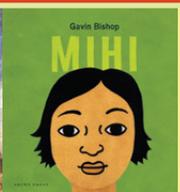
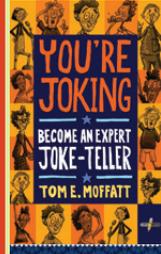
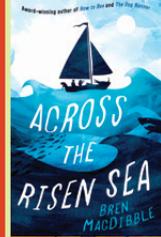
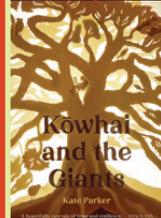


# BEST NZ BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS 2021



# MEET AVA, FARYAL AND CAMERON, OUR CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS AMBASSADORS

Our awards ambassadors for 2021 are all keen readers who attend Lincoln Heights School in West Auckland.

Seven-year-old Ava likes funny books, and reading on rainy days. She thinks reading stories provides great inspiration for writing her own.

Faryal is 10 years old and she enjoys reading because it helps her be more creative.

Cameron, 12, likes to snuggle up in a comfy chair to read. He says reading makes him feel happy, but that different books can make him feel different emotions. Cameron likes books about facts, but he chooses what to read depending on his mood.



## KIA ORA TAMARIKI!

IF YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR  
YOUR NEXT BEST READ, YOU HAVE  
COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

THE JUDGES OF THE **2021  
NEW ZEALAND BOOK AWARDS FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS**  
HAVE SELECTED 28 FANTASTIC  
BOOKS TO LOSE YOURSELF  
IN THIS WINTER.

YOU'LL FIND THEM IN YOUR  
NEAREST BOOKSHOP OR  
LIBRARY, OR AT YOUR SCHOOL!  
SO **GET STUCK IN TO THE BEST  
NEW BOOKS**, CREATED BY  
NEW ZEALAND AUTHORS AND  
ILLUSTRATORS WITH **READERS  
JUST LIKE YOU IN MIND.**

# PICTURE BOOK AWARD

MINDFULNESS, MYSTERIES,  
KAITIAKITANGA, LOVE AND LOSS  
AND ANZAC MEMORIES



## HARE & RURU: A QUIET MOMENT

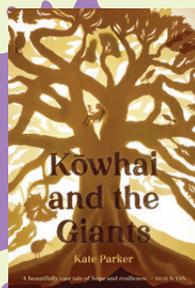
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA SHALLCRASS  
PUBLISHED BY BEATNIK PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

Hare needs to find quiet. Everywhere there is noise, and so Hare sets off on a journey to find peace and stillness. The theme of mindfulness is captured in a story that encourages readers to consider Hare's feelings. With good pace, beautifully designed spreads, and stunning images that evoke emotion, this is a gentle book for children and adults who know what it is like to be anxious.

## HOUND THE DETECTIVE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KIMBERLY ANDREWS  
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$19.99 PB

Hound loves to solve mysteries – but has he missed something important? Readers are invited to search, question and link ideas along with Hound as he gathers clues and tries to make sense of them. There is much to discover in the fun, busy illustrations, which carry clever messages that connect to reveal a humorous twist at the end. This interactive book will be looked at over and over again.



## KŌWHAI AND THE GIANTS

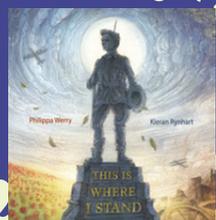
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KATE PARKER  
PUBLISHED BY LITTLE LOVE, MARY EGAN PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

Kōwhai is born of the forest and lives there for thousands of years, feeding its giant trees. But the arrival of newcomers threatens the survival of the forest Giants that Kōwhai has nurtured. *Kōwhai and the Giants* leaves readers with a call to action that gives hope for a positive future. A well-written story with poetic quality, perfect balance between images and text, and kaitiakitanga themes threaded throughout.

## THE HUG BLANKET

BY CHRIS GURNEY, ILLUSTRATED BY LAEL CHISHOLM  
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$19.99 HB

A visually bright book that deals with love and the loss of a grandparent in a sensitive and straightforward way. The text does not shy away from using words like 'died', 'coffin' and 'graveside', but softens the impact of these through warm illustrations depicting family images and treasured memories. A wonderfully constructed story that will leave us all reaching for our own Hug Blankets.



## THIS IS WHERE I STAND

BY PHILIPPA WERRY, ILLUSTRATED BY KIERAN RYNHART  
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$27.99 HB

A fresh approach to the Anzac story, with a monument depicting a World War I soldier as the central character. The statue remembers those who went to war, and he also watches and gathers the stories of the people he has seen come and go across time, saying "I am Memory". An economy of words allows the evocative images to speak, together giving thoughtful voice to Anzac history.



## ACROSS THE RISEN SEA

BY BREN MACDIBBLE  
PUBLISHED BY A&U CHILDREN, ALLEN & UNWIN, \$18.99 PB

The gentle way of life of Neoma's and Jag's community is endangered. When Jag is taken to the Valley of the Sun, Neoma must embark on a sea voyage to rescue him. The friends must use all their wits and diplomacy to help two cultures accept each other and live peacefully. This is a well-paced story with quiet humour and a subtle environmental message, which draws readers into a credible future.

## CHARLIE TANGAROA AND THE CREATURE FROM THE SEA

BY T K ROXBOROUGH, ILLUSTRATED BY PHOEBE MORRIS  
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$25.00 PB

Development of a port is degrading the ocean and has reignited tension between the Māori gods, throwing both the human world and the realm of the gods into chaos. A ponaturi, a sea goblin, believes that Charlie Tangaroa straddles the two worlds and that only he can restore calm. Somehow Charlie must find a way to reunite the gods and stop the destruction. Believable, gripping and thoroughly enjoyable.



## RED EDGE

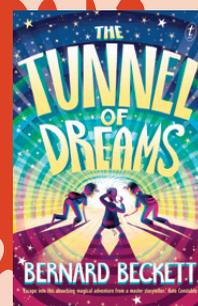
BY DES HUNT  
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$19.99 PB

In post-earthquake Christchurch, unlikely friends Cassi and Quinn investigate mysterious comings and goings in a broken-down house on the edge of the Red Zone. Helped by an ex-journalist, the pair expose an environmental crime and a pair of opportunists exploiting their culture for profit. A compelling, credible read with enjoyable characters, with whom we empathise as they deal with personal demons and the attitudes of their peers.

## THE INKBERG ENIGMA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JONATHAN KING  
PUBLISHED BY GECKO PRESS, \$29.99 PB

Book-loving Miro and camera-toting Zia stumble across a secret in the seaside town of Aurora. Together they discover why Aurora's fishing catches are always so good, and the corrupt pact that makes this possible. This is an astonishing debut in a refreshing format, with homages to comic creators of the past and a compelling story that will draw in even those who are not usually fans of graphic novels.



## THE TUNNEL OF DREAMS

BY BERNARD BECKETT  
PUBLISHED BY TEXT PUBLISHING, \$21.00 PB

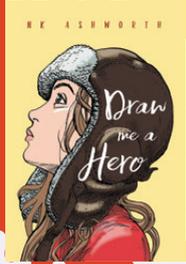
Two sets of twins and a magical, parallel world provide the foundation for an absorbing adventure. The twins find themselves on a dangerous and difficult quest that challenges their abilities and their sense of self. Readers will become immersed in a world where animals can talk and twins can levitate, and will find themselves getting carried along in this delightful fantasy adventure.

JUNIOR FICTION  
WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION  
ESTHER GLEN AWARD

SEA-FARING ADVENTURE,  
WARRING GODS, ENVIRONMENTAL  
CRIME, GRAPHIC SECRETS, AND  
TWIN QUESTS

# YOUNG ADULT FICTION AWARD

GIRL MEETS SELF, MYTHOLOGICAL COLLISIONS, SPYCRAFT, OPPRESSION RESISTED, AND A REAL VOICE



## DRAW ME A HERO

BY N K ASHWORTH

PUBLISHED BY LEMON INK, LASAVIA PUBLISHING, \$24.99 PB

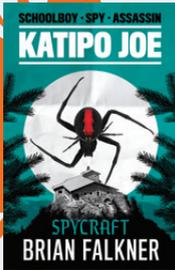
The lines between fantasy and reality begin to blur in this novella about art, the written word, friendship, attraction and family. 14-year-old Jane's thoughts and experiences are distilled into a multi-layered narrative that explores relatable issues – blended families, romance, mental health – without becoming didactic. An intriguing read whose classic girl-meets-boy premise is powered by an impressive subtlety and command of language under the hood.

## FIRE'S CARESS

BY LANI WENDT YOUNG

PUBLISHED BY ONETREE HOUSE, \$29.00 PB

Lani Wendt Young brings her characteristic linguistic flair and talent for narrative pacing to this return to the Telesā world. *Fire's Caress* is a novel of brilliant collision as the roiling, arcane powers of Sāmoa's mythological past confront modern-day corporate hegemony. Global themes of environmentalism, neocolonial resistance, and the vitality of traditional stories are embodied in deftly written characters, who crackle with intensity and life.



## KATIPO JOE: SPYCRAFT

BY BRIAN FALKNER

PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$19.99 PB

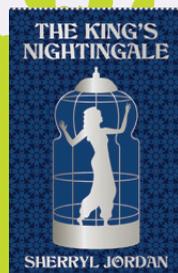
An unputdownable, heart-pumping tale of infiltration and war, with a very real historical thread woven through the action and intrigue of the narrative. The story begins with 'Katipo' Joe St George, teen spy, parachuting into wartime Nazi Germany through flak and flame, and the stakes are only raised from there. Brian Falkner's masterful control of pacing clinches this book's lasting and wide appeal to teen readers.

## THE KING'S NIGHTINGALE

BY SHERRYL JORDAN

PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$24.99 PB

Elowen, enslaved and sold as a singer to the king of Al-Zafar, is the beating heart of this book. Readers will be drawn into Elowen's world by her determination, bravery and honesty – and by Sherryl Jordan's intricate, poetic world-building and evocative storytelling voice. From miserable depths, Elowen leads us to hope. *The King's Nightingale* is a dynamic story of power, powerlessness, love and loyalty.



## THE PŌRANGI BOY

BY SHILO KINO

PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$25.00 PB

The voice of the small-town New Zealand teen is effortlessly captured in a hard-hitting story of what it is to be young and on the outside. Even though 'pōrangī' ('crazy') boy Niko's life is touched by hardship at school and at home, he never stops fighting to uphold his ideals. Shilo Kino's deft hand brings to life characters that the reader can easily recognise and love.

# NON-FICTION ELSIE LOCKE AWARD

SPLATTER BATTER, A ROYAL POEM, CONFRONTING DISASTER, CHANGING SEASONS, AND LOADS O' LAUGHS



## EGG AND SPOON: AN ILLUSTRATED COOKBOOK

BY ALEXANDRA TYLEE, ILLUSTRATED BY GISELLE CLARKSON

PUBLISHED BY GECKO PRESS, \$39.99 HB

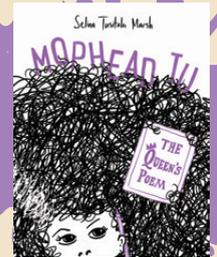
Equally appealing to the gourmet and child chef alike, *Egg and Spoon* is full of tasty recipes, and even more palatable illustrations. Clear instructions are paired with intentionally 'messy' pictures in this playful cookbook that will have you wanting to dog-ear pages, spill batter, and most of all, cook. Including tips on foraging and kitchen basics, this is a delightful read, even out of the kitchen!

## MOPHEAD TU: THE QUEEN'S POEM

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SELINA TUSITALA MARSH

PUBLISHED BY AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY PRESS, \$24.99 HB

When you achieve a dream but people call you a 'sell out', what do you do? Can you serve the Queen and still stand with your people, who struggled against the Crown? *Mophead Tu* showed us the journey, now *Mophead Tu* shows us that the destination sometimes comes with its own set of challenges. It's an aspirational and inspirational tale, told in bold illustrations, and with even bolder words.



## NEW ZEALAND DISASTERS

BY MARIA GILL, ILLUSTRATED BY MARCO IVANČIĆ

PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$29.99 HB

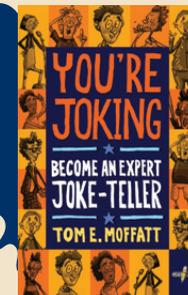
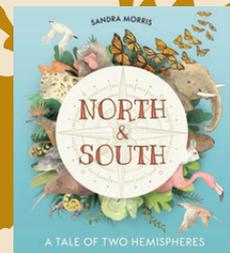
Filled with facts and dramatic descriptions, *New Zealand Disasters* will fascinate and inform in equal measure. Vivid illustrations bring to life some of the most sombre events in New Zealand's history. From earthquakes and shipwrecks to plane crashes and pandemics, the focus is not just on the events themselves but also on how New Zealanders have responded to disasters and learned from them, and on resiliency and outcomes.

## NORTH AND SOUTH

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SANDRA MORRIS

PUBLISHED BY WALKER BOOKS AUSTRALIA, \$29.99 HB

A month-by-month approach is used to highlight the different ways in which Northern and Southern Hemisphere animals deal with changing seasons, and how variations in climate affect the ways in which animals breed, feed and survive. Maps and gorgeous watercolour illustrations complement the informative but accessible text. This book brings the whole world to us, with new discoveries on every page – a dormouse here, a honeypot ant there!



## YOU'RE JOKING: BECOME AN EXPERT JOKE-TELLER

BY TOM E MOFFATT, ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL BEAVIS

PUBLISHED BY WRITE LAUGH BOOKS, \$19.99 PB

Joke books can sometimes be passed over, but this one is different. Not only is it filled with deliciously corny jokes, it also shows you how to tell them ... and create them! Packed with easy-to-follow instructions, performance tips, silly illustrations, and an insistence that practice makes perfect, this book teaches us, at a very serious time, to not take ourselves so seriously.



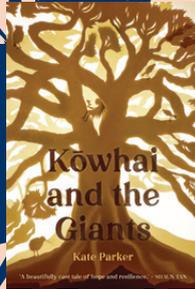
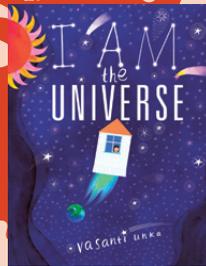
**HARE & RURU: A QUIET MOMENT**  
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA SHALLCRASS  
PUBLISHED BY BEATNIK PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

Hare's desperate pursuit of peace is illustrated using a soft colour palette of blues and browns. Cross sections and 'hare-level' views allow readers to connect with Hare, hearing noises from above and below the earth. Moments of silence and sound are created through the use of negative space. Lastly, the view turns from the light earth to the dark heavens, and Ruru's wise message about how to find quiet.

**I AM THE UNIVERSE**

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY VASANTI UNKA  
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$25.00 HB

Kaleidoscopic illustrations fill each page, as readers are guided through the galaxy and solar system to Earth, and all the way down to a family and eventually a single child, before drawing the reader's attention back to the infinite space of the universe in the final spread. Judicious labelling of elements of the solar system, atmosphere and continents introduces non-fiction elements to this joyful journey through the universe.



**KŌWHAI AND THE GIANTS**

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KATE PARKER  
PUBLISHED BY LITTLE LOVE, MARY EGAN PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

We follow Kōwhai in her mission to bring back the giant trees of Aotearoa's forests. Illustrations complement the poetic text, offering a range of perspectives and a truncated history of Aotearoa. Based on a shadow box exhibition at the Arataki Visitor Centre in 2016/17, the illustrations capture a sense of their original three dimensions using a palette of kauri browns and kōwhai golds.

**MOON & SUN**

BY MELINDA SZYMANIK, ILLUSTRATED BY MALENE LAUGESSEN  
PUBLISHED BY UPSTART PRESS, \$19.99 PB

Moon envies her bright and beautiful sister Sun and feels dull next to her. Told from Moon's perspective, deep blue skies and bright yellow sunshine are in counterpoint in this tale of their complex relationship. Multiple curved lines flow across each unframed watercolour spread, carrying readers along through the story, while the colours and facial expressions of the personified astral bodies convey the emotion of the text.



**TE URUURU WHENUA O NGĀTOROIRANGI**

BY CHRIS WINITANA, ILLUSTRATED BY LAYA MUTTON-ROGERS  
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$20.00 PB

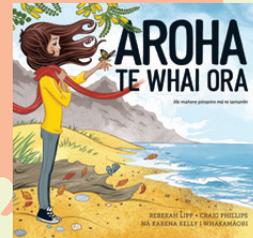
Colour and line are used powerfully to enhance the journey of Ngātoroirangi around the Central Plateau. Deep blues and teal greens depict the waters of the Waikato and the Rangitāiki rivers, and vibrant orange and reds illuminate dark backgrounds at Ketetahi. Spiritual elements are cleverly interpreted, and movement is ever present, with dramatic jagged lines in moments of high tension and curved flowing lines in peaceful scenes.

**ILLUSTRATION  
RUSSELL CLARK AWARD**

**SEEKING PEACE, THE INFINITE  
UNIVERSE, SAVING THE FOREST,  
ASTRAL BODIES, AND AN  
ANCESTRAL JOURNEY**

**TE REO MĀORI  
WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION  
TE KURA POUNAMU AWARD**

**UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS,  
INTRODUCING PEPEHA, A NEW  
ARRIVAL, TWO TANIWHA, AND A  
CHALLENGING JOURNEY**



**AROHA TE WHAI ORA**

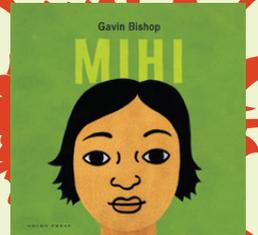
BY REBEKAH LIPP, ILLUSTRATED BY CRAIG PHILLIPS, TRANSLATED BY KARENA KELLY  
PUBLISHED BY WILDLING BOOKS, \$19.95 PB

We are taken on a journey with Aroha as she deals with her worries and fears, and learns techniques to manage her emotions. Readers are encouraged to think about their feelings and find effective ways to lift their spirits. The flow of lines and colour in the illustrations draws readers in, while te reo Māori has an ebb and flow, with a rhythmic beat that would work well as a waiata.

**MIHI**

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY GAVIN BISHOP  
PUBLISHED BY GECKO PRESS, \$17.99 HB

Mihi introduces concepts of whānau and place in the world, the starting point for everyone learning te reo Māori. The simplicity of illustrations and reo in make this board book both beautiful and accessible. Mihi shows the special places and people with whom readers can identify, both at home and in the community, providing a solid foundation for learning te reo Māori in the future.



**PĪPĪ KIWI**

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY HELEN TAYLOR, TRANSLATED BY HĒNI JACOB  
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$19.99 PB

Kiwi Iti wakes one day to find something new. Youthful curiosity takes over as he questions his father, Kiwi Nui, about this new entity. The story shows the inquisitiveness of children and how they react to the prospect of new additions to their families, and also teaches important lessons about patience. Variations in the size of text capture the eye and encourage readers to learn new kupu.

**NGAKE ME WHĀTAITAI**

WRITTEN BY BEN NGAIA, ILLUSTRATED BY LAYA MUTTON-ROGERS  
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$20.00 PB

The traditional story of Ngake and Whātaimai, two taniwha of Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington Harbour, is used to explain how the landscape of areas surrounding the harbour came about, and the origins of different Māori names for Wellington's well-known landmarks. Graphic novel illustrations bring the story of the two taniwha to life. This is a traditional interpretation of the interactions of tectonic plates and how seas and mountains were formed.



**TE URUURU WHENUA O NGĀTOROIRANGI**

BY CHRIS WINITANA, ILLUSTRATED BY LAYA MUTTON-ROGERS  
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$20.00 PB

Te Uruuru Whenua o Ngātoroirangi follows in the footsteps of the tohunga Ngātoroirangi (Ngātoro) as he journeys through Aotearoa and overcomes challenges from demons and the many exotic guardians of the different areas he traverses through. Readers are taken into the depths of places and the majestic mountains surrounding the Central Plateau. Te reo Māori highlights the mita of tangata whenua of the region.



### HARE & RURU: A QUIET MOMENT

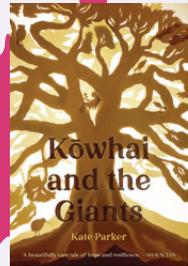
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA SHALLCRASS  
PUBLISHED BY BEATNIK PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

Why does Hare need quiet, and how will this help? Ruru leads a desperate Hare to a solution in a gently packaged secret message combining text and images. Using a combination of a limited soft colour palette, beautifully detailed and textured illustrations, and intelligent design decisions, this story provides an enchanting, fresh way to introduce ideas of conscious wellbeing to children and help them to manage anxiety.

### KŌWHAI AND THE GIANTS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KATE PARKER  
PUBLISHED BY LITTLE LOVE, MARY EGAN PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

Kōwhai hopes to inspire others to rebuild the forest. This whimsical tale weaves together messages of colonisation, greed and waste with the realisation that there is hope for the future. This becomes real when Kōwhai finally understands that one person or one seed can initiate change. With cleverly hidden details on every page, the book's deceptively simple but beautifully crafted illustrations invite readers to look, and look again.



### THE INKBERG ENIGMA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JONATHAN KING  
PUBLISHED BY GECKO PRESS, \$29.99 PB

Miro and Zia use both skill and grit to solve a mystery in the seaside town of Aurora, revealing the corruption that has a powerful hold over the town. This graphic novel is full of excitement, and every image has much to see and take in. With its winning combination of intrigue, adventure and fantastical sea creatures, *The Inkberg Enigma* will appeal to a wide range of readers.

### THE MIDNIGHT ADVENTURES OF RURU AND KIWI

BY CLARE SCOTT, ILLUSTRATED BY AMY HAARHOFF  
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$19.99 PB

Textures, dots, patterns, swirls, smudges and intricate line work give characters personality and appeal in this tale of Ruru and Kiwi and their midnight feasts. The illustrations have energy and depth, with wispy feathery leaves and vibrant bright eyes among the dark forest backgrounds. This is a story of friendship, sharing and fun, captured in images that give movement and charisma to each New Zealand creature.



### THE PŌRANGI BOY

BY SHILO KINO  
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$25.00 PB

Niko has a lot to deal with. He is being bullied, he is worried about his Mum, and he is supporting his koro to protect their land and the taniwha that belongs there. This is a well-paced story that portrays a recognisable picture of life in small town New Zealand. Issues faced by young people are woven throughout, yet Niko's important story of protest and strength remains at the core.

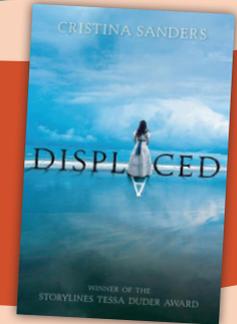
# BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD

## MANAGING ANXIETY, INSPIRING OTHERS, SEA MONSTERS, MIDNIGHT FEASTS, AND PROTEST



### THE START OF A MAGICAL NEW PONY SERIES FOR YOUNGER READERS FROM THE BESTSELLING NEW ZEALAND AUTHOR

### FROM THE WINNER OF THE STORYLINES TESSA DUDER AWARD, AN ENTHRALLING HISTORICAL NOVEL OF IMMIGRATION, COURAGE AND FIRST LOVE



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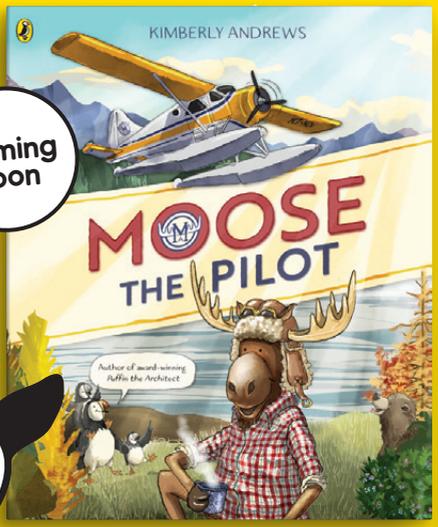


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Brand new books from this year's finalists ...



Coming Soon

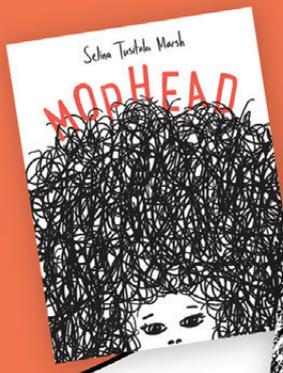


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Malo lava Mophead!

NZCYA 2020 Margaret Mahy Book of the Year



Kia kaha te reo Māori!



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KOTAHI RAU PUKAPUKA



The Margaret Mahy Illustration Prize 2021

Do you want to illustrate kids' books?

The Margaret Mahy Illustration Prize is an unique opportunity for unpublished illustrators to try their hand at illustrating Margaret Mahy's *There's A King In The Cupboard*.

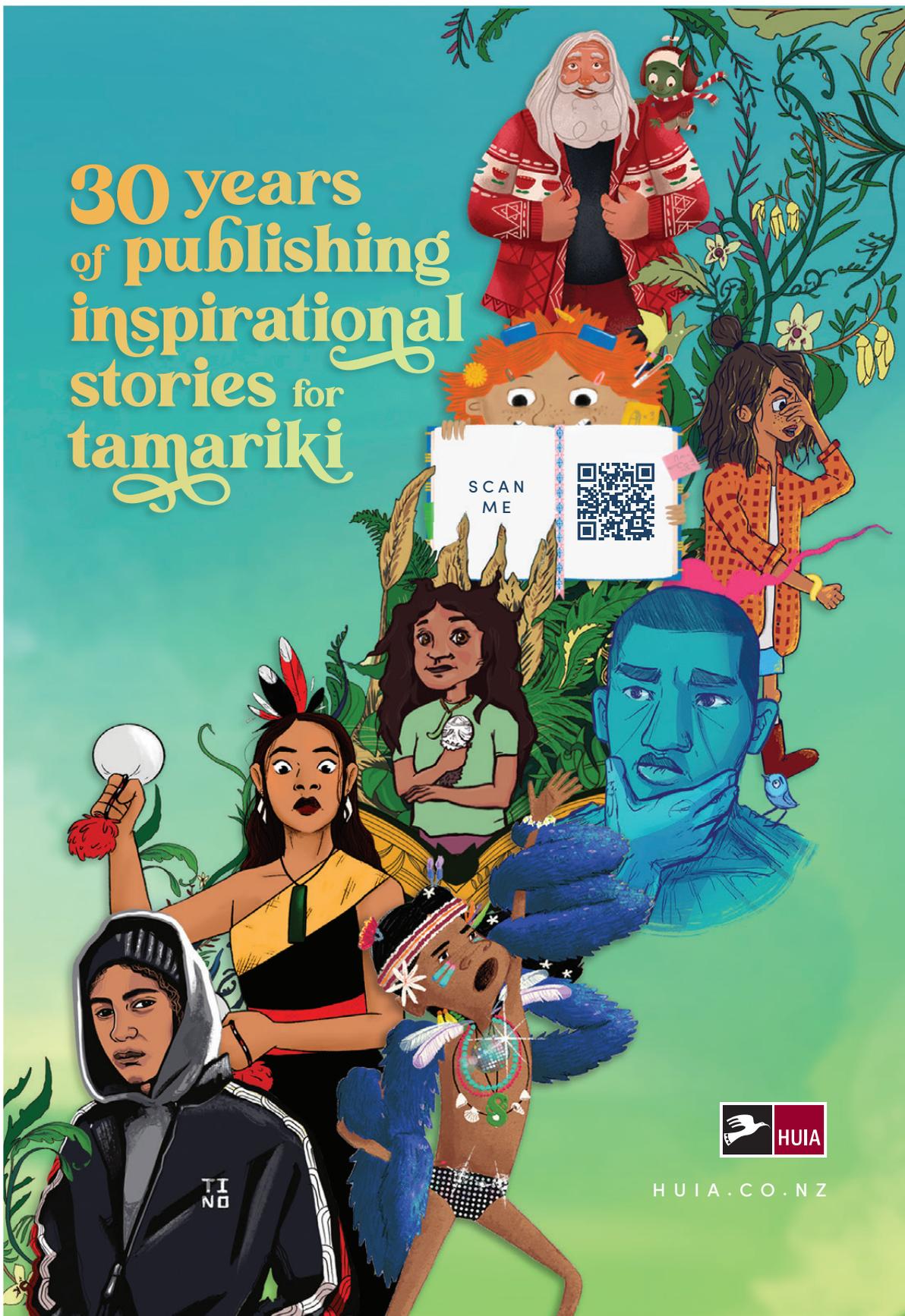
FIND OUT MORE AT

[www.TheMargaretMahyIllustrationPrize.co.nz](http://www.TheMargaretMahyIllustrationPrize.co.nz)

T&Cs apply. Competition closes 29th July 2021.



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