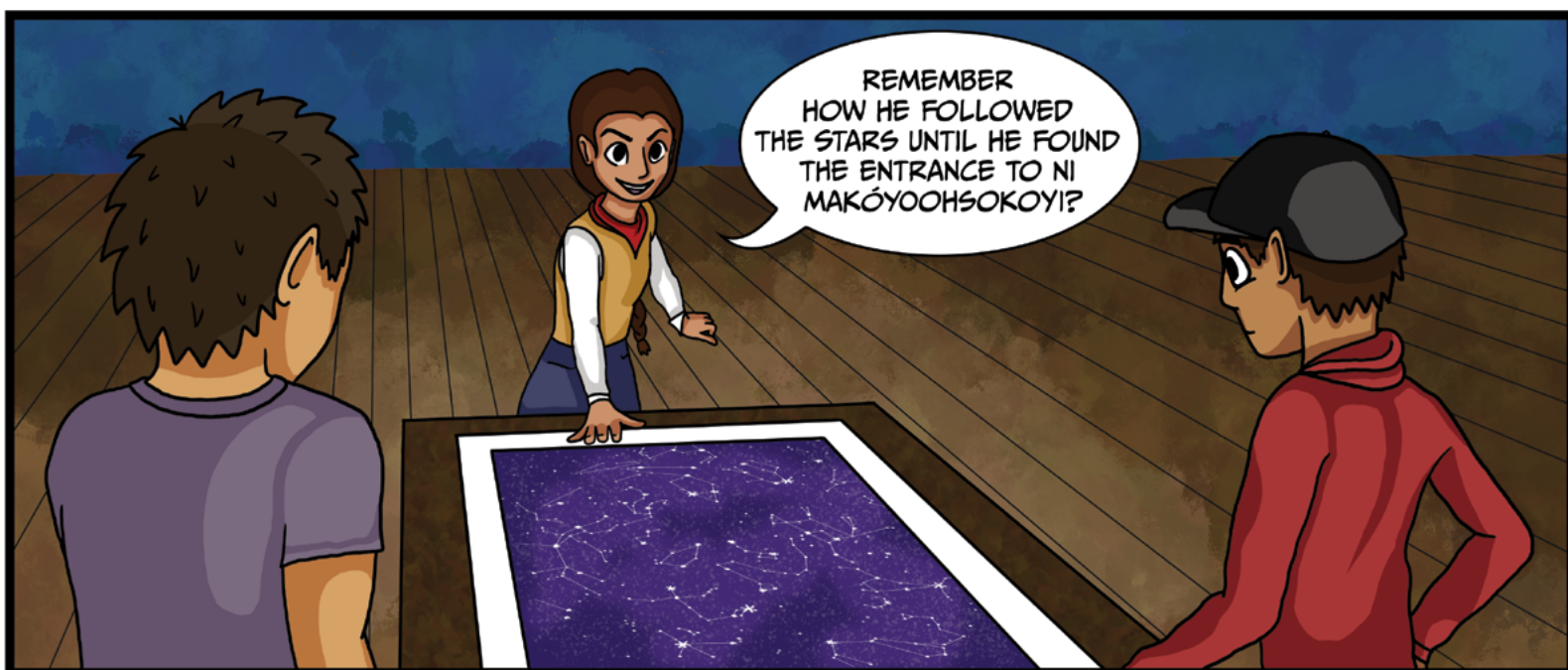
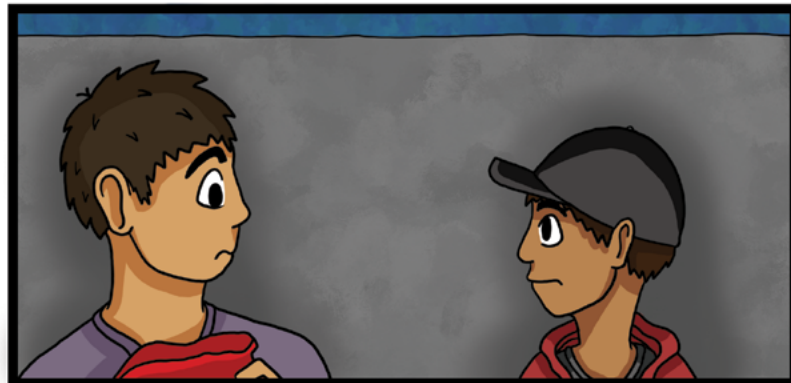
NI...

...KO MOOCH.









UH, MAYBE,
KITAYÁAKITSISSTANISTOHPOAAWA.

WHEN MAKÓYI IKSÍKKÁ'YI
LEFT THE BATTLE,

HE FOLLOWED THE MOON
UNTIL ITSÍSTTANISTOWOOWA

THEN
HE FOLLOWED
PLEIADES UNTIL
NIKSI KAKATÓ'SIIKSI
DISAPPEARED.

NEXT HE
FOLLOWED THE
BIG DIPPER.
MAKE SURE WE
KEEP IT AT AN ANGLE
WHERE IT WON'T
MÁÁHKSOOTAA'SI.

THEN HE WALKED
THE PATH TO

NI
MAKÓYOOHSOKOYI...

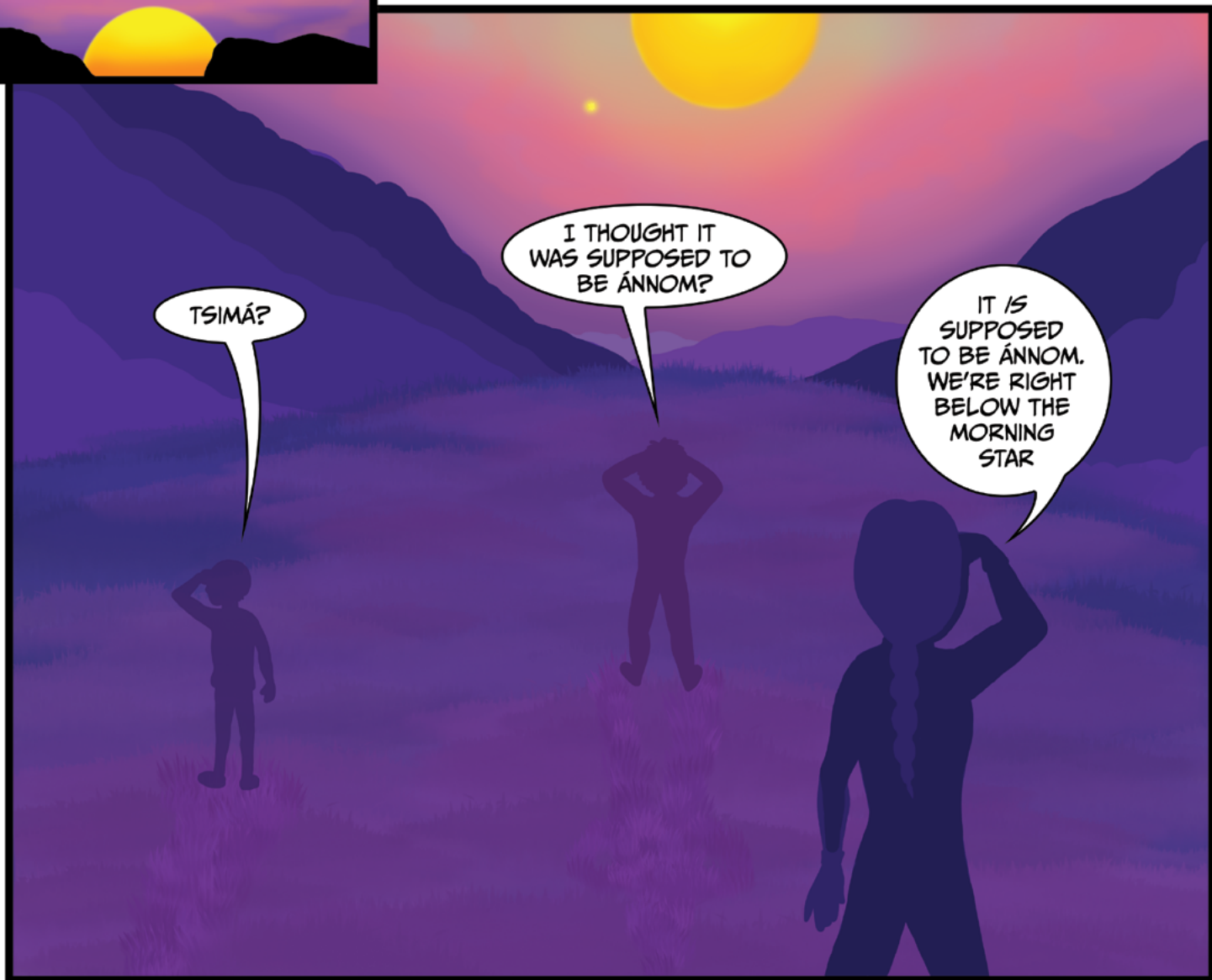
THAT IS UNTIL
THE SUN BEGAN
TO RISE AND HE SAW
THE MORNING STAR
JUST ABOVE THE
ENTRANCE.

THIS PERMIT ISN'T VALID
UNTIL TOMORROW AT NOON.

OK, FINE...

WE'LL
BE BACK
TOMORROW
AND NOTHING
WILL STOP
US.





TSIMÁ?

I THOUGHT IT
WAS SUPPOSED TO
BE ÁNNOM?

IT IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE ÁNNOM.
WE'RE RIGHT
BELOW THE
MORNING
STAR



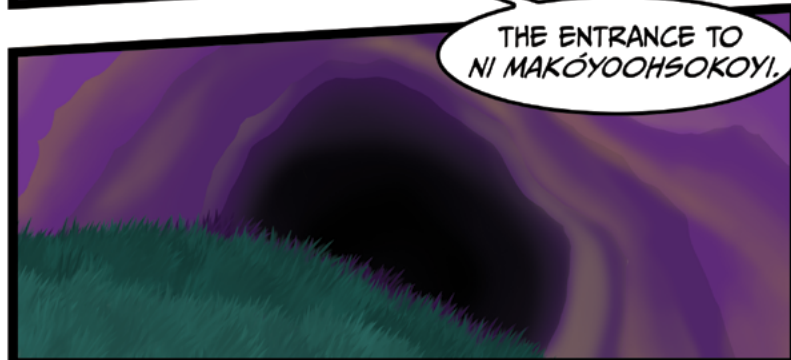
THEY'RE
COMING OUT,
NIKSI KATATÓ'SIIKSI

WELL AT LEAST
IT'S PRETTY...



ISSÁ'TSIT ÁNNI!

OMÓYIOHK,



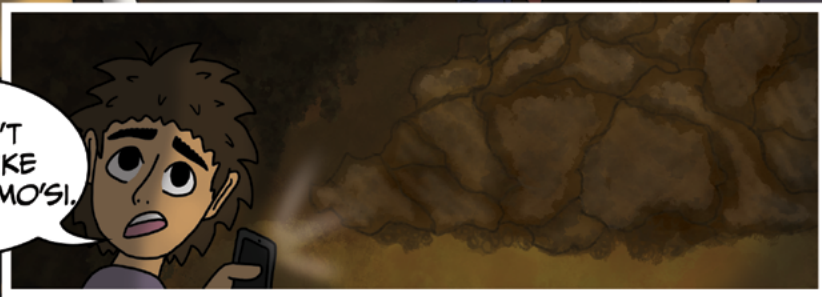
THE ENTRANCE TO
NI MAKÓYOOHSOKOYI.



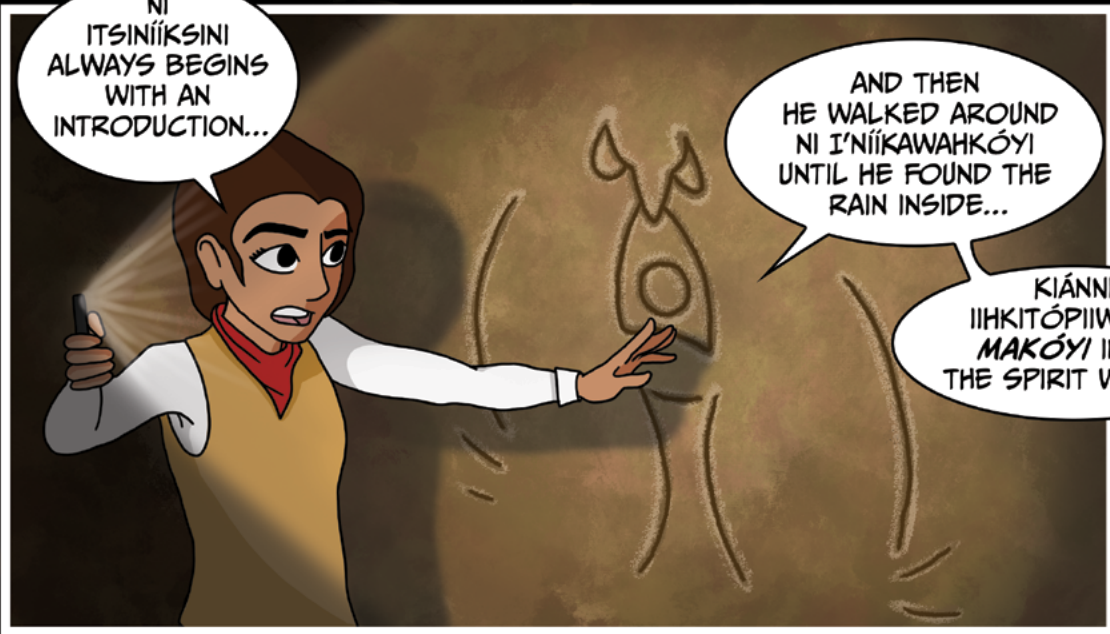
ÁÁKOHTOHKOIIKIO'P
THE FLASHLIGHTS
ON OUR PHONES.



WHAT DID THE
STORY SAY NEXT?



IT
DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
MÁÁKSISAMO'SI.



NI
ITSINIÍKSINI
ALWAYS BEGINS
WITH AN
INTRODUCTION...

AND THEN
HE WALKED AROUND
NI I'NÍKAWAHKÓYI
UNTIL HE FOUND THE
RAIN INSIDE...

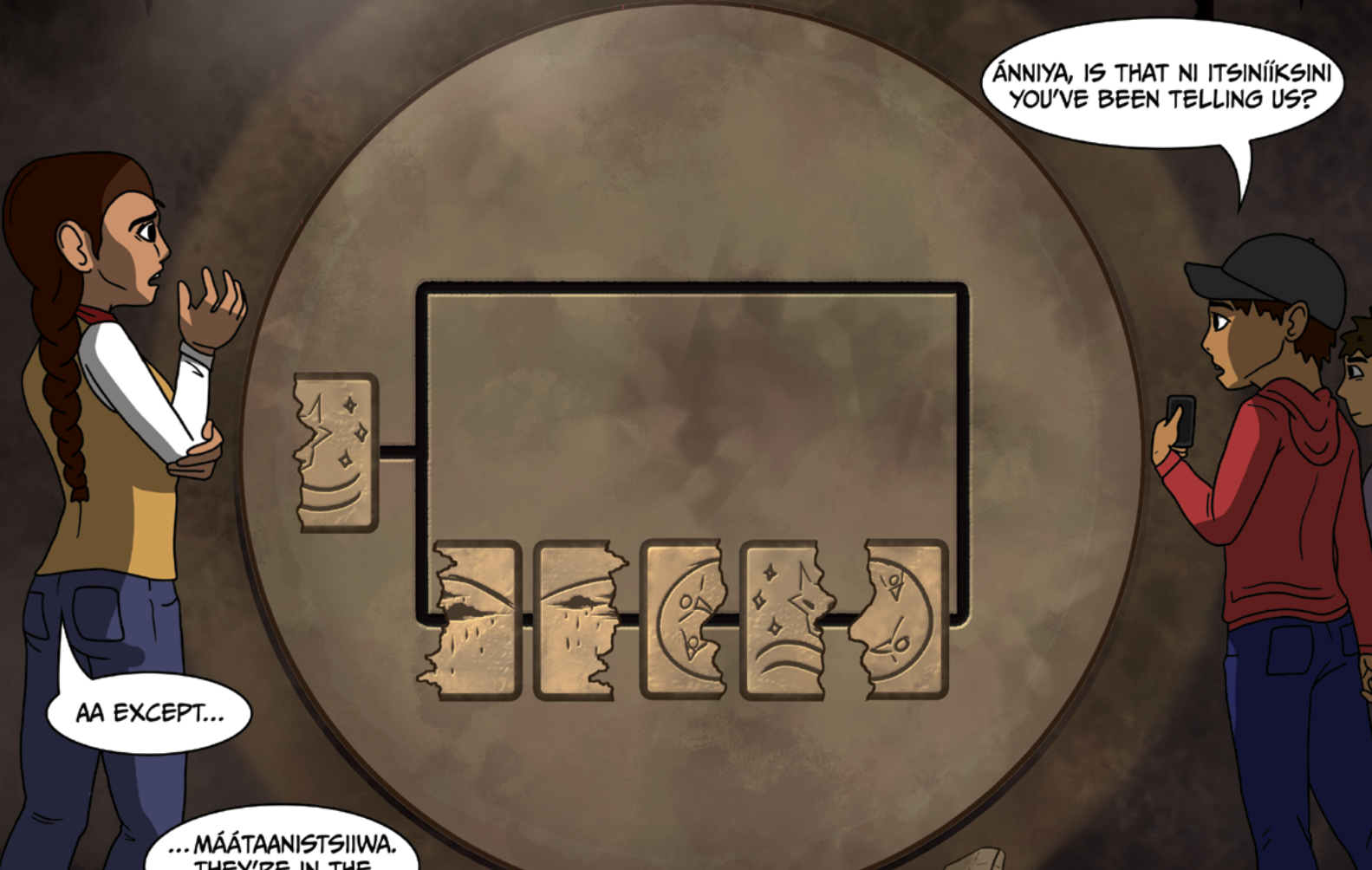
KIÁNNI
IIHKITÓPIIWA NI
MAKÓYI INTO
THE SPIRIT WORLD.



SO HOW
DO WE FIND NI
I'NÍKAWAHKÓYI?



I THINK ANNIYO'KA.



ÄNNIYA, IS THAT NI ITSINIÍKSINI YOU'VE BEEN TELLING US?

AA EXCEPT...

... MÁÁTAANISTSIIWA. THEY'RE IN THE WRONG ORDER.



ÓÓHKIMAAT! LOOK!



IKSOKÁ'PIIWA!

-CRACKLE-

ROLL

-CH-

-CH-

TA'KÁÁ'TSAPTSIT.

THIS IS THE
COOLEST THING I'VE
EVER SEEN.
IKSSTÁTSITA'PIWA!

KIÁNNIYAYI,
WE WERE RIGHT.



THIS IS SO COOL.
IKSSTÁTSITA'PIWA!



THIS IS THE COOLEST
THING I'VE EVER DONE.
IKSSTÁTSITA'PIWA!



THE COOLEST I'LL
EVER BE.
IKSSTÓNATSTÁTSITA'PIWA!



YEAH,
MÁÁTOHKSSTÁTSITA'PIWA.











WE GOT YOU!

STRUGGLE



SORRY
NITSIKISAMÓSSPINNAANA,

BUT HEY,
WE REMEMBERED
WHO WE ARE.

AA...

I'M BATMAN
NITÓTSISTAPI'TAKI.

WE ARE A TEAM...
ISSPÓMMOTKIT.

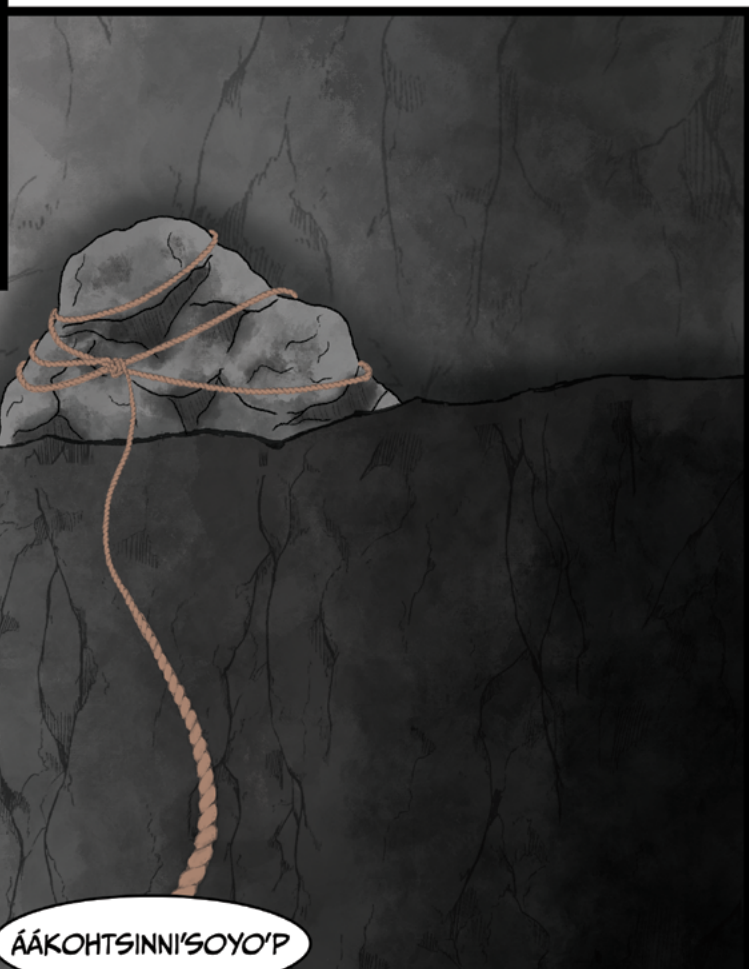
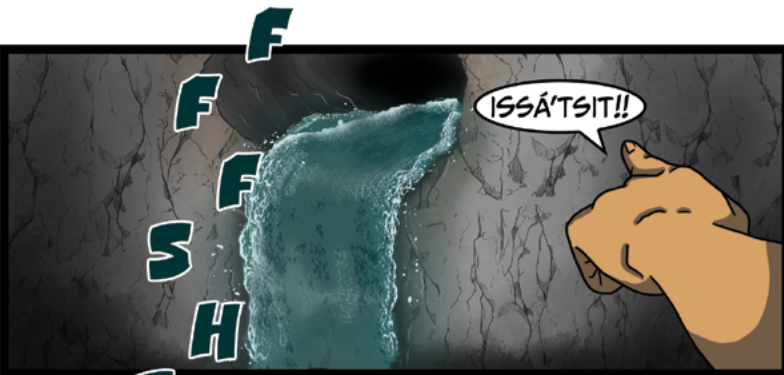


LATER...

FSHSHSPPTFSPT

TO MAKE
THINGS WORSE
AAKÓMATAPSOOTAAWA.

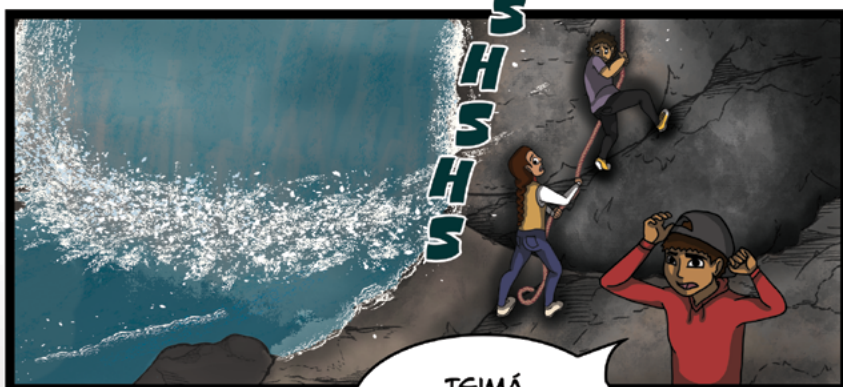
KIKÁ...
RAIN INSIDE!



ÁÁKOHTSINNI'SOYO'P



I'M NOT BATMAN...
I'M SPIDERMAN.



TSIMÁ
AAKITA'PÓÓ'PA?



TAKÁÁ
KISTÓÓWAAWA?



TAKÁÁ
KISTÓÓWAAWA?



J-JANIE.



TAKÁÁ?



NITÁÁNIKO
JANIE.





ÓÓMI ISSÁ'TSIT!
WE'VE MADE
IT!



THE TREE OF LIFE
KITÁÁKSSPOMMOKOAWA
KITÁÁKOHKOONIHSSOAWA.
I WILL TAKE YOU THERE.

...IITAMÁÁKITO'TTSIIWA



TIME'S UP!
WE GAVE YOU
ALL THE TIME YOU
NEEDED.

PLEASE!

MY KIDS DIDN'T
COME HOME.

I THINK
THEY'RE STILL
IN THE WOODS.



NOT MY
PROBLEM...

START EM' UP!



BANG.



**VRRMMM
VRRMMM
VRRMMM**



PLEASE,
JUST LET ME
FIND THEM.



JUST ONE HOUR,

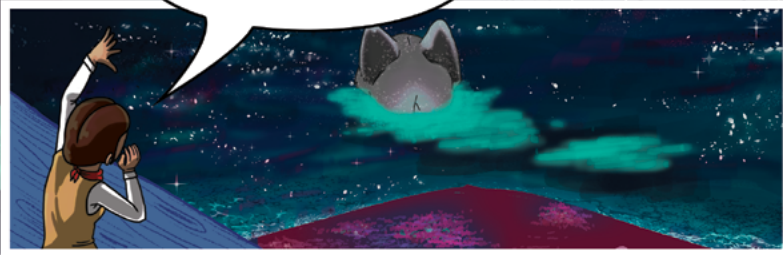
PLEASE!



KIKI, SAA!



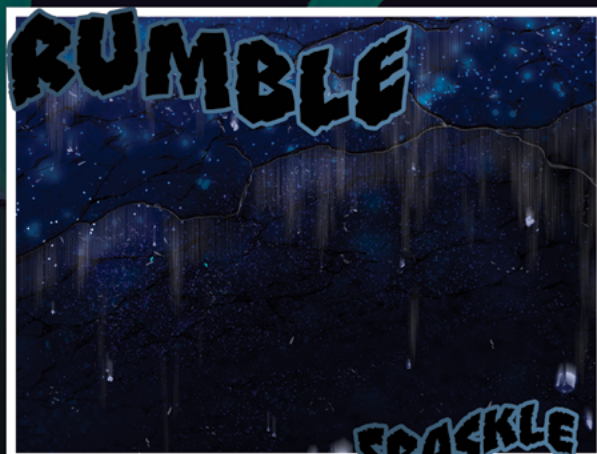
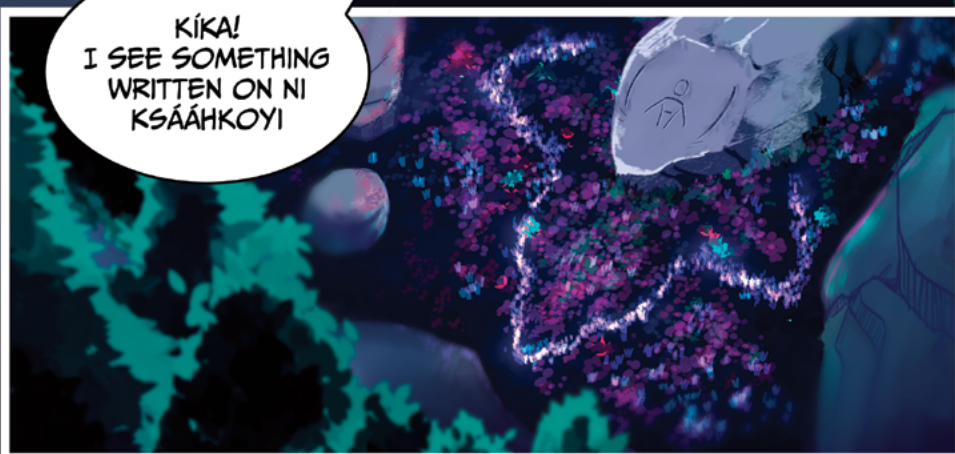
MAKÓYI,
KITSÍKSIMATSÍ'TSI'P!



NIMÁÁTOHKITÁINI'PA...
IT COULD BE
ANYWHERE.



KÍKA!
I SEE SOMETHING
WRITTEN ON NI
KSÁÁHKOYI



RUMBLE

CRACKLE



JANIE
POOHSÄPSINNISOOT!
THE CEILING IS
GIVING IN.

RUMBLE



CRASH



MOOCH?
QUENTIN?

AA,
NIMÁÁTOHKOYI'KIIHPA
MOOCH?

THIS SUCKS.

RUSTLE

SHUFFLE

CLICK









NITSÍISIKSIKAIKOANIHPINNAAN.



NITSÍISIKSIKAIKOANIHPINNAAN!

NITSÍISIKSIKAIKOANIHPINNAAN!



NITÁÁNIKO
MOOCH.

NITÁÁNIKO
JANIE!

NITÁÁNIKO
QUENTIN.



NITSÍISIKSIKAIKOANIHPINNAAN!



AND
THERE GOES NI
PAAPÓ'SINI.

THERE
WAS A PART
TO NI ITSINIÍKSINI
I NEVER
UNDERSTOOD...

"ONLY
IN TRUE
ISKIÍNAATTSI
WILL YOU KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE."

OOMI ISSÁ'TSIT!

ÁÁHKAMIIHKAYÁÁKOHKOTTSAKSO'P

I THINK
I CAN GET
THROUGH!

I'M
MAKING IT.
WE'RE GONNA
DO THIS!



OOMI
ISSÁ'TSIT!

ÁKAIYINNIMÁTSIIYA
NI HERBIE!

HEY
LET HIM
GO!

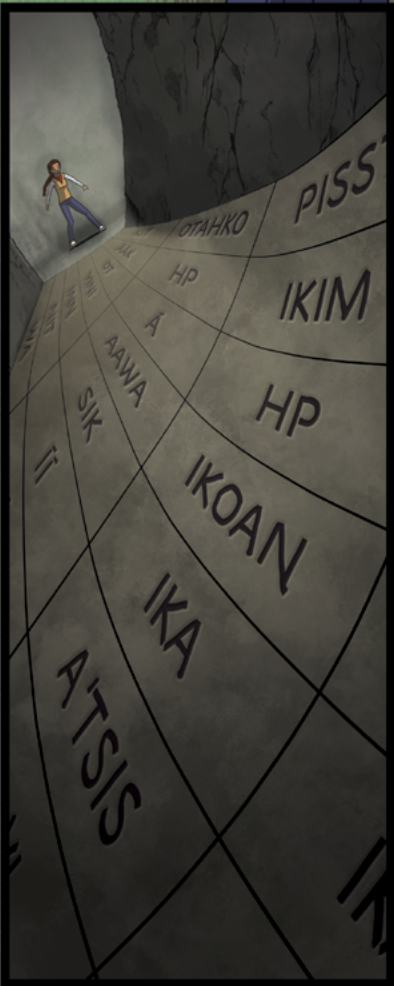
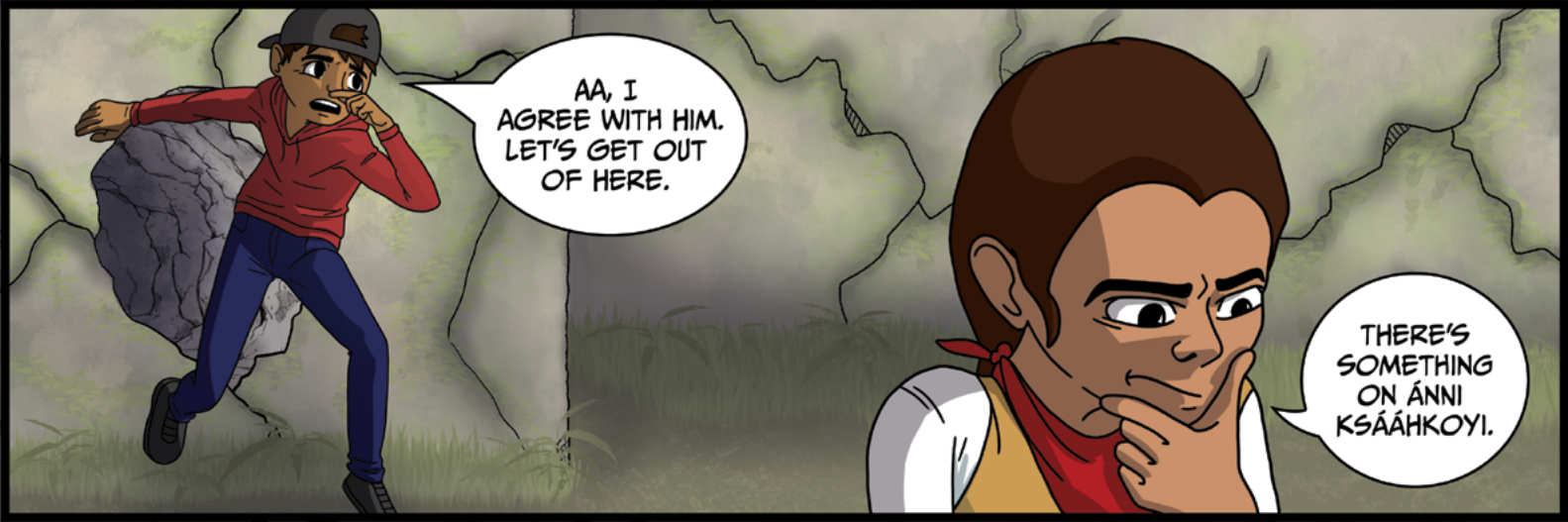
JANIE!
IF YOU'RE IN THE
CLUBHOUSE,

MIISTAPÓKSKA'SIT!

NINNA?

TSA ANISTAPÍIWA?

I THINK
NITÓÓHTOAWA
NINNA NITÁWAANIKKA
NITÁÁKIISTAPÓKSKA'SSINI



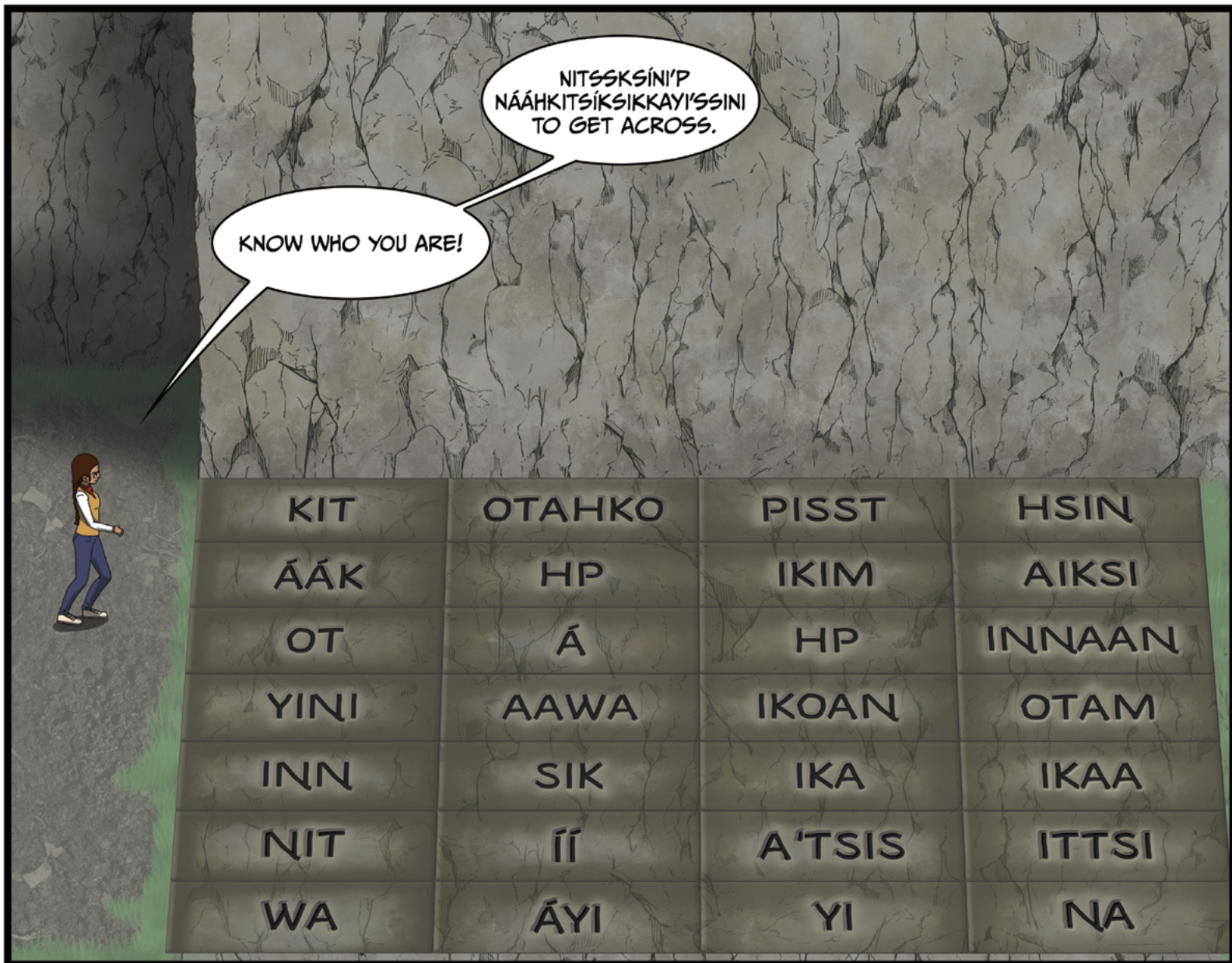


THERE'S
PARTS OF
WORDS ALL
OVER THE
FLOOR.

ÁMOYI
ÁÁHKSOKA'PIIWA
ÁÁHKOHTSITO'TOHSI



THAT WAS
THE WRONG
PART...



KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

NITSSKSÍNI'P
NÁÁHKITSÍKSIKKAYI'SSINI
TO GET ACROSS.

KIT

OTAHKO

PISST

HSIN

ÁÁK

HP

IKIM

AIKSI

OT

Á

HP

INNAAN

YINI

AAWA

IKOAN

OTAM

INN

SIK

IKA

IKAA

NIT

ÍÍ

A'TSIS

ITTSI

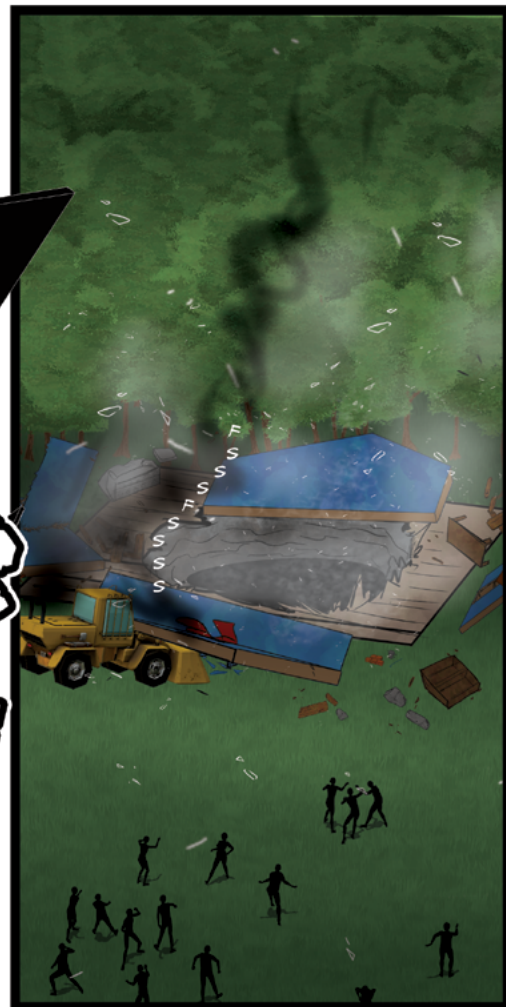
WA

ÁYI

YI

NA







NITÁÁNIKO JANIE!

**NITSÍISIKSIKAIKOANIHPINNAAN
KI ANNI NITSIKSÁÁHKOMINNAAN!**



END.

BLACKFOOT PHRASE GUIDE

A'páíkohkomi

Scabby Round Robe

Aa

Yes

Ááhkamihkayáákohkottsakso'p

That might be a way out

Áákaanistsiiwa

It will be okay

Aakitá'pssa'tsi'pa

Let's look around

Áákohtohkoiikio'p

Let's use (it/them)

Áákohtsinni'soyo'p

We can go down

Áákoksistotsimiyaawa

They are going to destroy it

Aakómatapsootaawa

It's starting to rain

Ááksikio'pa

What will we do?

Ááksinnisoo'si

... that we will go down

Áákstopomatoos' annóhk

... that we have to go now

Áánii!

Stop!

Ahkayík

Go home (all of you)

Ákaiyinnimátsiia

They purposefully took him

Ámoyi ááhksoka'piiwa

ááhkohtsito'tohsi

This is a good way to go

Ánniayi!

That's enough!

Ánniya

Woah!

Anniyo'ka

That's it there

Anno kitsiksááhkominnon

This is our land (inclusive)

Ánnom

Here

Iitamáákito'ttsiia

Time is running out

Iksoká'piiwa!

It's good!

Iksstátsita'piwa

That's great/cool!

Iksstónnatstátsita'piwa!

That's really great/cool!

Iskiínaattsi

Darkness

Issá'tsit ánni

Look!

Isspómmokit

Help me!

Isspómmotkit

We help each other

Isspomóowaahsi

... that we help

Itomátapo'tsimiaawa

They were starting to take it

Itsísttanistowoowa

It crested the hills

Kainai

Blood Tribe

Ki máátsstoyispa

And there is no shame

Kiánni aistóóhkimaat

Just wait here!

Kiánni iihkitópiiwa ni makóyi

And then he/she rode a wolf

Kiánniyayi

Hooray!

Kiistówa

You

Kiká

Wait!

Kimáátsksaahkoma

This isn't your land

Kitáákitohkitopiissini

Get up on its back

Kitááksspommohpoaawa

kitáákito'too'soaawa ni

niyítahtaayi

I will help you all get down the river

Kitááksspommokoaawa

kitáákhkoonihsoaawa

He/She will help you all find what you

are looking for

Kitáániistoki

You told me

Kitayáákitsistsaanistohpoaawa

Tell us again

Kitohto'too'piiwa

You are from (there)

Kitsiksááhkominnon

Our land (inclusive)

Kitsíksimatsí'tsi'p

Thank you /You are admired

Kitsitsinikááso'pists

Our stories

Mááhksootaa'si

... that it might rain

Mááksisamo'si

... that we have far to go

Máátaanistsiiwa

They are the wrong way

Máátohksoka'piiwa

This isn't good

Máátohksstátsita'piwa

That's not great/cool

Makóyi Iksikká'yi

Walking Wolf

Miistapókska'sit!

Run away!

Miksi áíkamo'siks

Those thieves

Na nínna

My dad

Náápiikoais

White people

Naatowá'piiwa

Sacred object

Ni i'níikawahkóyi

The valley of the dead

Ni inno'tokáán

The buffalo skull

Ni itsiníksini

The story

Ni ksááhkoyi

The ground/land

Ni makóyoohsokoyi

The wolf trail (path to the spirit world)

Niistówa

Me, myself, me too

Niitsítapiyaaki

Blackfoot woman

Niksi kakató'siiksi

The stars

Niksi niitsítapiks

The Blackfoot people ("real/genuine people")

Nimáátohkitáinii'pa

I don't see it

Nimáátohkoyi'kiihpa

I'm not in a bad way

Ninakísttsiistomi

I feel a little sick

Nitaaki'toánistootsissini

My doing it alone

Nitáákoohkonihpinnaan

We were going to find it

Nitáániko

My name is _____

Nitáánistaa

I told him/her

Nitákkaiks

My friends

Nitóóhtoawa nínna

nitáwaanikka

nitáákiistapókska'ssini

I heard my dad telling me that I need to

run away

Nitótsistapi'taki

I understand it to be so

Nitsíísiksikaikoanihpinnaan

We are Blackfoot

Nitsikisamósspinnana

We took a long time

Nitsiksááhominaan

Our land (exclusive)

Nitssksini'p

nááhkitsíksikkayi'ssin

I know where to step

Nóhto'too Kainai

I come from Kainai

Okí!

Come on! Let's go!

Omóyiohk

There it is

Onóótsskiyaawa

They were hungry/greedy

Óóhkimaat!

Wait!

Ookóoway ki ókso'kowaiksi

His/Her home and relatives/people

Paapó'sini

Battery

Piitao'mááhka

Running Eagle

Poohsápsinnisoot

Get down here!

Saa

No

Sikóksskitsists

Charcoal

Siksiká'powahsin

Blackfoot language

Ta'káá'tsaptis

We're going to find it

Takáá

Who

Takáá kistóowaawa

Who are you (all)?

Tsa anistapíiwa

What is it?

Tsa kitáánihpa

What did you say?

Tsa?

How?

Tsimá aakita'póó'pa

Where will we go?

Tsimá?

Where (is it)?

Tsimáá kóhto'too'pa?

Where are you from?

WATCH USAY'S
BLACKFOOT
LEARNING GUIDE

