

Toittoi 12

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.

We hope you enjoy sharing Toittoi 12 with your young writers and artists!

Recommended reading in Issue 12

Years 1-2

The Raging Bull on page 96 is a recount of the infamous day Joe's dad and his Uncle Rob took on a 400kg bull. It has a terrific voice and wonderful descriptions. Ask the students for their infamous family stories. Did their parents ever do anything crazy? What happened?

You could also try:

- *Winter in the Forest* on page 4 - a poem with lovely winter imagery, illustrated by Shaniqua Marsters from Ruapotaka School.
- *All Raged*, page 84 - a fantastic description of a house-stomping giant.

Years 3-4

Dinner Time on page 42 is a funny story about the horror of being forced to eat vegetables. Ask the kids what foods they hate. Why? What is the absolute worst thing about it? Do their parents force them to eat everything?

You could also try:

- *Supermarket Trolley Rocket* on page 46 - a cleverly-crafted poem full of suspense and fun.
- *Rollercoasters*, page 62 - a funny story about riding a scary rollercoaster.



Years 5-6

A Kayaking Adventure on page 60 is a story about a group of friends out kayaking, with fantastic descriptions of the things they encounter. Dan and Mia have both worked to make the reader feel like they are a part of the story. Discuss the choices they have made. Ask the students to imagine what might have happened before and after the events of the story.

You could also try:

- *The Barrel*, page 40 - a piece about what it feels like to go surfing and catch a barrel;
- *The Run* on page 88 - the Toittoi 10 Story Search winner is a thrilling poem with a twist ending.

Years 7-8

Do Dreams Come True? on page 8 is a brilliant blend of fantasy and realistic detail. Poor David has a terrible life running around after his overbearing wife, until a mysterious note appears and makes his dream come true. You could discuss with your group how David's character is developed over the course of the story and how humour and tension are interwoven. Ask them to pick their favourite sentence and share it with the group. What do they like about it?

You could also try:

- *The Carnival* on page 14 - an eerie poem with a clever extended metaphor;
- *The Monster* on page 31 - an atmospheric story set on Piha Beach;
- *Pirate* on page 78 - a terrific poem about a murderous old pirate.

Long Stories

If you have a bit of extra time and would like to read to your group, you could try some of these longer stories:

- *My Name is Elaf* on page 52;
- *Meeting the Enemy* on page 66;
- *Haere mai ki Uta* on page 100.