

Toittoi 13

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 13 with your young writers and artists!

Recommended reading in Issue 13

Years 1-2

The Jumping Jelly Sandwich on page 50 is an hilarious tale about the contents of Ava's lunchbox coming to life. Her peanut butter and jam sandwich is getting teased. Discuss Ava's reaction to her jumping lunchbox. What do you think of her solution? Ask the students what crazy stories they could make up about their lunches.

You could also try:

- *Kendra and Me* on page 13 - a lovely description of Lani's cat, Kendra;
- *The Disco*, page 32 - a short story with a fantastic voice about going to a school disco.

Years 3-4

The Maker's Plan on page 14 is a surreal manifesto by a model maker out to build a clone army and download their skills and memories into his brain. Is the model maker a villain or hero? Why? Ask the students what they think of his plan.

You could also try:

- *Eavesdropping* on page 58 - an onomatopoeiac poem full of classroom sounds;
- *Crayons*, page 84 - a funny confession about eating crayons at kindergarten.



Years 5-6

Holding on for Dear Life on page 28 is a story told from the perspective of a nit trying to survive on a child's head. Saffron and Varn have done a great job bringing the characters to life and creating a sense of drama. Discuss the main character's problems and motivations. How do they compare with the humans in the story? Whose side are you on?

You could also try:

- *The Journey* on page 80 - a thrilling adventure over a rickety rope bridge and up a steep hill;
- *8 Ways of Looking at My School Life* on page 26 - a cleverly-crafted poem with thoughtful observations about daily life;
- *Falling* on page 100 - a dramatic story based on the real life experiences of a man skydiving from the edge of space.

Years 7-8

Junkyard Heroes on page 80 is an incredible story about rebel fighters in a dystopian junkyard. It is quite a long story but well-worth taking some time over. You could discuss how Kingston is able to set up Tom's backstory and his friendship with Quinn. Ask the students to choose another character in Tamsyn's amazing illustrations and imagine a backstory for them.

You could also try:

- *The Race* on page 90 - a motocross championship race with a flying finish;
- *The Old Curiosity Shop* on page 96 - a clever rhyming poem with a mysterious ending;

Long Stories

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

- *Remember When* on page 54 - an inspiring story about a weary commuter who falls in love with cycling and ends up travelling the world on their bike;
- *In the Depths* on page 36 - a recount about a summer adventure with great dialogue;