

Toittoi 33

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 33!

Recommended reading in Toittoi 33

Years 1-2

The Midnight Snack, page 22, is a fantastic dialogue about two boys sneaking out late at night. Have you ever done that? Share with your group.

You could also try:

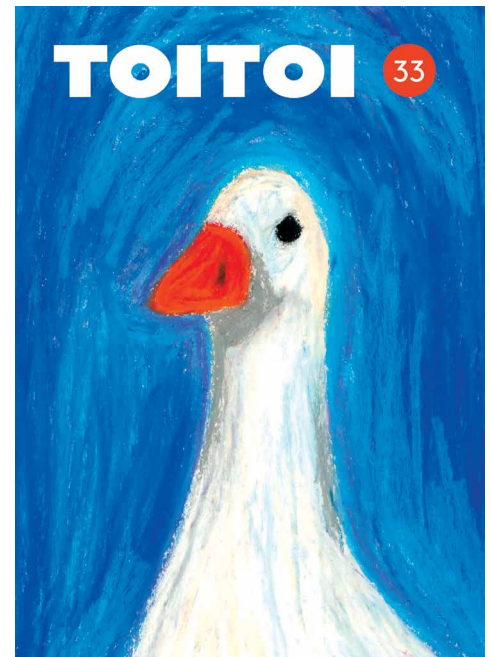
- *The Thunderstorm*, page 82 — Eddie has written a lovely poem about bad weather. What do you like to do when it's stormy outside?
- *Lunar New Year*, page 96 — Misa has written a terrific haiku about the Lunar New Year. What New Year tradition does your family celebrate? Can you make up a haiku about it?

Years 3-4

Take a look at *The Show Must Go On*, page 104. Natalia feels scared before she performs on stage. Do you ever get stage fright? How do you overcome it?

You could also try:

- *Rugby Practice*, page 20 — Sam has written an awesome poem about practising rugby in the park. Do you play a sport? Where do you go to practice?
- *Memo to My Human*, page 76 — Ruby has written a hilarious letter from a pet cat to its owner. Do you have any pets? What would they say in a letter addressed to you?



Years 5-6

Maia's story, *On Your Marks!*, page 84, describes her experience with cross country. How do you feel about school sports? Do you enjoy or despise them?

You could also try:

- *Another World*, page 32 — Amelia has written a brilliant story about a virtual reality. Read the piece again. How does she create a sense of atmosphere in her writing?
- *Five More Minutes*, page 40 — Scarlett's poem uses clever metaphors to describe her family members. Do you have a big family? How would you describe them?

Years 7-8

In Kaili's poem, *The Striped Tent*, page 74, she uses vivid imagery to describe the circus. Analyse the poem with your group. What is your favourite line? Why?

You could also try:

- *Te Rū*, page 90 — Timothy has described an earthquake from a bird's point of view. Take a closer look at his story. How does the earthquake affect the bird's surroundings?
- *Hagley Park in Spring*, page 28 — Oliver has written a lovely poem set in Hagley Park, Christchurch. Where is your favourite place to go in the spring? Share with your group.

Longer stories or topics for discussion

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

- *Saved by the Past*, page 64 — Saxon has written a terrific story about a man who finds a fossil and saves his town from developers. What does it mean to find a fossil? Have you ever looked for one?
- *Arihia's Special Connection*, page 92 — Ava's story raises awareness for kiwi overseas. What are some things you could do to help protect our national bird? Discuss as a group.



Toitoti Newsflash!

Toitoti is changing shape in 2024. Next year we will publish the extraordinary work of young Kiwi creatives in an annual collection delivered in October. There are so many great opportunities for your young writers and artists, ages 5-18, to be published. Check out the Toitoti website for more information.