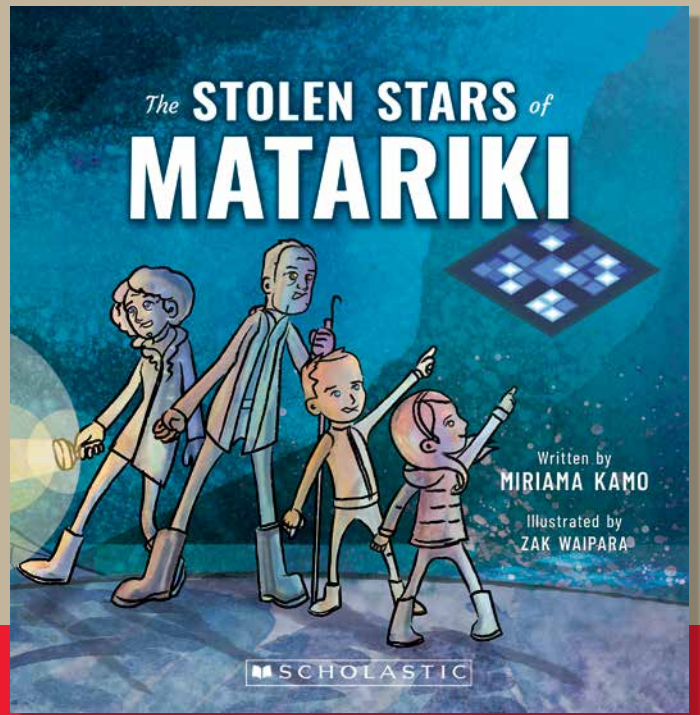


The Stolen Stars of Matariki

By Miriama Kamo
Illustrated by Zak Waipara



Synopsis

The Stolen Stars of Matariki is a picture book story about two children, Sam and Te Rerehua, visiting Grandma and Pōua at Te Mata Hāpuku (Birdling's Flat). While collecting agate and fishing for eels from the beach they look up at the stars and their grandmother tells them stories. One night Grandma notices two Matariki stars are missing from the sky. They then discover some naughty patupaiarehe playing on the beach with two glowing rocks. It's up to Sam and Te Rerehua to save the stars.

The two fair-headed children blend in with the patupaiarehe on the beach and ask what is happening. The patupaiarehe spend so much time skiting about what they're going to do with the two stolen stars they don't notice it's nearly sunrise. When Te Rerehua tells them the sun is coming up, the patupaiarehe run from the beach, fearing their delicate white skins will burn.

Pōua launches the two Matariki stars back up into the sky with his eeling gaff, and the nine stars of Matariki are back together again. The grandparents and children then carry their freshly caught eels home.

About the Book's Creator

Miriama Kamo is an award-winning journalist. She is the anchor of TVNZ's flagship current affairs programme *Sunday* and Māori current affairs programme *Marae*. Miriama has worked on many of TVNZ's key programmes including *1 News at 6* as a newsreader. She is also a keen writer who is published in *Metro*, *NZ Herald* and *The Spinoff* and is currently trying her hand at writing a screenplay. Miriama and husband Mike are proud parents of Sam and Te Rerehua. This is her first book with Scholastic NZ.

Zak Waipara is a former NZ Herald graphic artist and HOD of Animation at Animation College. Zak Waipara (Rongowhakaata, Ngati Porou, Ngati Ruapani, Ngati Kahungunu) is now Digital Media lecturer at AUT. He has worked as a designer for Māori Television's children's show *Miharo*, illustrated comics and a range of books, and created animated music videos. He is the illustrator of *Horeta and the Waka* (Scholastic NZ). Born in Milton, in the South Island, Zak now lives in Auckland.

Themes

- Matariki constellation
- Family relationships
- Solving problems
- Storytelling

Shared Learning and Discussion Points

- Look at the cover. What can you tell about the story from the picture?
- What is the Matariki constellation and how many stars are there? You may like to investigate online the two schools of thought about whether there are 7 or 9 stars.
- Tell a friend next to you about a special place you go with your family and what you do there.
- Where is the story set and what are the two names for the place?
- Who are the main characters in the story?
- How would you describe Te Mata Hāpuku's beach?
- What do the children love to collect at the beach and what do they do with them when they find them?
- What do the foursome do at night and what equipment do they take with them?
- What is the grandfather doing while Grandma tells the two children stories?
- What is missing and what are they missing from?
- How do the characters feel when they realise the stars are missing? How can you tell?
- What has the agate got to do with the stars and why are they hard to find?
- What are the patupaiarehe doing? What might they be called in another culture?
- Why are those two stars important?
- Why do the patupaiarehe not notice the children are not the same as them?
- What do they plan to do with the two stolen stars?
- How do the patupaiarehe catch the stars?
- What is Sam's plan to get the stars back – and does it work?
- How does Pōua get the stars back to where they belong?
- How do the foursome feel once the stars are back in the sky?
- How does the author end the story?
- Find the English meanings for these words (www.maoridictionary.co.nz):

Pōua	aue
mahi	kākahu
patupaiarehe	korowai
eel	no
star	sun
sky	beach
- Can you work out what the Māori words are for the following?

Activities

ACTIVITY 1: STYLISTED ART

Zak Waipara has used a stylised cartoon style for the illustrations. Notice how he has drawn black outlines and then coloured the pictures with watercolours and splatters of paint to add texture. Some colourwork has also been created on the computer. Look at other picture books for different styles, or make up your own style to recreate one of the double-page spreads in the book using the same black outline and paint colour technique. Work like an artist and draft the page several times in pencil before settling on a style and then illustrate a finished page.

ACTIVITY 2: TRICKY PROBLEM!

How else could the children have solved the problem of the missing stars? Brainstorm other ways to get the stars back from the patupaiarehe, then choose the best solution. Rewrite that section of the story using your new solution. Don't forget to edit the story afterwards. Get some feedback (positive – what they liked about it, and constructive – what you need to do to improve it) from another classmate and then write out a good copy of your own ending.

ACTIVITY 2: BECOME A JOURNALIST

Miriama Kamo reports the news and interesting stories on the television as a job. Recreate the story of the missing stars as a breaking news item, which you can then report in front of the class. Make sure you practise it a few times beforehand so that the words run smoothly off your tongue and don't forget to look at your audience some of the time. Ask a classmate or the teacher to record it, then you can watch your own news report!

Teaching notes written by Maria Gill



teacher toolkit

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