

Toittoi 17

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 17 with your young writers and artists!

Recommended reading in Issue 17

Years 1-2

Fruit Salad Frenzy on page 70 is a whimsical piece both written and illustrated by Isla Clapham. Discuss Isla's playful puns and their double meanings. Which is their favourite fruit character?

You could also try:

- *Cicada*, page 28 — a deceptively simple description of an insect we hear all summer long;
- *The Storm Goes Wild* on page 38 — Charlotte uses amazing language to describe the intensity of a storm. Discuss her use of verbs to create a sense of action and drama.

Years 3-4

Food Fight on page 60 is an outrageous story about a crazy situation in a cinema. Ask your young readers whether they have experienced a situation that went out of control. Was it hilarious or disastrous? Or both? There's an opportunity to talk about exaggeration, too — especially where humour is concerned. Ask your readers if they have ever exaggerated a story. Why?

You could also try:

- *Sand Dunes* on page 14 — an exciting story about surfing the dunes;
- *Taniwha* on page 52 — an amusing case of mistaken identity written by three talented students from Kahurangi School.



Years 5-6

My Name is Leo on page 30 is written by a boy who moved to New Zealand from China.

Leo describes some of the differences he noticed and some of the challenges he faced. There's an insightful illustration by Kate Capie. Discuss with your readers their own (or a friend's) experiences of moving here from another place. Try to imagine how a newcomer might feel. Make a list of ways we could make them feel welcome.

You could also try:

- *Runaway Bob*, page 40 — a very funny story about a determined old man going to great lengths to escape from his retirement village;
- *Cave*, page 66, a wonderfully evocative poem about an underground experience.

Years 7-8

Runaway on page 18 is a thrilling story of a girl on the run. Throughout the story, Izabella sprinkles clues for her readers. You could ask your group what they think is happening. Who is Zoe and what has she done? Why? Is the action set in the past or future? Come up with a back-story to explain Zoe's motivation.

You could also try:

- *The Sadness Expert* on page 50 — a beautiful poem about coping with challenging emotions;
- *The Crossing* on page 102 — an engaging story about a family's classic Kiwi alpine adventure. Theo's energetic, descriptive language brings the experience to life.

Long Stories

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

- *Flip, Flip* on page 32 — a creative, funny story set behind the scenes at a library (you'll have fun reading aloud the dynamic sentences, dialogue and sound effects);
- *The Unexpected* on page 24 — an hilarious recount of a disastrous camping trip. Here's an opportunity to discuss the definition of 'fun'!