

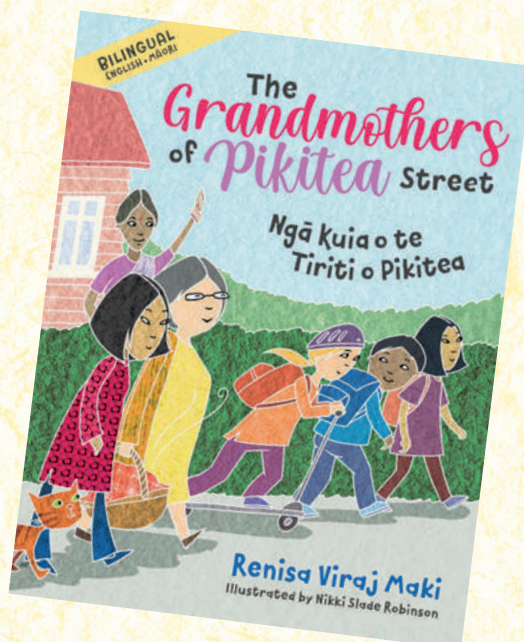
The Grandmothers of Pikitea Street

Ngā Kuia o te Tiriti o Pikitea

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Teacher Resource

'It was bedtime on Pikitea Street.

A cool breeze was blowing, carrying with it the warm smells of flavoursome food.'

The Grandmothers of Pikitea Street is a book celebrating different cultures. It shines a light on what New Zealanders have in common through food, family and friendship.

Māori, Samoan, Indian, Chinese, Ethiopian and Pākehā characters share stories about their culture and identity, told through the lens of grandmothers telling the children cultural bedtime stories and preparing lunchboxes of traditional food. Pikitea Street is a vibrant community of immigrants and iwi families caring for each other.

Discussion

This story is about a neighbourhood where people from many different cultures live, like many neighbourhoods in New Zealand. Think about your own neighbourhood. Are there any families not originally from New Zealand that live in your street, or do you have friends who are born in New Zealand but perhaps their parents or grandparents weren't born here? Have you ever shared stories like the ones in the book?

Think about the food in the book. Is there any particular food you like that is from a different country or culture than what you are used to eating?

Think about the ingredients in the food that's being cooked in the book. Have you ever seen lentils or roti or naan bread at the supermarket?

Sharing food is a wonderful way to spend time with other people.



Activities



- 1. Design and draw your own lunchbox and the food that's in it.**
Share your picture with other students and talk about the different foods you eat.
 - What do you like?
 - Who makes your food?
 - What country does your food come from?
- 2. Draw a picture of your favourite food from your culture.**
 - Is it something you eat every day or most weeks? Why do you like it so much?
 - Is it something eaten only on special occasions? At what occasions is it eaten (for example, birthdays, a haircutting ceremony, a religious holiday)?
- 3. Bring a recipe to share with your class.**
You could have a shared meal and bring a plate of food that is important to you.
- 4. Learn key phrases and greetings from the different cultures in this book.**
Practice pronouncing the words.
You could research greetings and use them in your morning roll call, for example, 'hello' in Samoan is 'talofa lava', and in Hindi is 'namaste'.
- 5. Make a classroom pictograph showing the different countries the students in your classroom are from, including listing how many and what languages are spoken.**
- 6. Create a class flag incorporating parts of everyone's culture through shapes, colours and patterns.**
- 7. Make a cultural textile pattern for the characters in the book, for example a siapo pattern, an Indian Rangoli pattern (there's a Rangoli pattern at the end of this resource you can use).**
- 8. Design an activity for a Grandparents' Day and invite your grandparents or other older adults to your classroom so you can do the activity together.**
You could act out a scene from the book using the people who live in your house as the characters.
- 9. Write interview questions for your grandparents or any older adults you know to find out more about your cultural history and share with the class.**
Do the adults you've spoken to know a proverb or cultural story you can share with the class?
- 10. Design your own traditional menu for a three-course meal that includes a starter, a main meal and a dessert.**
[This activity could suit Social Studies, as well as a math lesson for the quantities of ingredients/pricing. The students could publish the menus and learn about formatting and descriptive language.]



Writing activities

1. Write a note to put inside a lunchbox for your sibling, parent or friend.
2. Create your own proverb or bedtime story.
3. Rewrite a page of the book from the point of view of one of the characters.

Write your own story that begins with one of the stories you have heard in the book. For example, you could make a story pretending you are Māui, a story about stars, or a story about friendship.

Using this book in the New Zealand classroom

This book can be linked to several curriculum subjects such as Social Sciences and Aotearoa New Zealand histories. The diversity and inclusion themes connect to the Achievement objectives of Social Sciences. The book also connects to the 'Cultural knowledge' achievement objective within the Learning Languages module. Refreshing the New Zealand Curriculum has been a focus in recent years, honouring Te Tiriti O Waitangi, being more inclusive, clear, and easy to use. This book connects to tikanga Māori values of manaakitanga and hospitality towards guests, as well as broader cultural values supporting intercultural friendships and celebration of different backgrounds. Given the focus on 'Teaching as Inquiry' approach, this book can connect with various 'Big Ideas' or overarching themes such as community, culture, identity, racial harmony. The book is bilingual in te reo Māori and English, and can be used towards Learning Languages curriculum. There are also several words from the different languages to learn.

Rongoli Pattern

