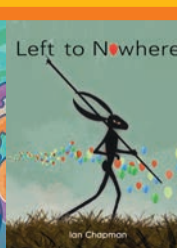
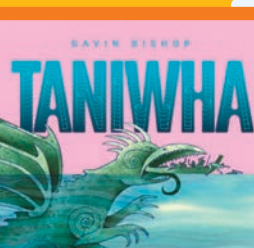
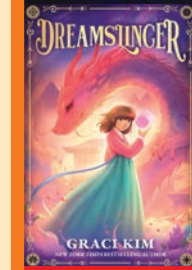
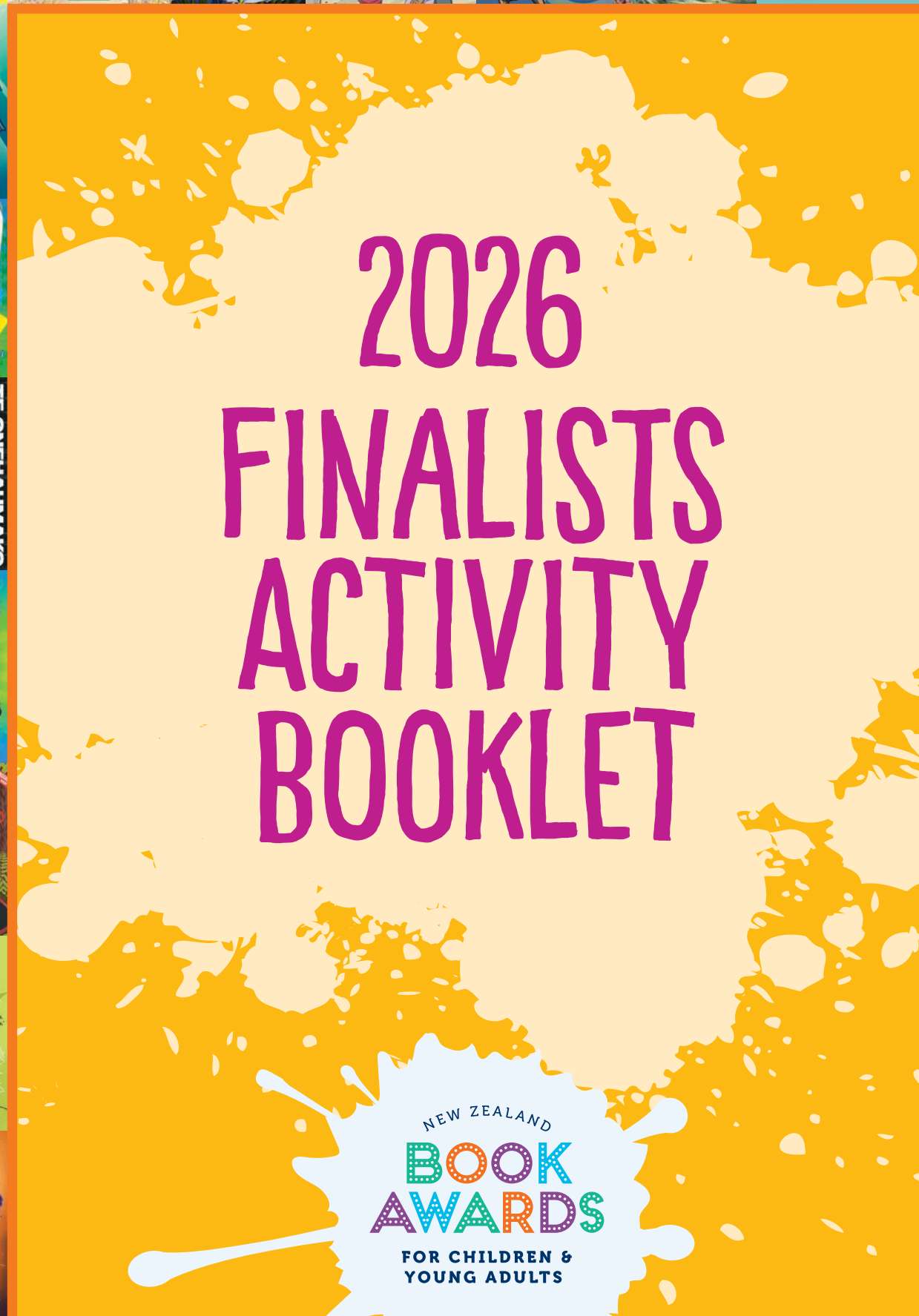
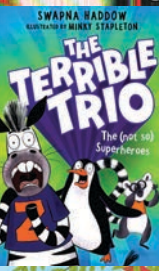
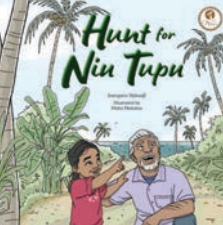
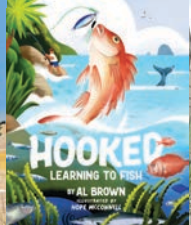
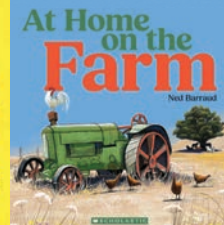




2026 FINALISTS ACTIVITY BOOKLET

NEW ZEALAND
**BOOK
AWARDS**
FOR CHILDREN &
YOUNG ADULTS



DISCOVER, CREATE AND EXPLORE WITH OUR FINALISTS!

#NZCYA 2026

KIA ORA TAMARIKI MĀ! THE FINALISTS IN THE 2026 NEW ZEALAND BOOK AWARDS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE SOME OF THE VERY BEST BOOKS PUBLISHED IN AOTEAROA OVER THE PAST YEAR.

WHETHER YOU LOVE DRAWING, WRITING, SOLVING PUZZLES, OR GETTING CREATIVE, THIS BOOKLET WILL HELP YOU DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE FINALIST BOOKS, CREATE SOMETHING AMAZING, AND EXPLORE NEW IDEAS ALONG THE WAY!

WE'VE LEFT THE PAGE OPPOSITE OPEN FOR YOU TO USE HOWEVER YOU LIKE. COLLECT AUTHOR SIGNATURES AT OUR NZCYA BOOKS ALIVE EVENTS, KEEP A READING LOG, WRITE MINI REVIEWS, OR DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS.

FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY, AND HAVE FUN READING!

NGĀ MIHI NUNUI TO THE SERVICES TO SCHOOLS TEAM AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND FOR CREATING THE FANTASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THIS BOOKLET. ENJOY!

KIA ORA TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL THE FINALIST BOOKS, OR VISIT WWW.NZBOOKAWARDS.NZ #NZCYA #BOOKSALIVE



USE THE SPACE ABOVE FOR AUTOGRAPHS, A READING LOG, YOUR OWN BOOK REVIEWS, OR TO COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES THAT FOLLOW

PICTURE BOOK

BOOKHUB AWARD

ROCKY JOURNEYS, WĒTĀ WORRIES, BRASH BALLOON BURSTING, PLAYFUL PŪKEKO, AND CLASSROOM CREATURES



IN KORO WĒTĀ A WĒTĀ WANTED TO LIVE IN THE CHILD'S GUMBOOT.



ILLUSTRATION © SARAH TROLLE

THE FAMILY BUILT A BUG HOTEL AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

GATHER SOME NATURAL MATERIALS OR RECYCLING TO MAKE A COSY HIDEOUT FOR BUGS IN YOUR BACK YARD OR THE LOCAL PARK. WHO DO YOU THINK WILL MOVE IN?



THE CHARACTERS IN LEFT TO NOWHERE ARE SHOWN AS SILHOUETTES ON ILLUSTRATED BACKGROUNDS.

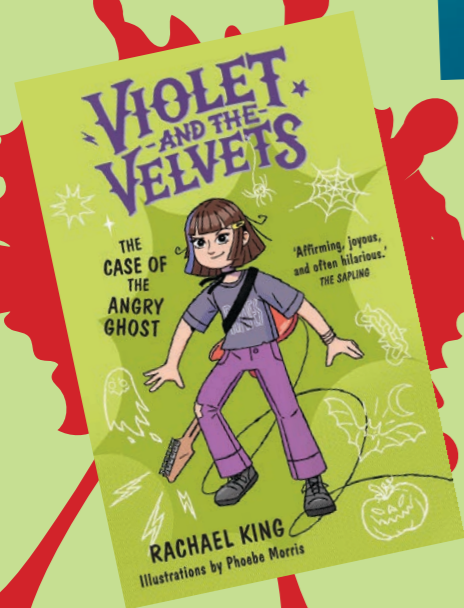
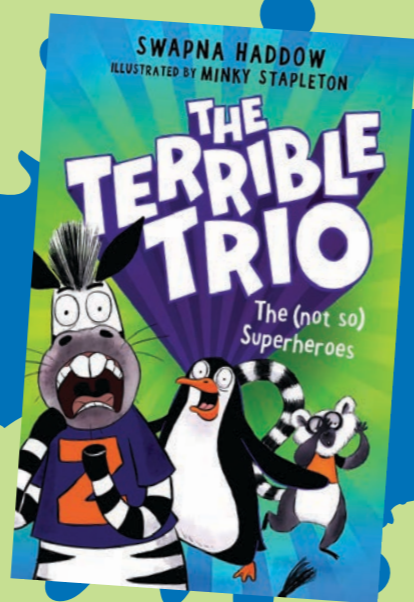


MAKE YOUR OWN CHARACTER FROM BLACK CARD AND SET IT ON YOUR CHOICE OF BACKGROUND.

PAINT YOUR OWN OR FIND PAGES FROM MAGAZINES.

ADD SPLIT PINS TO THE JOINTS OF YOUR CHARACTER TO MAKE IT MOVEABLE.





JUNIOR FICTION
WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION
ESTHER GLEN AWARD

AN ART CRIME SOLVING ROMP,
DREAM-FUELLED FANTASY,
A SEA ADVENTURE, NOT SO
SUPERHEROES, AND A SCHOOL
BAND WITH A MYSTERY

**A DREAMSLINGER
USES THEIR DREAMS
TO ACCESS
ANOTHER WORLD.**

WHAT MIGHT YOU LEARN
FROM YOUR DREAMS?
KEEP A NOTEBOOK
AND PEN BY YOUR BED
TO START YOUR OWN
DREAM JOURNAL.



**KIMI THE
KEKENO'S
BIG ADVENTURE**
INCLUDES ALL
KINDS OF CREATURES
IN THIS EXCITING
JOURNEY
THROUGH THE
MOANA OCEAN.

HELP KIMI
FIND HIS WAY
TO THE ROCK
CIRCLE.



YOUNG ADULT FICTION

WHEELERS BOOKS AWARD

DANCING BETWEEN WORLDS,
MESSY RELATIONSHIPS,
ESPIONAGE, TIME-SHIFTING
ADVENTURES, AND THE COST
OF SAFETY



FOR EPI IN **HIVA & HEARTBEATS** THERE IS A SONG EACH DAY THAT CAPTURES HER MOOD OR VIBE.

CHOOSE A SONG OF THE DAY FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO CREATE A PLAYLIST. WHAT WILL YOU CALL IT? TEAM UP: DO THIS WITH YOUR FRIENDS, THEN SWAP YOUR PLAYLISTS WITH EACH OTHER.



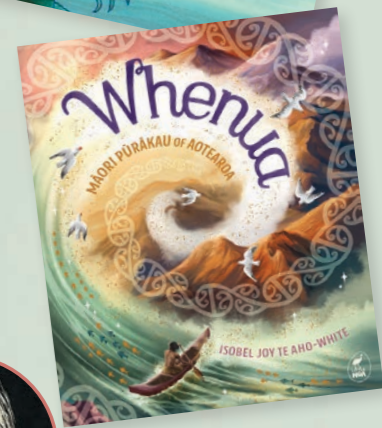
IN **THE LOST SAINT**, **THE RETREAT** AND **SPIDER GAMES**: IN THE CITY OF SPIES, THE MAIN CHARACTERS HAVE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT MODERN TECHNOLOGY. COULD YOU?



CHALLENGE YOURSELF (AND YOUR FRIENDS) TO GO DEVICE-FREE FOR A DAY, OR A WEEKEND.

TANIWHA, WHENUA ME KUPE ME
TE WHEKE NUI A MUTURANGI — HE
PUKAPUKA ĒNEI MŌ NGĀ PŪRĀKAU
ME NGĀ ATUA MĀORI.

TANIWHA, WHENUA AND KUPE
AND THE GREAT OCTOPUS OF
MUTURANGI TELL THE STORIES
OF MANY LEGENDARY MĀORI
FIGURES AND ATUA.



ĀNEI HE MAHERE WHENUA O AOTEAROA NEI.

- KA TAEA E KOE TE KIMI I TŌ WĀHI NOHO ME TŌ WHĀNAU?
- E MŌHIO RĀNEI KOE I ĒTAHI PŪRĀKAU NŌ TŌ ROHE?
- KUA WHAKAATURIA ĒTAHI I KONEI. HE AHA ATU NGĀ PŪRĀKAU HEI TUHI MĀU KI TĒNEI MAHERE WHENUA?

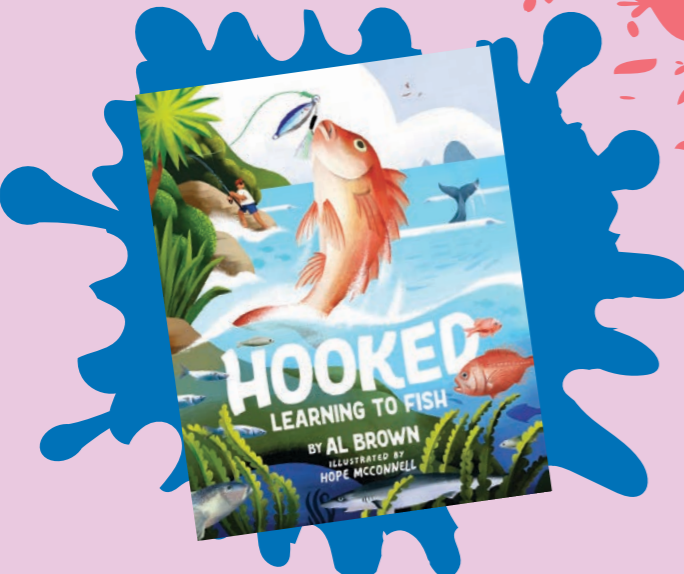
HERE IS A MAP OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND.

- CAN YOU MARK WHERE YOU AND YOUR WHĀNAU LIVE?
- DO YOU KNOW ANY PŪRĀKAU ABOUT YOUR AREA?
- WE'VE SHOWN A FEW FROM THESE BOOKS. WHAT OTHERS CAN YOU LABEL AND ILLUSTRATE?

NON-FICTION

ELSIE LOCKE AWARD

FUN WITH FISH, BEAUTIFUL BIRDS, SURVIVING THE WILD, TERRIFYING TANIWHA, AND STORIES THAT SHAPED OUR LAND



KIWIS LOVE EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO IT SAFELY, AS THE STORIES IN **SURVIVE AOTEAROA** AND THE TIPS IN **HOOKED** TELL US.

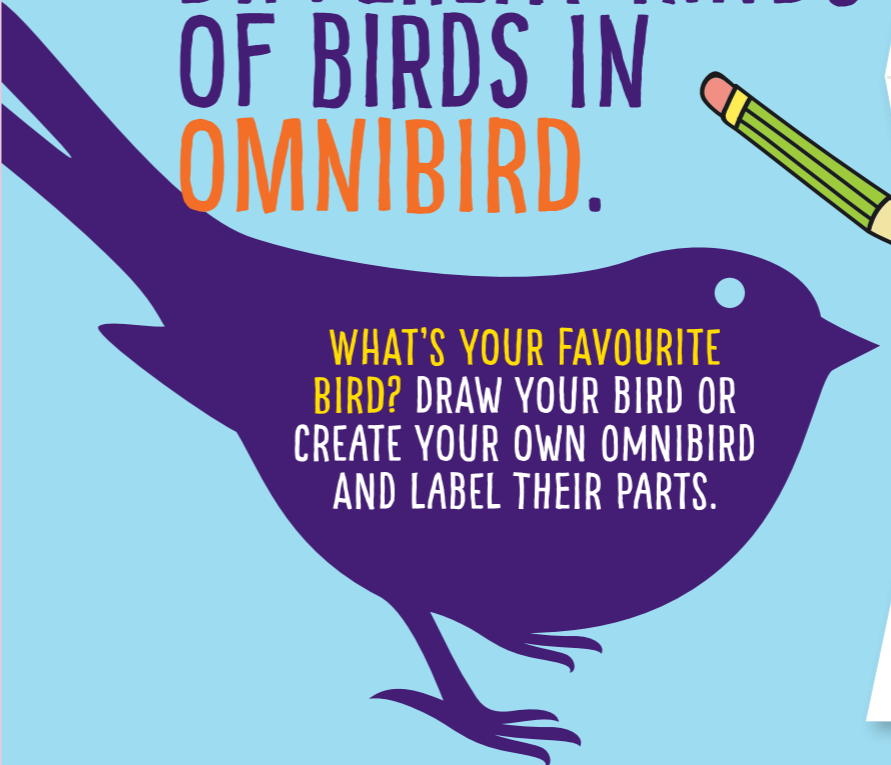
IF YOU ARE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE (E.G. FISHING OR TRAMPING), WHAT THINGS WOULD BE IN YOUR SAFETY KIT, OR SHOULD YOU DO BEFORE YOU LEAVE?



List of essentials

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

YOU CAN FIND OUT ALL ABOUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF BIRDS IN **OMNIBIRD**.



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BIRD? DRAW YOUR BIRD OR CREATE YOUR OWN OMNIBIRD AND LABEL THEIR PARTS.

head

body

legs + feet

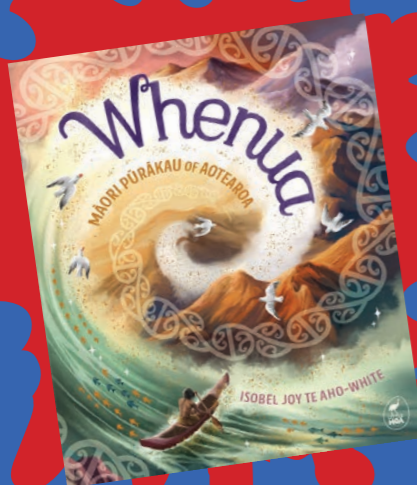


ILLUSTRATION
RUSSELL CLARK AWARD

FARM LIFE, CHEEKY YŌKAI,
A GIANT OCTOPUS,
MYTHICAL CREATURES, AND
FASCINATING PŪRĀKAU

AT HOME ON
THE FARM
INTRODUCES
LOTS OF
ANIMALS AS
THEY GO ABOUT
THEIR DAY.

K	I	N	G	F	I	S	H	E	R	H
O	Y	R	O	D	K	G	R	Q	Z	U
R	F	D	A	K	A	J	K	Ā	H	U
G	M	K	T	L	Ē	R	E	O	P	N
P	W	E	J	T	Q	G	R	L	C	M
M	A	G	P	I	E	E	E	W	O	B
R	Z	X	M	K	K	P	R	Q	W	N
U	H	O	R	S	E	W	Ū	T	P	J
R	D	W	A	N	X	I	G	H	Y	A
D	O	G	Q	T	A	D	P	O	L	E

ILLUSTRATION © NED BARRAUD



CAN YOU FIND THESE
ANIMALS AND BIRDS
FROM THE FARM IN
THIS WORDFIND?

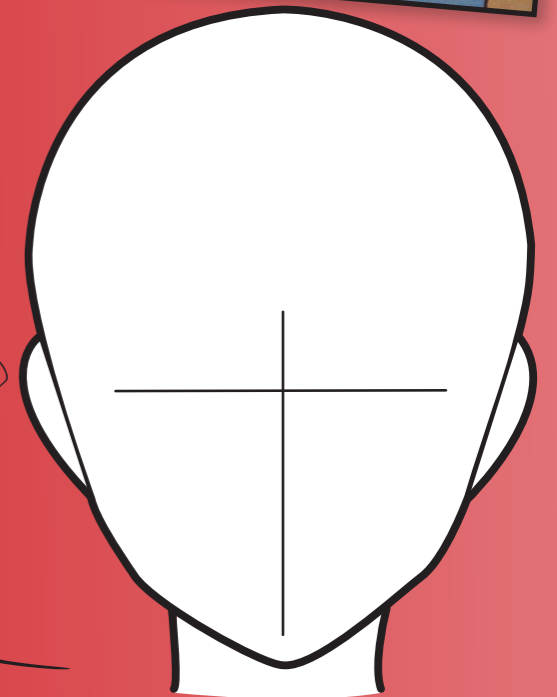
- MAGPIE
- KERERŪ
- KĀHU
- TADPOLE
- DOG
- GOAT
- COW
- HORSE
- KINGFISHER

FOLK REMEDY 1: THE
HIDDEN WORLD OF
THE YŌKAI IS DRAWN
USING JAPANESE
MANGA-INSPIRED COMIC
ILLUSTRATIONS.



ILLUSTRATION © JEM YOSHIOKA

TRACE THIS FACE SHAPE ONTO A
PIECE OF PAPER A FEW TIMES AND
DRAW SOME DIFFERENT FACIAL
EXPRESSIONS IN THIS STYLE.
TRY ANGRY, DELIGHTED,
SURPRISED OR CONFUSED.



TE REO MĀORI

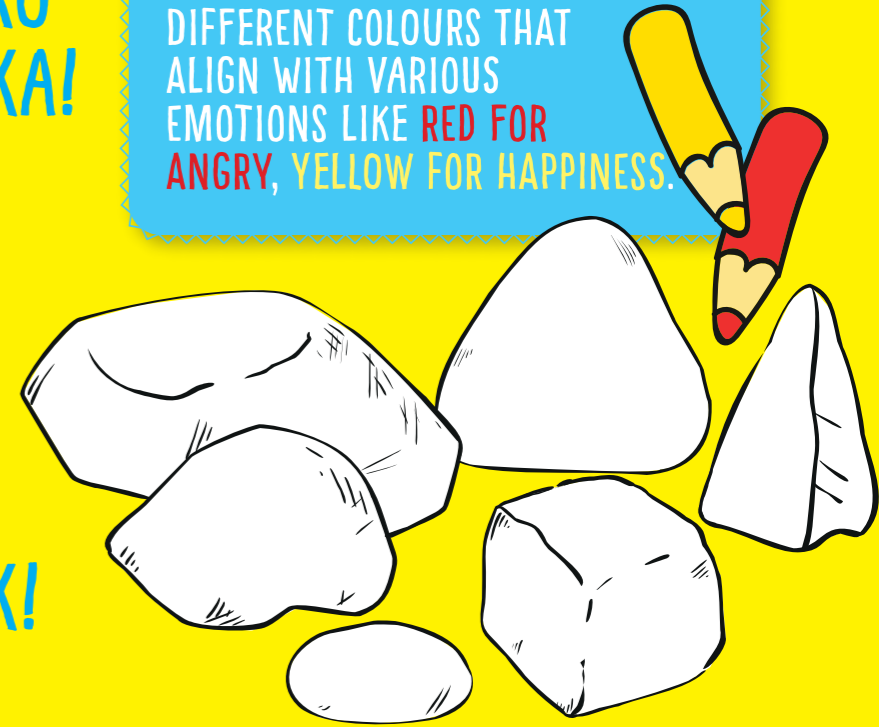
WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION
TE KURA POUNAMU AWARDS

ROCK WISDOM, A JOURNEY
OF DISCOVERY, MARVELS
OF MATARIKI, SACRED
WOMANHOOD, AND A
TIME TRAVEL TWIST

HE TAONGA TE TOKA E
WHAKAATU ANA KI A
TĀTOU I TE TAUMAHA
O ĒTAHI O NGĀ WHEAKO
O IA RĀ, PĒRĀ I TE TOKA!

ĀNEI ĒTAHI TOKA KI RARO IHO NEI.
KARAKARAHIA KI ĒTAHI TAE REREKĒ
MŌ NGĀ KARE Ā-ROTO PĒRĀ I
TE WHERO MŌ TE RIRI, TE KŌWHAI
MŌ TE HARIKOA.

COLOUR THE ROCKS BELOW IN
DIFFERENT COLOURS THAT
ALIGN WITH VARIOUS
EMOTIONS LIKE RED FOR
ANGRY, YELLOW FOR HAPPINESS.



HE TAONGA TE TOKA
SHOWS US THAT WE
CAN EXPERIENCE
EMOTIONS THAT CAN
BE HEAVY, LIKE A ROCK!

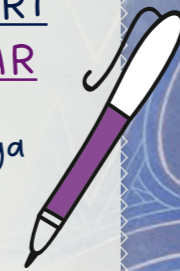


I TE TAU KUA HORI IN THE LAST YEAR

He aha tētahi whāinga
kua tutuki i a koe?
What is a goal
you have achieved?

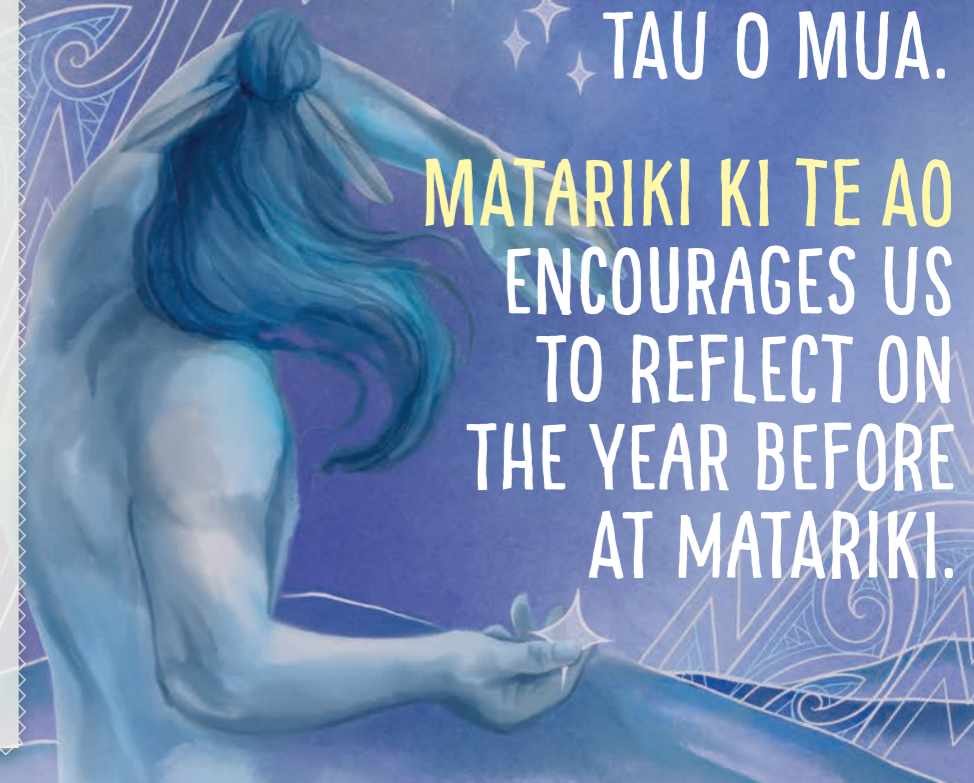
He aha tētahi mea e
whakamānawatia ana
e koe i tēnei wā?
What is something you are
grateful for now?

He aha tētahi wawata,
moemoeā rānei mō te tau
e heke mai nei?
What is a dream or aspiration
you have for the year ahead?



MATARIKI KI TE AO
E AKIAKI ANA I A
TĀTOU KIA ARO KI TE
TAU O MUA.

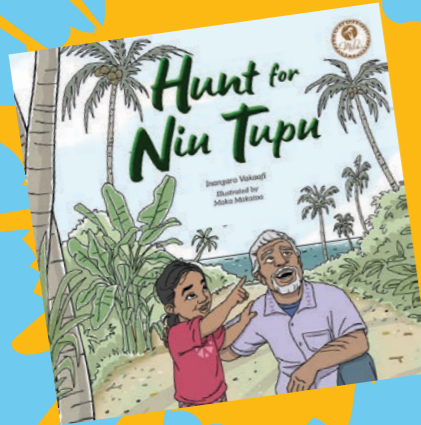
MATARIKI KI TE AO
ENCOURAGES US
TO REFLECT ON
THE YEAR BEFORE
AT MATARIKI.



BEST FIRST BOOK

NZSA AWARD

YŌKAI ADVENTURES,
SLOW JAMS, HUNTING
FOR COCONUTS,
MEETING ANCESTORS,
AND DISCOVERING
LOST WORDS



IN HUNT FOR NIU TUPU ANA IS TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT COCONUT FOR HER MOTHER.

FOLLOW THE SQUIGGLY LINE
FROM THE PICTURE TO FIND
WHAT KIND OF COCONUT IT IS.

sprouting
coconut



niu inu



niu
pakupaku

drinking
coconut

dried
coconut



niu tupu



Q: WHAT IS THE NIEAN WORD FOR COCONUT? _____

A: NIU

THERE ARE
LOTS OF USEFUL
KUPU | WORDS
IN THE LOST
WORDS.

kāroti

putiputi



tohorā



kōwhai

kererū



tekoteko

CAN YOU MATCH
TE REO MĀORI TO
THESE IMAGES
FROM THE BOOK?

DRAW A LINE,
OR CUT
THEM OUT
AND FIT
TOGETHER.



ILLUSTRATIONS © TAYLOR TEREWAI TIAVE

KIA ORA KIDS!

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CHALLENGE IS BACK
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