

## Toittoi 15

### 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 15 with your young writers and artists!

### Recommended reading in Issue 15

#### Years 1-2

*Dinosaurs* on page 30 is a fantastic collection of facts and drawings of Louis' favourite dinosaurs. This is a great piece to begin a lively discussion about your favourite dinosaurs and to see how many dinosaur facts you can come up with!

You could also try:

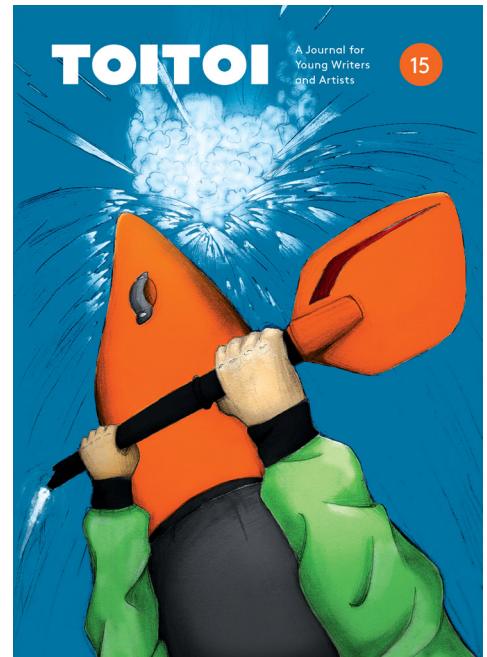
- *Backflip* on page 102 - a poem that makes terrific use of line breaks to create an image;
- *My Secret*, page 38 - a confession about telling crazy lies at school.

#### Years 3-4

*Catching Santa* on page 70 is an hilarious story about Harold the Third's devious plan to trap Santa on Christmas Eve, with rotten cookies, chimney cameras and superglue on the toilet seat. What do your readers think of Harold's plan? How would they describe his character? Together, brainstorm some ways Harold might try to catch the Tooth Fairy.

You could also try:

- *Milo* on page 4 - a clever form poem that builds an extended metaphor around making Milo;
- *Lambs' Tails*, page 96 - a great description of eating lambs' tails using the five senses.



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## Years 5-6

*Kayak Deluxe* on page 86 is an epic story about an attempt to kayak over a waterfall. The pacing and tension are excellent and the artwork was chosen for the cover of this issue. Ask your readers to describe the most exciting thing they did in the school holidays. How did it feel?

You could also try:

- *Harp of the Victorian Hotel* on page 40 - a spooky story about a mysterious hotel;
- *Camping at Mavora* on page 78 - a family go camping and discover a dead eel in the river;
- *Wilderness* on page 107 - an atmospheric poem about biking in the forest.

## Years 7-8

*The Withering* on page 104 is a mysterious narrative that catapults the reader straight into the action and ends with a terrifying twist. Stop your readers before the last paragraph and ask them what they think might happen next. Find the clues William gives the reader about what has happened to Sophie. Ask your readers what they thought of the story. Was it scary? Exciting? Sad?

You could also try:

- *Grandad* on page 98 - Natahlia (Fairfield Primary) describes memories of her Grandad;
- *The Beckoning Depths of the Teps* on page 24 - a lovely poem about swimming at the Tepid Baths with thoughtful observations. A great example of 'show, don't tell' in creative writing;

## 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:

- *Ko te Wāhi o Tō Tātou Ngākau* on page 54 - a wonderful story following a group of cousins whose family tree is cut down with beautiful themes and subtle details woven throughout;
- *The Misadventures of a Nervous Detective* on page 16 - a black comedy about a stuttering detective who discovers his mother is the bad guy.