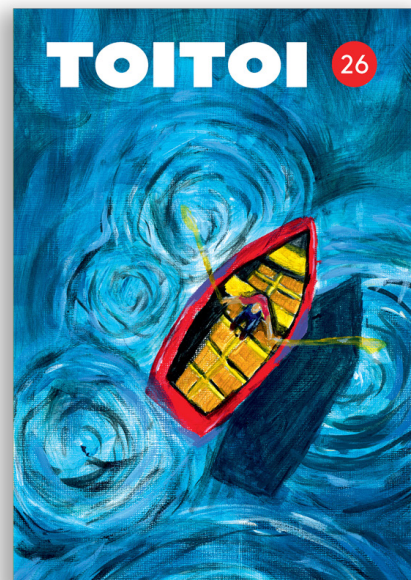


TOITOI

A JOURNAL FOR YOUNG WRITERS AND ARTISTS



ToitOI 26

Reading Notes

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 26 with your young writers and artists.

Recommended reading in Issue 26

Years 1-2

Lockdown Chaos on page 26 describes a snapshot of a scene during lockdown. Read it with your group and get them to clap along to the syllables. Do they notice a pattern? (Clue: it's 5,7,5 — a typical haiku form.) Can they make up a cool haiku of their own? Can you?

You could also try:

- *The Witch*, page 46 — a funny story with a twist. Why is the witch scared of the narrator? Discuss your ideas;
- *Mangrove* on page 54 — a gorgeous short poem. Read it out loud and listen for the rhymes. Check out the art on the inside front and back covers, too.

Years 3-4

My Dog on page 66 is rich in metaphors. (Similes and metaphors are used to make comparisons. Similes use the words 'like' or 'as' to compare things — "Life is like a box of chocolates" - while metaphors directly state a comparison — "My dog is a log".) How many metaphors can you find in *My Dog*? (There are nine). What's everyone's favourite and why? You could also try:

- *The Man with the Snakeskin Shoes* on page 68 — an intriguing story about a mysterious man;
- *Ode to Ice Cream* on page 78 — a love-letter to a delicious food. What's everyone's favourite dessert and why? Make a shortlist and take a vote!

Years 5-6

Many Kiwis took up baking during lockdown. *Baking Comfort* on page 18 describes Amelia's breadmaking process. What baking terms can your readers find in her poem? Are there any they don't understand? What does yeast do? Why do you need to butter the tin?

You could also try:

- *The Noises*, page 86 — a story about an annoying sound that's fun to read out loud;
- *The Predator* on page 94 — gruesome storytelling about nature taking its course. What is a predator? What other predators can you think of? What is their prey?

Years 7-8

Race You to the Cow Paddock on page 88 describes a competition between a brother and sister, featuring great dialogue. Has anyone in your group experienced sibling rivalry? Start a discussion about family dynamics.

You could also try:

- *The Yeti* on page 12 — a fantastic story about a shy, elusive creature. What do your students know about yetis? Are they real?
- *Zeus in Love* on page 72 — a hilarious, imaginative twist on an ancient Greek tale.

Longer Stories or Topics for Discussion

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

- *Tuahangata* on page 32, an essay that began as a speech about a student's revered tūpuna who fought for the Māori Battalion. What do your students know about the Māori Battalion? You can find out more [here](#);
- *Forest Voice* on page 48, a story about a troubled runaway who is given advice by forest flora and fauna.

Toitoe Story Search

We are holding a special competition to find a story inspired by Danielle Wu's amazing strawberry artwork on page 3 of Toitoe 26. Students can write a story in response to the artwork and send it to submit@toitoe.nz by **April 14th**. The winning story will be published with additional illustrations by Danielle in Issue 28!