

Toittoi 27

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 27 with your young readers, writers and artists.

Recommended reading in Issue 27

Years 1-2

Dear Tooth Fairy on page 72 is a letter that Katie wrote to the Tooth Fairy explaining why she was not able to leave her tooth out to be collected. Read the letter together and discuss the various rituals and customs with your group when someone in the family loses a tooth.

You could also try:

- *Why I Love the Beach*, page 40 — a simple poem about the beach. Do your readers love the beach? Why?
- *Little Lizards*, page 38 — a piece about searching for wildlife with a sibling. Has anyone in your group ever found interesting creatures in their back garden? What did they discover?

Years 3-4

Take a look at *The Climbing Tree* on page 84. Braxton describes his plan to conquer the climbing tree at his school. Have your readers ever overcome a challenge? What was it and what did they do to triumph?

You could also try:

- *Grandad*, page 20 — a beautiful memory of time shared with a grandparent. Does anyone in the group have family who live far away? When was the last time they visited them?
- *Seashells*, page 54 — a lovely poem about different kinds of shells. Have your readers ever collected shells on a beach walk?



Years 5-6

Read *The Great Shell Heist* on page 26. This is a great action-packed story from the point of view of mice wreaking havoc at Te Papa museum in Wellington. Read it aloud and imagine the chaos!

You could also try:

- *Tōnui, Here I Come*, page 86 — Siosifa has written about her experience at an engineering workshop at Tōnui. Have your readers ever been on an exciting class trip? Where did they go? What did they learn?
- *Gigi*, page 22 — Eden has written about her great grandma. Ask your group who is special in their family. Why?

Years 7-8

Toby's dialogue, *The Meeting* on page 50, captures the craziness of an online class during lockdown. Did your students enjoy learning online or did it make it harder? Read the dialogue together and try to reenact the madness!

You could also try:

- *My Window*, page 94 — Liberty has described the view from her bedroom window. What interesting things can your readers see from their windows at home?
- *Kaikōura Adventure*, page 48 — has anyone in your group ever been tramping or gone on a beautiful bush walk somewhere in Aotearoa New Zealand? Was it difficult? What did they see?

Longer Stories or Topics for Discussion

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

- *Tom 'n Rick – The Lost Boy* on page 4 – Tom has written an adventure story about a crime in his town. Read it together and take note of how Tom builds tension in the story and leaves it on a cliffhanger. What do your readers think it going to happen next?
- *Private William Crisp of the New Zealand 24th Battalion* on page 14 – Tom has written a narrative from the point of view of his relative who fought in World War Two. Do any of your readers have family members who served in a war? What do they think it would feel like to be sent overseas to fight?

Toitōi Story Search

We are holding a special competition to find a story inspired by Emily Cronwright's amazing *Tuatara* artwork opposite the contents of Toitōi 27. Students can write a story in response to the artwork and send it to submit@toitoi.nz by **July 8**. The winning story will be published with additional illustrations by Emily in Issue 29!