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James Brakken's "lumberjack" books make great gifts and teach all ages respect for nature and the rich history of Wisconsin. (Some teachers say his books are for age 10 and up.) Below is a **free sample** from his delightfully frightening book, **DARK**.

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## **DARK: A CAMPFIRE COMPANION**

**56 original eerie poems and scary stories by James Brakken, author of The Treasure of Namakagon & Tor Loken and the Death of Chief Namakagon** This poem is based on a true event. It was written to help readers pronounce "Namakagon." ("Gamma-noggin" rhymes with Namakagon and may be the only thing that does.)

### **Gamma's Noggin**

Gamma bumped her noggin  
Up on the Namekagon  
While floatin' down the river in a boat.  
She noticed not the tree  
The beaver cut, you see  
It rang her bell with quite an awful note.

A thousand trees or more,  
She passed along the shore.  
Who knew this one would bean her on the head?  
Just before it fell,  
A beaver gnawed it well.  
An evil twist of fate it must be said.

Or was it Grampa's little shove  
That brought the tree from up above?  
No one will know what caused the final curtain.  
'Cept Grampa and the beaver  
And the judge. He's a believer  
Less in fate and more in facts he finds quite certain.

Yes, Gamma bumped her noggin  
On the River Namekagon.  
Now Grampa's in the jailhouse feelin' sad.  
The judge went with the facts  
When the sheriff found Grampa's ax.  
As for the beaver, he had nothing more to add.

That beaver's out there yet.  
Chewing briskly, you can bet.  
Soon a falling tree will splash again.  
So, when on the Namekagon,  
Be sure to guard your noggin  
And think of dear old Grampa in the pen.

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More free samples at **[BadgerValley.com](http://BadgerValley.com)**

**James Brakken is a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner of the 2013 & 2014 Lake Superior Writers Award and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner of the 2013 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards out of 10,000 worldwide entries.**