

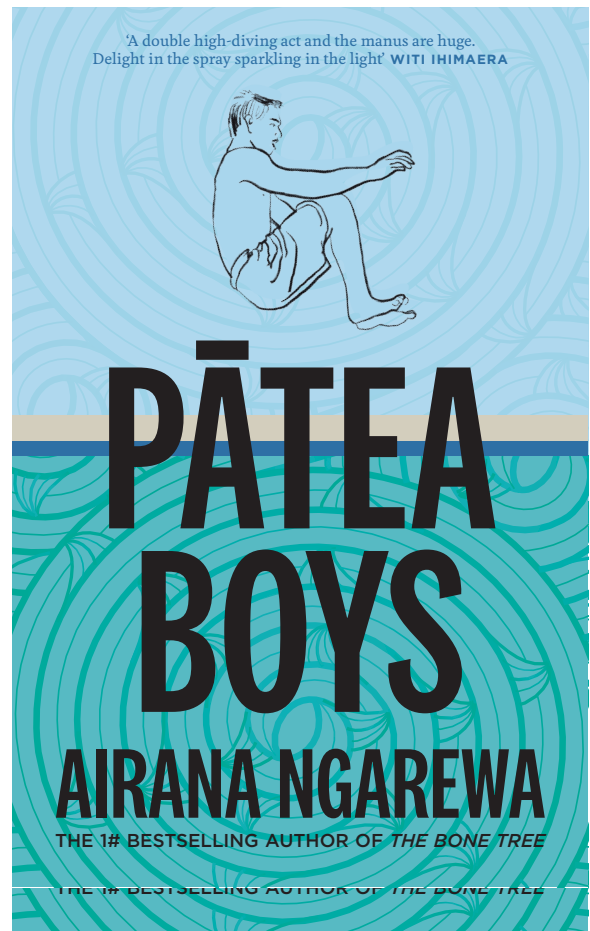
# PĀTEA BOYS – AIRANA NGAREWA

## STORY SUMMARY

‘A double high-diving act and the manus are huge. Delight in the spray sparkling in the light’ WITI IHIMAERA

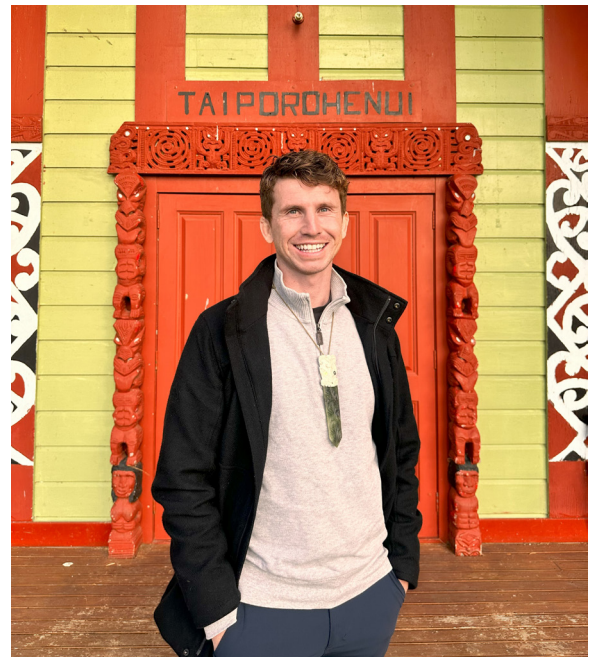
From the bestselling author of *The Bone Tree* comes a lively and playful bilingual collection of stories about growing up in Pātea.

Interlinked and full of recurring characters, these stories are about growing up in small-town Aotearoa - sneaking away during cross country or doing bombs while the lifeguard isn't looking. The collection is designed to bridge a gap between children's books in te reo and full-length literary works. With each story featured in both English and te reo Māori, it's the perfect resource for those on their reo learning journeys as well as for readers who enjoyed *The Bone Tree*.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and raised in Pātea, Airana Ngarewa (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngāruahine) is the author of the bestselling novel *The Bone Tree*. He won the short story and poetry competitions at the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards in 2022. His writing has also been published by RNZ, the *New Zealand Herald*, Newsroom and *Landfall*.



## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

### BOMBS FOR THE BROS

- One of Turi's friends uses the word 'Leshgo'. What words would a minister at a church or a policewoman use instead to encourage their friend to do something brave?
- Turi was kicked out of the pools for doing a bomb. Do you think this was a fair consequence? Write two paragraphs explaining to the lifeguard why she should or should not allow Turi to return to the pools.

### THE PĀTEA MĀORI CLUB

- How would a young person feel if they believed they were the only one without a connection to a famous icon? How would they show these feelings?
- Watch the music video of the song *Poi E* and guess what decade it was written in. Explain what features of the music video make you think it was written in the decade you choose.

### A NATIVE SUPERGIRL

- This story moves backwards and forwards in time. What feature in the story shows you when the story is doing this? List some phrases or words the writer could have used instead.
- The girl lost track of her mission when she saw the young boy. What do you think she was feeling and thinking when she was looking at him?

### EGMONT STREET

- Define the word 'prophecy'. Use it in a sentence.
- Do you think Charity is telling the truth when he says his father won a million dollars last week? Why or why not?

### CROSS COUNTRY

- Consider what you have read about Koro and describe what you think he was like when he was Truce's age.
- Truce won the competition. How do you think he will feel about this accomplishment one year into the future?

### THE PĀ IS A LONELY PLACE

- Why will the last Māori to be buried on the pā be 'thrown straight from the porch and into his final resting place'? What will have changed about the layout of the marae to have made this possible?
- What parts of this story make you think this writer does or does not believe in ghosts?

### A CASKET MADE OF FLAX

- Research flax caskets. How do they look different from a typical wooden casket?
- The sisters do not always get along in this story. Do you think their feelings about their mother passing away have affected how they talk or get along with each other? Why or why not?

### STUFF THE STUFFING

- Explain why Hine is so interested in what happened to the children at the time of the war.
- Research what wars took place in Taranaki. Which of these wars do you think Aunty is talking about and why?

### THE PHOTOS HAVE EARS

- If the photos in your house had eyes and ears, what kinds of things would they think about you and the people you live with?
- Who is Papatūānuku? What makes her so important to Māori?

### FIVE TIMES I ALMOST DIED BEFORE I TURNED FIFTEEN

- The narrator of this story begins with a story when they are only four years old. Do you think their memory of this age is accurate? Why or why not?
- Who are Michael Jackson and Taika Waititi? How are they connected?

### SEVEN GOING ON SEVENTY

- Mahuika is the atua of fire. She is featured in many stories from Māori writers. Research Mahuika and write a one-paragraph summary of one story she is featured in.
- How would you have tried to trick Grub into returning home early?

### LOST AND FOUND

- The waka in this story is very old. How would the narrator's voice be different if it were kayak, a modern fishing boat or the Interislander Cook Straight Ferry?
- Why do you think adults who walked past the boat did not notice it until the kids had begun to dig it out?

### BOIL-UP

- Pick one ingredient in a boil up and explain why you believe it is the most important ingredient of them all.
- Define introversion and extroversion. Which of these two traits do you think best describes your personality? How would your life be different if you were the opposite?

### GRAND THEFT AUTO

- Rongo's older brother left his keys on the kitchen table where Rongo could easily take them. Why didn't Rongo's older brother put them somewhere more secret?
- Was Rongo telling the policewoman the whole truth? Why do you think he was or wasn't telling the whole truth?

### I'M A MĀORI

- Define and explain the word 'swag' as if you were talking to somebody's else's grandmother or grandfather.
- Pick a song you like and create a remix to the chorus that would make the song about you, one of your classmates or your teacher.

### CRUISING IN A COP CAR

- In three short paragraphs, summarize Turi or Hine's journey through the book.
- Pick Turi, Hine, Māui, or Kaea. Explain how you think their journey in the book has changed them.

## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

### CREATIVE WRITING

If you were to write a story about your hometown, what kinds of unique things might you include? Write a bullet point list of ideas and then write a one-page story based upon your favourite idea in your list.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

The author Airana Ngarewa writes a story dedicated to the song *Poi E*. Pick one song in the Māori language and research when it was written, who wrote it and why they wrote the song.

### REVIEW

Find a review of this book on the Goodreads website that you disagree with. Write an alternative review that explains why your point of view of the book is correct and the other review is wrong or unfair.

### MARKETING AND DESIGN

Design a poster to convince Aotearoa New Zealand that your hometown is the best city or town in the whole country.

### CHARACTER STUDY

Choose one or more of the following characters and describe their personality traits. Include what motivates them, their strengths and weaknesses – Turi, Hine, Māui, Kaea.

### COVER DESIGN

Redesign the cover of *Pātea Boys* if it was instead called *Pātea Girls* or if it was dedicated to the children of your hometown.

### AUTHOR STUDY

Using interviews and articles on the internet write a three-paragraph bio for author Airana Ngarewa. Use at least three sources and add them as reference sections at the end of three paragraphs. Consider which information is the most interesting and try to include things that might surprise your teacher or peers.