

## Gnimedimen (We Dance)

by Browning Neddeau

This poem can be read three different ways:

1. Read the poem from one side to the other as a conversation between grandparent and grandchild.
2. Read just the grandparent's side (including the "together" voices).
3. Read just the grandchild's side (including the "together" voices).

**Grandparent (mesho  
[grandfather] or nokmes  
[my grandmother])**

**Together**

**Grandchild (Noseme)**

Gowabmen.  
(I am watching you.)

Ngot. Nish. [x1]

I dance for you.  
(Nnimesi eko bwa nimesiyen:  
I dance because you can't.)

Dewegen. Dewegen.  
[sound of the heartbeat]

Ngot. Nish. [x2]  
Ngot. Nish.

My moccasins move to the  
sound of the heart.  
(nMkeznen mdwewenon  
gechwa wDe: My moccasins  
they sound like a heart.)

Wawyetok dewegen.  
(Circle the sound of the drum.)

Ngot. Nish. [x3]  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.

I look to you.  
(Gkanabmen.)

Dewegen. Dewegen.

Ngot. Nish. [x4]  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.

Ngemdea  
(You sing from your heart, I  
feel your heart sing)

Nim'édiyen  
(as you dance)

Ngot. Nish. [x5]  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.

Gowabmen.  
(I am watching you.)

Ngot. Nish. [x6]  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.

Nim'edinak ndenwenmagnek  
(Dance for all of our  
relations.)

Gowawabmen.  
(I am watching you like a  
reflection; like looking into a  
mirror.)

Ngot. Nish. [x7]  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.  
Ngot. Nish.

You sing to me, though worlds  
apart.  
(Gngemtew, nesh je bnoch  
yeyen: You sing to me, but  
you are far away.)

I dance for you.  
(Nnimesi eko bwa nimesiyen:  
I dance because you can't.)

We'll never part.  
(Cho wika gwi-webnegomen:  
We will never break up.)