

## Toittoi 20

### Reading Notes

You might like to begin by leafing through the journal with your group and taking a look at all the fantastic artwork.

Listed below are some ideas of which pieces to read with your group. Feel free to choose your own or ask the students what they would like to read. They might like to take turns reading aloud.



### Recommended reading in Issue 20

#### Years 1-2

*Tūi* on page 71 is a poem about one of our precious native birds. Read it with your group and discuss Zoe's descriptions. What are your group's favourite birds? How would they describe them? Can they do an impersonation of a tūi or other native bird? Give it a go!

You could also try:

- *Cicadas*, page 7 — a celebration of the sound of summer. It's a bit of a tongue-twister; get your group to take turns reading it aloud and see who can do it without stumbling! Can you?
- *Advice from an Albatross* on page 103 — a poem from a bird's point of view. If your students were birds or other creatures, what advice would they give?

#### Years 3-4

Take a look at *Wayno the Wrestler* on page 5. Get your group to chant "Wayno!" in the appropriate places as one of the students reads the story. Brainstorm ideas of what the school principal or teachers might have done in a past life. Whose idea is the craziest?

You could also try:

- *Pōhutukawa Playground* on page 21 — read the story and discuss the art. Can your students find something from Zuri's picture anywhere else in this issue? (Clue: it's on the back cover).
- *Baseball Eruption* on page 51 — an energetic description of an exciting sports event. What does your group like about Te Amotawa's story and art? Ask them to find their favourite sentence.

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## Years 5-6

*The Squid Incident* on page 30 is a hilarious tale about an escape at Te Papa museum. Assign readers for Sam, Simon, Scarlet, the radio advertisement and the American woman. Read the story aloud with your students providing the voices. Have fun!

You could also try:

- *Blackberry* on page 49 — a delicious poem about juicy fruit. What is your students' fave food?
- *Friday Afternoons*, page 81 — a personal narrative which repeats the phrase "every time" to great effect. What routines do your students enjoy with their whānau?

## Years 7-8

*On-Court Complications* on page 46 — a heartfelt piece about racist attitudes in Aotearoa. How does this fit with the world around us right now? Has anyone in your group had an experience like this? What other issues are your students concerned about?

You could also try:

- *Arbitrium* on page 67 — a story of our time. Use it to kick off great discussions;
- *The Champion* on page 79 — a wonderful, vibrant surfing commentary.

## Long Stories

If you have time and would like to read to your group, you could try these fantastic longer stories:

- *Cousin Danny* on page 9, a fantastic adventure story written with great humour by Theo Dennison. Take turns reading it aloud. Pay special attention to the dialogue and the way that Theo conveys personality and action through his characters' own voices. Discuss with your group what aspects of the story they like the most.
- *From My Window* on pages 34-43 and *Fort of Feathers* on page 56 — various expressions of people's Covid-19 lockdown experiences. What are your students' impressions of lockdown? Discuss the three best and three worst things about it.