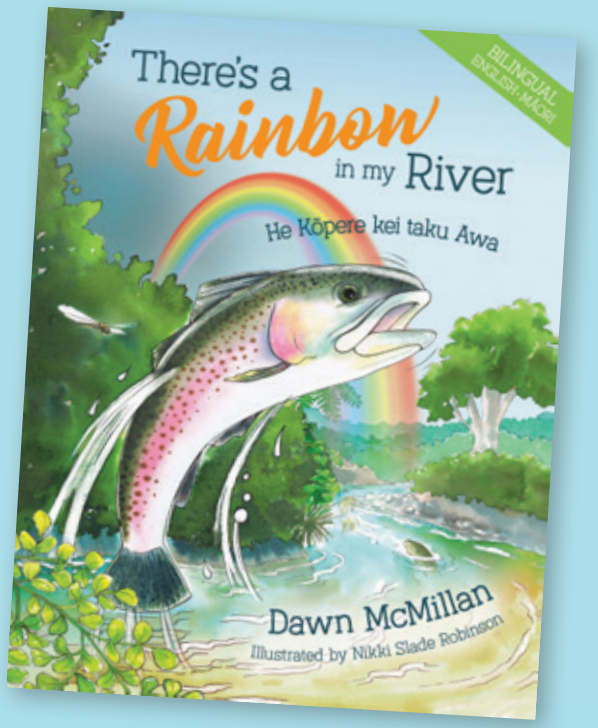
There's a Rainbow in my River

He Kōpere kei taku Awa

Dawn McMillan

Illustrated by Nikki Slade Robinson

Māori translation by Stephanie Huriana Fong



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TEACHER RESOURCE

There's a rainbow in my river.
He's the colours of the sky.
As we are walking up the track
he's passing quickly by.

Have you ever seen a rainbow trout? Enjoy a picnic on a riverbank and meet the creatures that live in and beside the river with rainbow trout, from the magical water-walking Water Spider to elegant kapokopowai flitting through the air.

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PUT ON YOUR THINKING HATS!



How does the sound of water make you feel? From the sea? From rivers or streams? From wherever water moves. Do you take the time to stop and listen? Why are the sounds easier to hear if we close our eyes?



Think about safety. What do you think would be the number one rule for a stream study trip? What equipment would you need to take on your trip? What could YOU do to help keep everybody safe? Why is it important to take your own drinking water?



Today there are new technologies for saving and collecting water, even special nets and mesh systems for gathering fog to catch the water droplets! There are lots of amazing ideas for you to explore. Perhaps you can think of a new way to collect water. How can you collect water at home, or at school?

https://illumeably.net/posts/20-new-water-conservation-technologies-for-2025/



Would you like to take part in an environmental project, like planting in a wetland area or on a stream bank? Ask an adult to help you find the right project and be sure to work with a safe environmental team. Take your adult with you.



Water is a precious resource. What can you do at home and at school to use less water? Do your family and friends have any good water saving ideas?



The author chose not to include freshwater snails in the story. Why might they have made this decision? How would you present a page on freshwater snails? Where would you find your information and how would you check that your information is correct?



FULL S-T-E-A-M AHEAD!

Fun activities for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math



- **Choose to become an expert** Select one of the creatures in the story. Research. Record. Present your information to the class in a speech or a podcast.

- **Another speaker** Invite an expert in water conservation to speak to the class about stream and river care. Before the speaker comes, build a list of questions to ask. Plan your welcome to your guest, your thank you speech, and practise your class waiata.



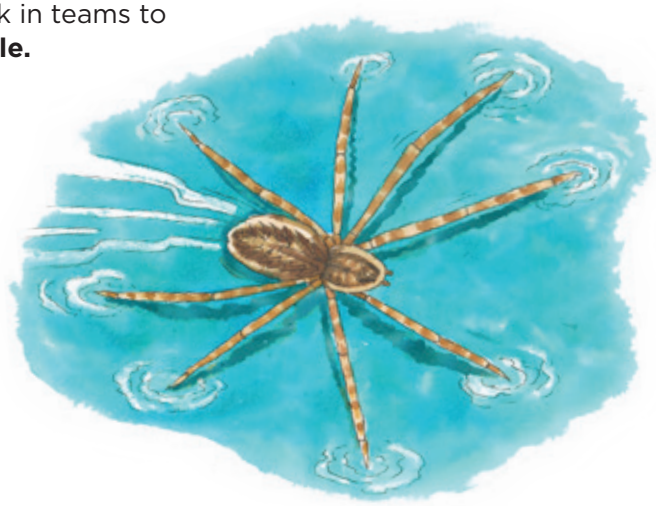
- **Sound picture** At the stream listen for the sounds around you. Back in class work together to make a sound picture. Use all the instruments you can find in the classroom. These might include things like containers, paint brushes, spoons, paper — don't forget your hands, and your voice! With so many sounds you'll need a **conductor** for a class presentation.

- **Sketching** Nikki started with black and white sketches for her art work. Try black and white sketching. It's okay to copy as you learn about lines and shapes. But do try a sketch of your own.

- **Diorama** Use a box like a shoe box and make a stream diorama. Start with a plan and **measurements.**

- **Engineer work** Research **fish passage solutions.** Work in teams to build a model for a fish passage. Try building it to **scale.**

- **Computer skills** Discover **weather reports**. Read the rain radar on the site. Learn about weather warnings. Have fun presenting the weather report to your class — as if you are on TV!



TE REO MĀORI

Practise pronouncing te reo Māori.
Read the story together.
Feel the mana of the creatures and the stream.
Use your sound picture skills to make a special sound picture to work with the story.
Find the Māori names for the creatures in the book and practise saying those names using the guide on the next page.
Create a Word Search using only the Māori names for the creatures and challenge your classmates to find the words.

GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION OF TE REO MĀORI

Vowels

A	Say as the a in **a**loud
E	Say as the e in **e**gg
I	Say as the e in **e**at
O	Say as the oo in d**oo**r
U	Say as the oo in z**oo**

Long vowels

Ā	Say as the a in c**a**r
Ē	Say as the ai in f**ai**r
Ī	Say as the ee in d**ee**p
Ō	Say as the aw in p**aw**
Ū	Say as the oo in m**oo**n

Consonants

H K M N P R T W Pronounce as in English.

R Like a 'rolled' r. If you can imitate the purring of a cat you will know how to pronounce r in te reo Māori. If you can't do that, aim for a sound that is like an English 'd' but softer, such as in the word udder.

T The sound of t depends on the vowel that appears after it. When followed by a, e or o, it sounds like a soft English d. For example, the word te can sound close to de. When t is followed by i or u, it is a sharper sound. Before i, it sound like 'tea', before u it sounds like 'two'.

Digraphs

NG Sounds like the 'ng' in the English word singer.
WH Sounds like the English 'f' sound.

WRITE TO DAWN AND NIKKI

We LOVE getting mail from our readers. Tell us about your favourite freshwater creatures and where you met them. Write about any field trips you have made to wetlands or streams. Perhaps you've been part of a planting project in the wetlands or on the stream banks. We'd be so excited to see photos of you at work. Post your letters to 783 West Coast Road, Oratia, Auckland 0604

