

## Toittoi 28

### Reading Notes

You might like to begin leafing through the journal with your young readers and taking a look at all the incredible artwork. Below are some ideas of which pieces to read with your group but 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 Toittoi 28!

### Recommended reading in Toittoi 28

#### Years 1-2

*Starfish* on page 40 is a gorgeous poem in which Billie shares her experience of holding a starfish at the beach. Read the poem together. Have you ever explored the rock pools to look for sea creatures? Have you ever held one in your hand?

You could also try:

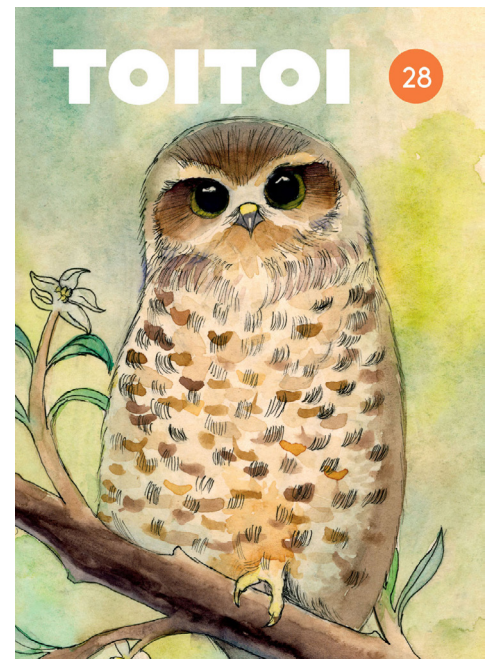
- *My Brother*, page 34 — a sweet poem about how tall Mila's family and friends are. Do you know anyone who is as tall as a car, or two tables stacked on top of each other?
- *Savage*, page 92 — a poem about having a dinosaur for a pet. Do you have a favourite dinosaur? What would your family think if you brought it home? What would you name it?

#### Years 3-4

Take a look at *The Worst Mistake of My Life* on page 33. Porou describes a mistake he made during a football game when he was trying to score a goal. Do you play any sports? What is the biggest mistake you have ever made during a game?

You could also try:

- *Adele's Big Moment*, page 25 — a recount of a brave young girl who shaved her head to raise money for cancer research. Would you do that?
- *Nothing Ever Happens*, page 86 — a poem about what goes on at home, with a surprise in the middle. Does anything exciting ever happen at your house?



## Years 5-6

Read *Look at the Sparrow on Mrs Coulthard's Roof* on page 44. Darragh has written a hilarious scene between a cheeky grandfather and his grandchild. Would you have fallen for his trick? What pranks do your family play?

You could also try:

- *Losing a Friend*, page 53 — Jack has written a beautiful piece about what it is like to have a friend move away. Have you ever had to leave your friends, or had a friend go to a different city? Are you still in touch? Share your experience with the group.
- *The I Th ef*, page 59 — Sofia has written about a puzzling experience with a printer. What do you think happened to the missing letter?

## Years 7-8

Rosa's story, *The Human/The Creature* on page 48, describes an encounter between a young girl and an orca from both of their perspectives. Have you ever seen a whale in real life? Why do you think the orca decided to spare the girl?

You could also try:

- *Fine Dining*, page 57 — Cooper has written a surprising story about his family's experience in a fancy restaurant. Do you know what escargot is? Would you be brave enough to eat it?
- *Instant Regret*, page 27 — Blake has written a poem with vivid imagery about the beach, which makes you feel like you're there with him. Can you find the great similes in the poem?

## Longer Stories or Topics for Discussion

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

- *Toroa's Quest* on page 10 – Eden has written a fable-like story about an albatross who flies around the world to learn about our changing environment. What does Toroa learn from his conversations with the different animals? How do you think we could help protect the planet?
- *Ko Pupuke Te Awa* on page 36 – Violet has written a story about overcoming her fear of the water after a Waterwise lesson goes better than she expected. Are there any activities or sports that you are afraid to try? How do you think you could overcome your fear?

## Toitoti Story Search

We are holding a special competition to find a story inspired by Monty McGee's amazing artwork published in Toitoti 28. Students can write a story in response to the artwork and send it to [submit@toitoti.nz](mailto:submit@toitoti.nz) by **September 30**. The winning story will be published with additional illustrations by Monty in Issue 30!