

Toittoi 31

Reading Notes

You might like to begin leafing through the journal with your young readers and taking a look at all the incredible artwork. Below are some ideas of which stories or poems to read with your group but 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 Toittoi 31!

Recommended reading in Toittoi 31

Years 1-2

Naughty Kiwi on page 50 is a funny story about a kiwi stealing sausages from a family barbecue. Imagine if you saw a kiwi dressed in Santa's clothes. Would you share your food with him?

You could also try:

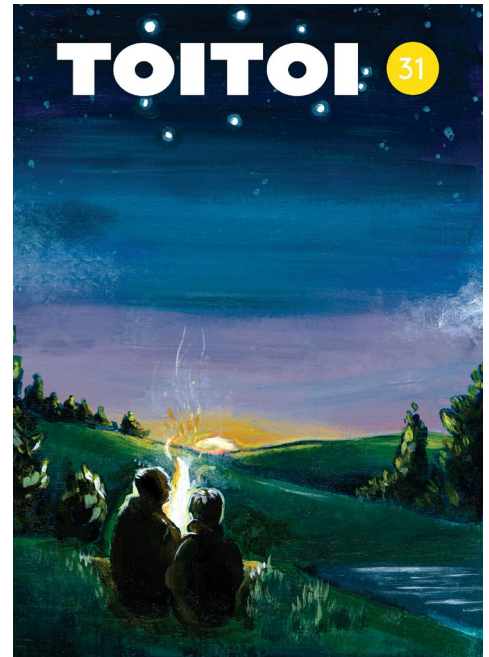
- *My Brother and Me*, page 30 — a hilarious story about a brother and sister and a grasshopper. Has something like this ever happened to you? Share a funny experience you had with a sibling.
- *Lux*, page 22 — a lovely description of a family pet. Do you have a favourite animal? Describe your dream pet with the group. What would they look like? What would you call them?

Years 3-4

Take a look at *The Raft* on page 18. Molly has written a beautiful story about swimming to the raft with her family. Is there a special place you like to go to? Share it with your group.

You could also try:

- *Kakaruwai*, page 52 — Emily has written a lovely poem about a bird. Read the poem aloud. Notice how she captures the bird's personality using a small number of words.
- *My Bedroom and Mr Cat*, page 68 — Morgan has described his bedroom and his cat in great detail. Do you have anything in common with Morgan, or is your bedroom completely different? Describe your favourite thing in the room.



Years 5-6

Lily's poem, *Wonderful Things*, on page 88, describes all her favourite things. Read through the poem together. Which line is your favourite? What would you add?

You could also try:

- *Fishing Season*, page 55 — Angus has written a terrific description about going fishing with his whānau. What do you like to do with your family or friends?
- *Once Upon a Game*, page 74 — Charlie has written a hilarious story about how stressful it is playing hide and seek. What would you do if you were in Charlie's position?

Years 7-8

Sienna's story, *Kaitiaki*, on page 64, is a beautiful story about an encounter with a seahorse. This inspires her to protect our natural environment so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. Consider your local area. What inspires you to help protect the environment?

You could also try:

- *Guilty*, page 32 — Mākere has written a poem describing how it feels when you get in trouble. Have you ever been caught doing something you shouldn't have? Can you relate to her experience?
- *Flipped!*, page 34 — Cooper has written a piece of fiction about working at a burger restaurant when an earthquake strikes. Read the story together. How does Cooper create a sense of atmosphere in his writing? Does it make you feel like you're one of the skiers in the restaurant?

Longer stories or topics for discussion

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

- *The Talent Show*, page 36 — Rutendo has written about a group of friends performing in and winning a school talent show. Have you ever performed on stage before? How did it go? Share your experience with the group.
- *Cool Cubing*, page 46 — Alfie has written an awesome story about a cubing competition. He includes lots of great detail to inspire others to take up cubing. Do you have any niche interests that not many people know about?

Toitōi Story Search

We are holding a writing competition to find a story inspired by Delilah Wake-Willers' fantastic artwork published in Toitōi 31 on page 36. Students can write a story or poem in response to the artwork and send it to submit@toitoi.nz by June 30, 2023. The winning piece will be published with additional illustrations by Delilah in Toitōi 33.