

PUKAPUKA  
TAWHIRI





SEE YA, SIMON  
by DAVID HILL (1992)

LOVE

DISABILITY

GRIEF & LOSS

FRIENDSHIP

An emotionally heavy book, it engages with concepts of death and disability in a heartfelt, humorous and approachable way. It is based on the story of a schoolmate of the author's daughter.

At the heart of the story is the friendship between Simon and Nathan. Simon has Muscular Dystrophy, an autoimmune disease.

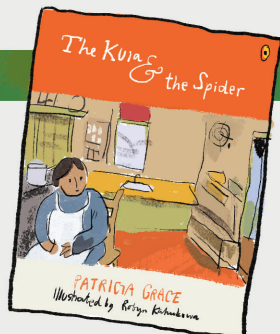
Is Nathan changed by his friendship and loss of Simon?

Simon is described as a 'typical teenager'. What is a typical teenager?

Do you think this book tells Simon or Nathan's story?



THE KUIA and THE SPIDER  
by PATRICIA GRACE  
& ROBYN KAHUKIWA (1981)



FAMILY

MĀTAURANGA MĀORI

LOVE

In this story, both the kuia and the spider are expert weavers who love their grandchildren very much. They have a competition to decide who is the better weaver and invite their grandchildren to be the judges.

Even though the kuia and the spider weave different things, they are both of value and perfectly suited for their purpose. The grandchildren never decide whose weaving is better, instead using the woven items for what they were made to do! The idea that neither is actually 'better' than the other is very important.

This was one of the first picture books by an author and illustrator who are both Māori.



What would happen if the spider's grandchildren used the kuia's weaving, and vice versa?

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT  
by GAVIN BISHOP (1999)

NZ HISTORY

COLONIALISM

EARLY MĀORI and PĀKEHĀ INTERACTIONS



This adaptation of an old British nursery rhyme is set in 1798, when British settlers were first arriving in New Zealand. In this version of 'The House that Jack Built' the cumulative rhyme is used to illustrate the building impact of colonisation on Māori - including land loss, displacement and introduced diseases - the effects of which continue today.

The story is communicated almost exclusively through illustrations - beautiful and detailed drawings that include Māori gods and historical maps.

THE CHAMPION by MAURICE GEE (1989)

FRIENDSHIP & LOYALTY

WAR

HEROISM

RACISM & PREJUDICE

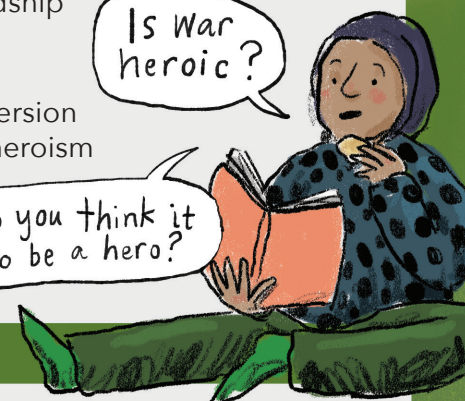


Set during WWII, a black American soldier, Jack, comes to small town New Zealand. Locals and other soldiers are racist towards Jack, even as they fight together. Rex (the main character) is also racist at the start of the book, however his attitude is changed by his friendship with Jack. This relationship is the central one of the book.

This book focuses on ideas of heroism. Rex has an idealised version of what a "hero" is, does, and should look like. He associates heroism with war and the things he reads about in comic books. Jack, the soldier, doesn't glorify war and is afraid of guns.

Is War heroic?

What do you think it means to be a hero?



THE HAUNTING by MARGARET MAHY (1982)

LOSS & GUILT

LOVE

FAMILIAL STRIFE

FEAR

THE PAST

This book will spark joy in the ghost, witch and supernatural-obsessed. The reader is drawn into a richly described world that's packed with suspense. It is a story full of spooky magic, with a twist ending!

There are secrets hiding in Barney's family tree, and the past is haunting him...but not in the way he first thinks. There are magicians in his family...but who are they? Barney is close with his sisters and stepmother and it is their love that keeps them together through all kinds of strife.

THE WHALE RIDER by WITI IHIMAERA (1987)

LEADERSHIP

NATURE

FAMILY

PREJUDICE

LOVE



Kahu is headstrong, intelligent and tenacious. She is determined to please her grandfather and show him she is worthy of being the next chief...if he would just let her. There is conflict between modernity and tradition - can these two ideas work together?

A central concept of this book is love; between family, hapu and nature. We spend time in the minds of whales as they navigate the vast ocean. There is an ancient bond between the whales and Kahu's ancestor Paikea - the whale rider. Is Kahu the next whale rider?

What makes a good leader?

Why don't we have as many women leaders as men?



THE DUCK IN THE GUN by JOY COWLEY  
& ROBYN BELTON (1969)

DUTY

FRIENDSHIP

WAR



Joy Cowley wrote this as a protest to the Vietnam war.

In this book, a duck chooses to make its nest inside a gun, which causes the war effort to grind to a halt and prevents a general and his soldiers from attacking the town. The soldiers grow fond of the duck, and they end up helping build and improve the town instead of destroying it.

It is a story about duty, and examining who this duty is owed to and why. The book holds a strong anti-war message, with a focus on relationships.