

The Little Prince Translated into Ojibwemowin

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Ogimaans is the first translation of *The Little Prince* in an Indigenous language of the North American continent. The Little Prince was originally written by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry and translated into Ojibwemowin by Angela Mesic, Margaret Noodin, Susan Wade and Michael Zimmerman Jr. The book has been translated into 445 languages and dialects. *Ogimaans* is an *aadizookaan*, a teaching story, about being alive and the relationships that develop in the journey of life. While the core meaning of this epic tale remains the same, each translation offers a perspective on being that contributes to our shared understanding.

The translation team began work with two documents: a translation stylesheet, and a translation lessons file. The translation stylesheet was a living document and evolved as each team member made discoveries in the translation process and added their knowledge to the record. The document includes general style notes, typographic conventions, and essential vocabulary. The general style notes detail the point of view of each character, when to use independent vs conjunct form, prefix preferences for first and third person point of view in independent form. This resulted in a record of the group's critical thinking behind the translation of this work.

Our translation lessons file illustrates the perspective of the audience within the structure of Anishinaabemowin and the challenges of translating from a subject centered language to one that is verb centered. Our translation conformed primarily to the western Ojibwe orthography and the Fiero Double Vowel spelling system.

There are not enough adult level chapter books translated into Ojibwemowin and this will be a welcomed option for adult learners. *The Little Prince* has many themes that engage young and adult readers. Students will be able to recognize and reinforce the material learned in formal classes.

Work Cited

de Saint-Exupery, Antoine. *The Little Prince*. Translated by Katherine Woods. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1943.

de Saint-Exupery, Antoine. *The Little Prince*. Translated by Angela Mesic, Margaret Noodin, Susan Wade, Michael Zimmerman Jr.. Michigan State University Press., 2021.

“Ogimaans (The Little Prince) Book.” *Ojibwe.net*, 30 Aug. 2021, <https://ojibwe.net/ogimaans-the-little-prince-book/>.