

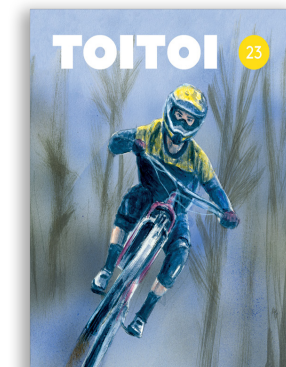
Toitoi 23

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. Please 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 Toitoi 23 with your young writers and artists!



Recommended reading in Issue 23

Years 1-2

My Tooth on page 34 is a lovely description of losing a tooth. Read it aloud with your students. Have they lost teeth? How many? What did they do with them? Discuss everyone's thoughts and see what you all have in common!

You could also try:

- *My Hero*, page 68 — acknowledgement of a parent who has kept his children safe during a pandemic. What do your students remember about lockdown? Who was their hero? Who was yours?
- *A Bed of Clams* on page 80 — how does this short, sweet poem sound when it's read out loud? Can your students come up with their own descriptions to compare creatures with people?

Years 3-4

Read *My Family's Roof* on page 18. What would you see if you sat on the roof of your home or school? Use your imagination and discuss your ideas. Exaggeration is fine!

You could also try:

- *Moments with the Whale* on page 16 — a beautiful poem about an impressive sea creature. What do your students know about whales? Can you share some facts with them?
- *The Battle of the Mountains* on page 102 — a retelling of a mighty Māori origin story. What other stories do your students know about landmarks in Aotearoa or other countries?

Years 5-6

Wealth on page 58 — a poem about gratitude. What makes your students feel 'wealthy'? Perhaps you could make up a line each and create a group poem together!

- *On the Run*, page 54 — a scary fantasy story. The twins in the story never actually see the beast. What do your students think the beast might have looked like? Discuss your ideas and perhaps have a go at drawing it!
- *From the Heart* on page 98. What cultural treasures do your students have? Why are they so meaningful? Share descriptions and discuss what is so special about each thing!

Years 7-8

My Hair on page 4 is a fantastic spoken word poem that celebrates the writer's heritage. Read it out loud and discuss your favourite parts. What would each student celebrate about themselves? What makes each of them unique? Encourage them to try creating a few lines about themselves to share if they are feeling brave. You might like to give it a go yourself!

You could also try:

- *The Last Foray* on page 94 — the author has used great vocabulary. Discuss the meanings of the difficult words so that your young readers can add them to their toolkits;
- *The Ant Story* on page 86 — a funny yet gruesome piece written from an ant's perspective. Would the story be as good if it was written from the human's point of view?

Longer Stories or Topics for Discussion

If you have time, you could try these awesome pieces:

- *Me, But Better* on page 44, an insightful piece written by a younger sister living in the shadow of her older sibling. Read it aloud with your students. Have they got siblings? Can they relate to this piece? Discuss your students' own experiences.
- *Eyes Open* on page 82, a slightly creepy story with a cliffhanger ending. Discuss it with your group. What do they think it's all about? Do you have ideas of your own that you can share?