

## Toittoi 25

### Reading Notes

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. Please feel free to choose your own or ask the students what they would like to read. They might like to take turns reading aloud.

We hope you enjoy sharing Toittoi 25 with your young writers and artists.

### Recommended reading in Issue 25

#### Years 1-2

*Rain on the Roof* on page 90 is about what the writer loves to hear as she is falling asleep. Read it aloud with your group.

What do they listen to as they drift off at night?

Do the sounds change depending on the time of year? Discuss everyone's experiences.

You could also try:

- *A Lifetime of Impossible Days*, page 56 — a simple piece about an annoying sister. Do you have an irritating sibling? What do they do that makes you mad? Share your experiences;
- *Cross Country* on page 46 — a group poem about a sports event. Can you find all the descriptions based on the senses? Are all five senses of your senses referenced or is one missing? Discuss your ideas.

#### Years 3-4

Take a look at *Kui* on page 100. Do you have a grandparent? How would you describe them? Tell the group about their best qualities and why you love them so much!

You could also try:

- *Boy in the City* on page 4 — what do you think the boy spends the money on? Go crazy and share your ideas;
- *Mum* on page 44 — a beautiful story about a reunion. What is the happiest reunion you have ever experienced? Do you have any planned in the next year?



## Years 5-6

*The Nerve-Racking Mudslide* on page 76 — a wonderfully descriptive piece about a thrilling activity. What's the hardest, scariest or muckiest thing you've ever done? Use lots of descriptive language to tell the group about it!

You could also try:

- *Mr Wolfie and the Witch*, page 40 — an amusing story about a magic spell gone wrong. What would you do if you had a magic wand? Tell everyone your funniest ideas!
- *Frosty Morning Walk* on page 32. Have you ever wondered what dogs think when you take them for a walk? Share your thoughts with the group!

## Years 7-8

*Solitary Skier* on page 70 is a fantastic description by a writer of her favourite pastime. What is yours? Does it involve friends or do you do it alone, like this writer? What do you love most about it?

You could also try:

- *My Poor Forehead* on page 68 — what's your most gruesome injury?
- *Journey to the East Cape* on page 96 — a description of a special sunrise. What do you do to mark the new year? What other special celebrations do you take part in?

## Longer Stories or Topics for Discussion

If you have time, you could try these awesome pieces:

- *Loose Footing* on page 8, a great adventure story about a bush rescue. Read the story aloud with your students and enjoy the descriptive language. Do they know anyone who has had to be rescued? Discuss your students' own experiences;
- *Kupe and the Giant Wheke* on page 80, a retelling of a well-known story. What other similar traditional stories do you know? Do you think the artist has helped convey the story in her drawings? What do you like about them?

## Toitōi Story Search

We are holding a special competition to find a story inspired by Lars Meyer Westfeld's amazing artwork opposite the contents of Toitōi 25. Students can write a story in response to the artwork and send it to [submit@toitōi.nz](mailto:submit@toitōi.nz) by **November 26**. The winning story will be published with additional illustrations by Lars in Issue 27!