

Toittoi 18

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 18 with your young writers and artists!

Recommended reading in Issue 18

Years 1-2

Cross Country on page 85 is a recount of a running race. Compulsory school sport can be polarising, especially for junior students! Discuss Arthur's poem and ask your group what they like and dislike about school sports events, and why.

You could also try:

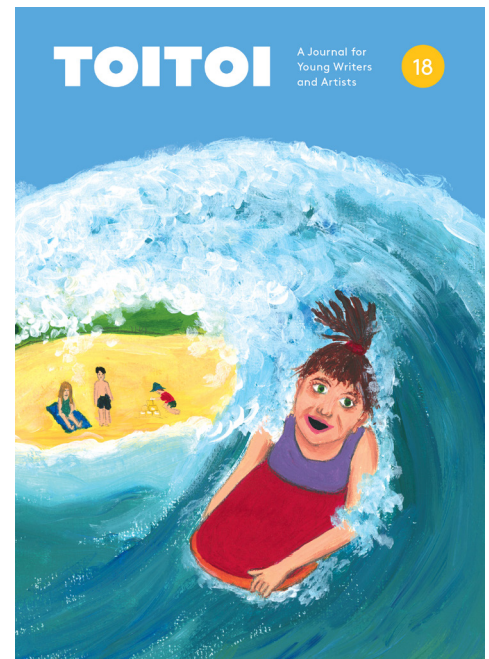
- *If I Were...*, page 55 — an aspirational piece about an heroic historical character;
- *Kitten Kenning* on page 19 — a riddle-like, highly descriptive poem. Try reading it to your group before they see the title or picture and ask them to guess the subject based on the clues. Get your group to vote for their favourite metaphor.

Years 3-4

Planting on Titirangi on page 21 describes a school planting day. What have your students done for their community or environment? Was it a good thing to do? Why? How did it make them feel?

You could also try:

- *The Hut* on page 67 — a funny story about two friends on an outdoor adventure;
- *Trampoline* on page 23 — a joyful poem that is lovely to read aloud as the rhythms rise and fall like the bouncing of a trampoline. Discuss what "prowess", "exhilaration" and "distaste" mean.



Years 5-6

What I See on page 105 is a reflection on the concept of wealth. Both the language and the concepts in Te Onemātua's awesome story are highly relateable. Ask your students to share their ideas about what it means to be 'rich'.

You could also try:

- *Dad, There's a Shark in the Attic!* page 31 — a hilarious and wonderfully original story about a surreal situation;
- *Snapper*, page 11, an action-packed poem with a moral twist in its tail. Use it to kick off some great discussion with your students!

Years 7-8

In *Kia Ora, Adults* on page 24, Theo argues that young people should be given the vote. Read his piece and discuss the ideas with your group. Do they agree or disagree? Why? Make a list of the pros and cons then put it to the vote!

You could also try:

- *Small But Strong* on page 39 — a beautifully crafted poem that, itself, is small but strong;
- *Storyweaver* on page 15 — a fantasy about an enchanted typewriter. Alice's story creates excitement and draws readers in. What other physical things could take you to a different world? Compare it to *Spinning Through Time* on page 53 and *The Virtual World* on page 96.

Long Stories

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

- *Why Hyperloop is the Future of Transport* on page 59 — a well-researched, energetic promotion of a new way to travel;
- *The Dragon* on page 87 — an exceptionally well-written fantasy story with an unexpected reveal at the end.