



Legend of Mosquito

Kayas, long ago, in the days of our chapan's chapan's, our ancestors say that the animals were very different from the way they are today. They would talk to one another, and some even looked much different. One such creature was Sugameese, the mosquito. In those days, Sugameese was almost as big as you and I. He had a very nasty habit for he enjoyed causing trouble and spreading secrets that he shouldn't have told. Mamawi Ohtawimow, the Creator, heard about this and decided to watch Sugameese one day, so he disguised himself as Kehew, the eagle, and flew down and landed on a tree to watch over Sugameese.

Sugameese was walking around by a beaver dam thinking to himself "Boy, what a boring day, I'm going to see if I can find some fun". Just then Sugameese noticed Upschimoosis, the deer, carefully walking over the beaver dam to get to the other side of the pond. Sugameese looked around the pond and noticed Umsk, the beaver, swimming around. Sugameese thought "Hmmm, I think I might have found some fun." Sugameese walked to the pond's edge and called Umsk over. "Tansi Umsk, I was walking by and I noticed Upchimoosis over there crossing your dam. What do you think of that? It seems to me he's doing some damage to it."

Umsk looked over at Upschimoosis crossing the dam and said "Tansi Sugameese, you're right! Upchomoosis is damaging my work! He always does that. He thinks he's so important prancing around like he's some kind of prince or something! With his stupid looking big ears and waving tail, he thinks everyone should bow down to him! One of these days I'm going to slap him with my tail!" With that, Umsk swam quickly away toward his lodge.

Sugameese waited until Umsk was farther up the pond before calling to Upschimoosis, who hadn't noticed anyone until then. "Tansi Sugameese" Upschimoosis said. Sugameese walked up to Upchimoosis and said "Moynantow Upchomoosis. You're not going to believe what Umsk just had to say to me! He said that you think you're so important prancing around like some kind of prince and that you look stupid with your long ears and waving tail. That you think everyone should bow down to you! He said he's going to slap you with his tail one of these days!"

Upschimoosis couldn't believe his ears! He turned bright red and quickly went walking toward the pond leaving Sugameese to watch. Sugameese quickly hid behind a tree giggling to himself, rubbing his hands together thinking, "Now I'll have some fun!"

This guide was developed by the Alberta Professional Learning Consortium and funded partially by Alberta Education to support implementation. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.



Legend of Mosquito

Upchimoosis called to Umsk who quickly swam over to the edge of the pond. "Tansi tigwee! I just heard that you said I think I'm so important with my stupid big ears and waving tail, acting like I'm some kind of prince and that I think everyone should bow down to me! I even heard you were going to slap me with your tail!" Umsk looked embarrassed. He looked at Upchimoosis apologetically. "Upchimoosis, I'm so sorry you heard those terrible things. Although I did say them, I was very angry at the time as you were crossing on my dam and wrecking all my hard work. I never meant for you to hear those things and of course I really didn't mean it, I was just so angry at the time."

Upschimoosis looked at Umsk for a while before saying "I'm sorry for wrecking all your hard work, but if you had a problem with me crossing there you should have just said something to me, I gladly would find somewhere else to cross. I understand you said those things in anger and I forgive you. Next time I'll be sure to stay off your dam." Upshimoosis and Umsk shook hands and went back to what they were doing before the whole incident.

Sugameese, still peeking from behind the tree, looked on with an angry look on his face. "How dare they ruin my fun! They have no right to make up or not get mad! I wanted to see a fight! Now what am I going to do to pass this boring day?"

Sugameese kicked the tree and walked away from the pond in anger.

Sugameese didn't walk very far before he noticed Mooswa, the moose, standing in a patch of low berry bushes scratching his stomach on them as moose will often do. Sugameese looked around and noticed Muskwa, the bear, sleeping in the shade of a tall tree. Sugameese grew a smile on his face and walked over to where Muskwa was sleeping. "Tansi Muskwa!" he shouted. Muskwa, having a quick temper, jumped up and growled at Sugameese, "Grrrrrr, how dare you wake me up from my nap Sugameese! You better have a really good reason!" Sugameese quickly explained, "N'toteem, I'm sorry for waking you but I do have a good reason. I was walking by and I noticed Mooswa was walking all over your berry patch and ruining your food. I just thought you probably wouldn't like it very much!"

Muskwa looked over at Mooswa, who had his head way back as he scratched his belly on the bushes. Muskwa had an angry look on his face. "That Mooswa is always doing that! Stomping all over my berries and getting fur all over them. I hate pulling that fur out of my teeth. That big nose, long eared goofy looking donkey better stop doing that soon or I'm going to swat that goofy looking smile off his face!" Muskwa shook his head and lay back down under the tree. Sugameese waited until Muskwa was snoring again then carefully walked over to where Mooswa was scratching his belly on the bushes.



Legend of Mosquito

"Tansi Mooswa. I was just over by that tree over there and can't believe what I just heard! Muskwa is there and he just said that you are a big nose, long eared goofy looking donkey! He even said he wants to swat that smile off your face! I just thought you should know what he said." The hair on the hump of Mooswa's back stood on end and rage filled his eyes, for although moose are very shy, they do have a very bad temper when bothered. "How dare that fur ball say those things! I'm going over there now to stomp him into the ground!" Mooswa let out a grunt and ran toward where Muskwa was sleeping. Sugameese slapped his hands together, "At last! This is what I wanted to see!"

Just as Mooswa was about to stomp on Muskwa, who was still sleeping, a huge Kihew flew in front of him. The Kihew transformed into Mamawi Ohtawimow, as all this time he was still watching from the tree above. "Mooswa kayakstoota, stop. I have been watching and right now you are mad for the wrong reason. You will walk away and cool down. Both you and I will talk with Muskwa after you cool off and you will see that Muskwa said those things for a reason, and that he never meant for you to hear those words." Mooswa did as he was told and walked away. Sugameese meanwhile hid behind a tree in fear, for he knew he had done wrong.

"Sugameese! Astam! Kweyaho!" said Mamawi Ohtawimow. Sugameese, knowing he was in trouble, came forward holding his head in shame. "I have heard of your misdeeds and have watched them with my own eyes today. Since you like to go around causing trouble and trying to get others to fight, from now on I will make you, your children, and your children's children so tiny that no one will really notice you coming, that way you can't get anyone's attention other than to slap you away. And since you like to go around telling secrets and gossip, I will make you, your children, and your children's children have a voice so small that no matter how loud you holler into anyone's ears all they will hear is a little buzz instead of the secrets you try to tell. It shall be like this for all time." And so it became that Sugameese was made very tiny, with an equally tiny voice, but even to this day, Sugameese tries to tell secrets and gossip. That is why even now it seems a mosquito will go straight to your ears and buzz around them, still trying to tell secrets and cause trouble.