



Pictures by Phoebe Leenhouters, age 12

# TOITOI

## STORY SEARCH



Write a story inspired by Phoebe Leenhouters's incredible artwork in Toitoi 10.

Send it to [editor@toitoi.nz](mailto:editor@toitoi.nz) and include your name, age, school and a parent and/or teacher's name and contact details with your submission.

**Submissions are due on April 13, 2018.**

We will publish the best story in Toitoi 12 with additional illustrations by Phoebe.

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#TOITOISTORYSEARCH



# THE RUN

Dong went the bell for the start of the race,  
So I set off at a very good pace.  
I ran down the track with my heavy pack,  
Speeding off, no time to look back!

I pumped my legs as I had rehearsed,  
If I kept this up, I'd come first.  
The woods were dark and the shadows loomed,  
They weren't far behind or so I assumed.

Thud went my feet on the slippery ground,  
But then I heard another sound.  
I wondered what, 'til I saw those jaws,  
And those dark, hairy, muscled paws.

Whatever it was didn't want to play,  
I screamed and tried to run away.  
It followed me so I ran astray,  
My heart thudded fast as I started to pray.

Off the track and into the trees,  
My hair streaming in my self-made breeze.  
My eyes full of hair, my bag filled with rocks,  
Weighing me down like concrete blocks.

I let it go crashing into a bush,  
A dark paw swiped and gave me a push.  
The trees made faces and I tripped on a lace,  
Would I ever get out of this dark, scary place?

My mind played tricks as I rolled to one side,  
Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide.  
Mouths and eyes in trees everywhere,  
Then I was smothered in long dark hair.

In my mind a scream, in the air a howl,  
A cloud of stinking breath — foul!  
But wait! I know that smelly breath!  
Rover — is that you? Not a creature of death?

"Get off, you clown. Am I glad to see you!  
But now I'm lost. What shall we do?"  
He bounded away and barked at me,  
"Let's go home now, Rover" I plead.

But he's looking up and that's when I see  
Something jumping from tree to tree...



