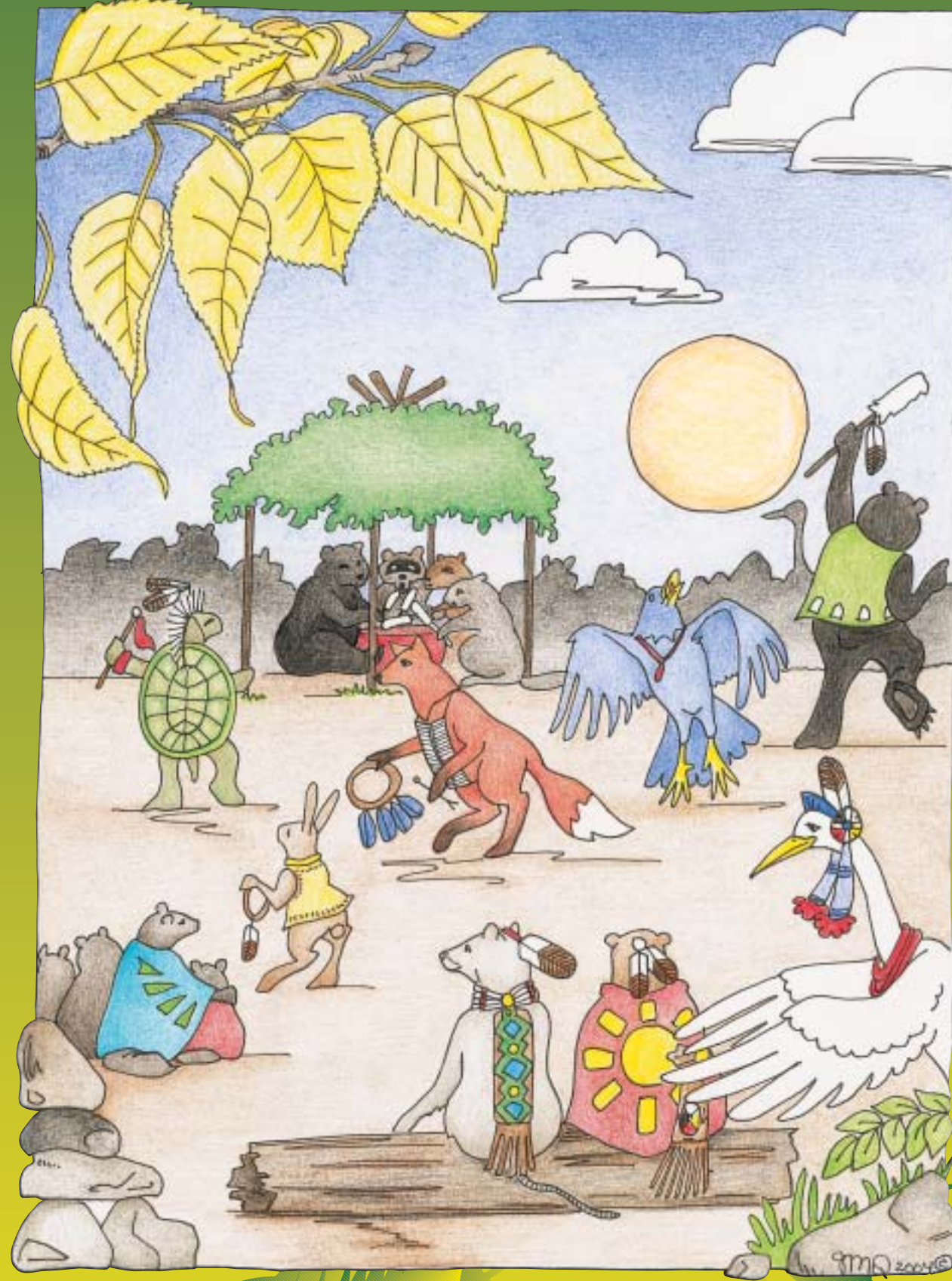


# Tricked On The Trail

## The Gathering

# *The pressure was strong and Crane's decision was wrong!*

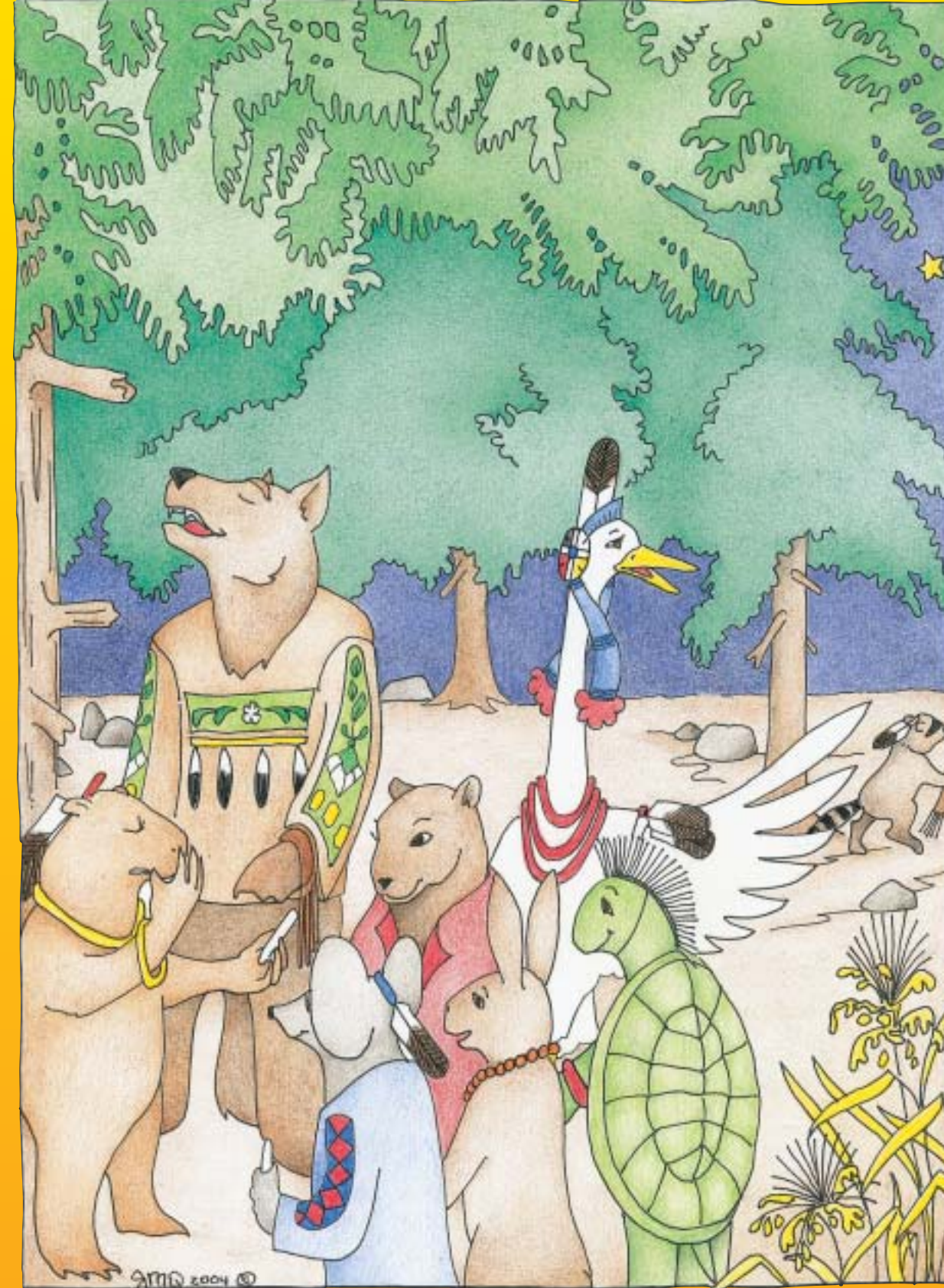


It is a beautiful, sunny day and all the animals gather for a late summer Pow Wow. Bear, Raccoon, Turtle, Rabbit, Beaver, Mouse, Crane, and our old friends Opossum and Nanaabush Coyote are there.

Crane, who is new to the community, is nervous as she approaches a group of youths talking together.

"Welcome to our group," says Nanaabush. "We would be happy to have you join us, but first you must do us a favor. Opossum has tobacco, but he won't share. We need you to borrow his semaa pouch."

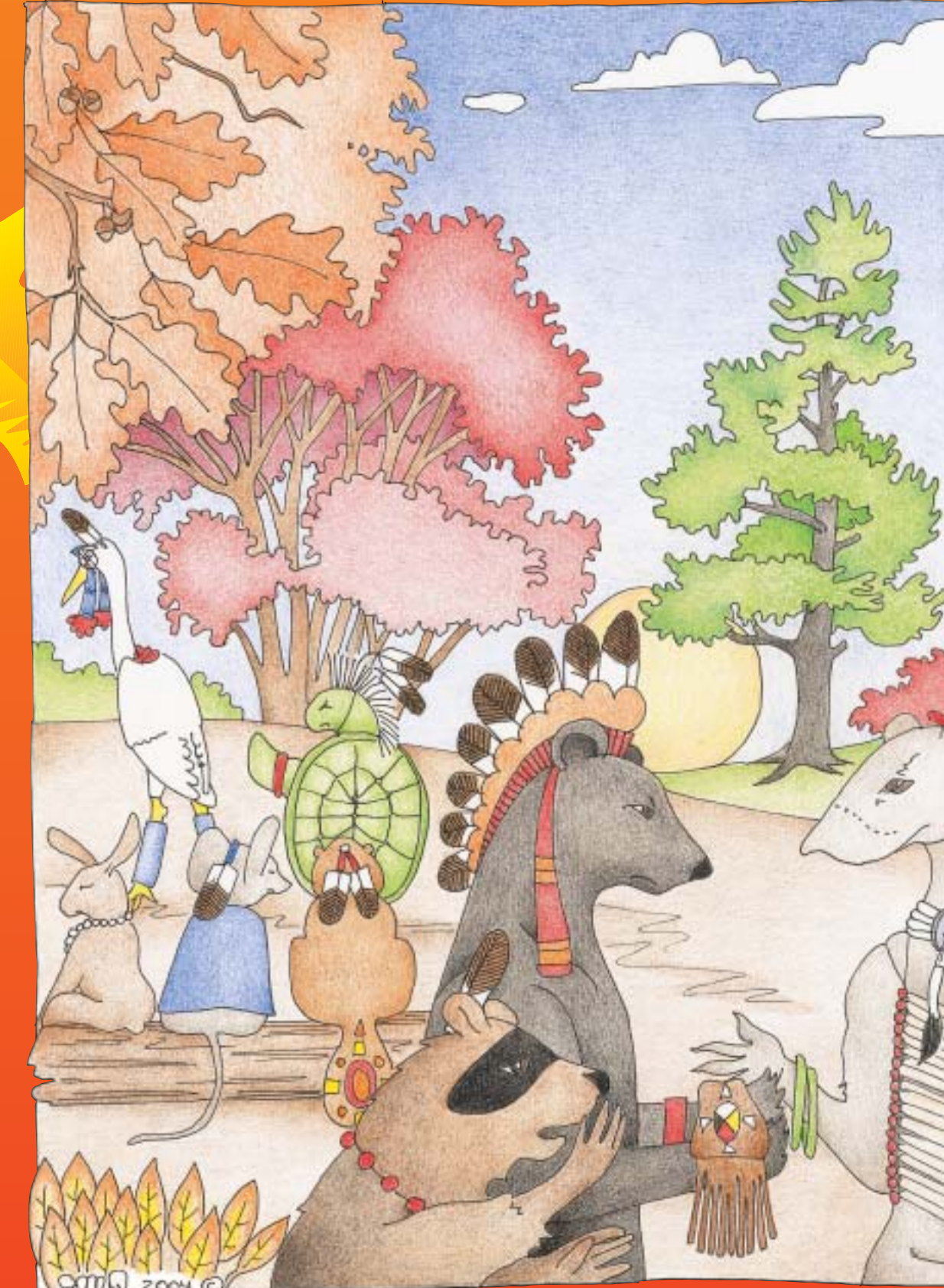
As Opossum is watching the dancing, Crane is able to take his semaa pouch as the others leave for the River.



Crane tucks the semaa pouch under her wing and hurries off to join the others in the ring of trees at the river.

Crane gives Nanaabush the semaa pouch and is happy that she will now be a part of the group. Nanaabush beckons the group to come closer and shows them how to roll the tobacco into a leaf. "We can now smoke the tobacco," says Nanaabush. Raccoon, however, protests, "No, no, this is not how we should use tobacco!" he says.

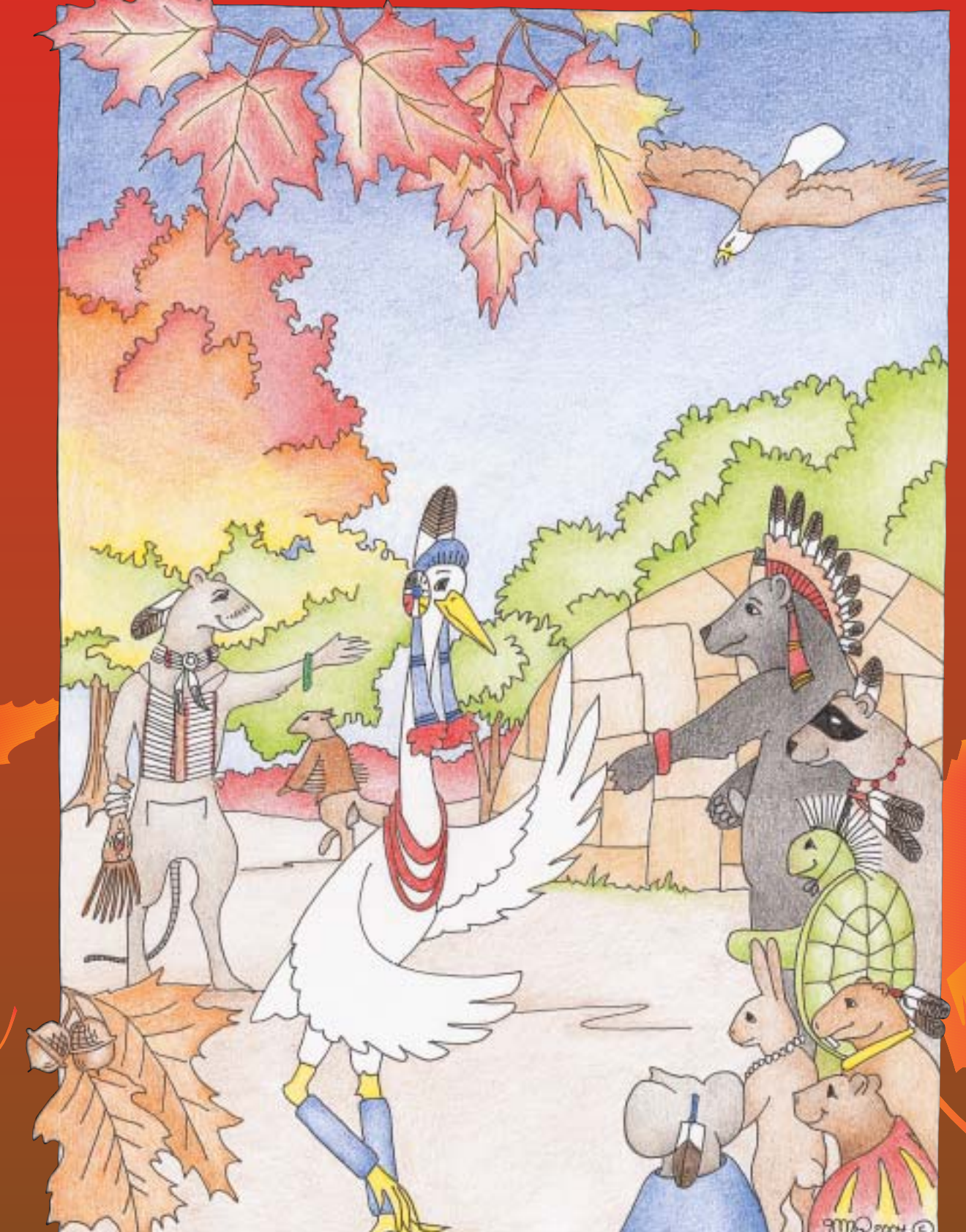
Some of the youths begin to smoke the "rollums," which makes Beaver cough and choke. While they are laughing at Beaver, Raccoon picks up the semaa pouch and hurries away.



The next morning, Crane again approaches the group. Turtle says, "Stop, you are not welcome." The other youth look away as they are all embarrassed about their misuse of the tobacco and blame Crane.

Crane sadly leaves as Raccoon whispers to Bear, "Please return the semaa pouch to Opossum."

Bear returns the semaa pouch to Opossum. "The youths were tricked by Nanaabush," Bear explains to Opossum. "I think it is time for a teaching."



Opossum gathers the youth at the teaching lodge. He explains "Semaa or tobacco is a sacred plant and should be used for ceremonies only. Nanaabush tricked you into smoking the tobacco."

Crane apologizes to the group. "I am sorry. I wanted so much to be part of your group that I was misled by Nanaabush. It was wrong to take the semaa pouch," she says. Nanaabush sneaks off as Crane is welcomed once again to the group.

Everyone, including Crane, returns to the Pow Wow for a new day of dancing, feasting, and friendship.



The Saginaw Chippewa  
Indian Tribe of Michigan  
"Working together for the future of Mid-Michigan"

## KEEP SEMAA SACRED

This media material was made possible by the Behavioral Health Department and the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Public Health Department.  
For more information contact the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe at 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Phone 989-775-4918 or 989-775-4639.

Special thanks to Patrick D. Wilson for the original story and characters,  
Jolene Quinlan for narration and illustrations, Gwen Alwood, Judy Davis and the Tobacco Committee.