The story of how Paua came to have his colours.

Paua is sad and lonely. The other sea creatures mock his slowness and unattractiveness. Tangaroa, god of the sea, takes pity on him and gives him a dazzling shell of many colours. But the jealousy of the other sea creatures results in Paua still being miserable, so Tangaroa decides to hide his beauty within his shell, where only he can see it.

- Refreshed and redesigned edition of this popular bilingual story by Maori scholar and author/illustrator, Mere Whaanga
- Whaanga’s lyrical language evokes empathy from readers
- Soft, swirling illustrations reflect the iridescence of the colours of the paua shell
- **Tangaroa’s Gift** has been in print for over 25 years and was a finalist in the 1991 Children’s Book Awards, the Russell Clark award for illustration and the Esther Glen award for children’s literature

**Praise for Tangaroa’s Gift**

“This book was nominated for the collection (NZ Pacific Picture Book Collection) because it demonstrates the Pasifika theme of connection between land and sea. It also presents a deeper message – that beauty comes from within.” - Pacificpicturebooks.co.nz

“An engaging presentation of a pourquoi tale explaining the beautiful iridescence of abalone shells” – Librarything.com

“The soft and subtle illustrations weaving ancient motifs match the fine simplicity of this bilingual telling of the Maori legend.” – Goodreads.com

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**Mere Whaanga** (1952-) of Ngati Rongomaiwahine and Ngati Kahungunu descent is a writer, an illustrator, a historian and an academic. Mere began writing following the realisation that a Maori elders passed away, there was a danger of losing forever many tribal legends. She started her publishing career by self-publishing *The Legend of the Seven Whales* in both English and Maori (1998) which was a finalist in 1990 for the NZLA Russell Clark award for illustration. This was a story told to her by her father who supplied the Maori text in the finished book. Scholastic redesigned and republished this title as *The Legend of the Seven Whales of Ngai Tahu Matawhaiti: Nga Tahora Tokowhitu a Ngai Tahu Matawhaiti* (1990) and despite the resistance to having both languages in the one book, *The Legend of the Seven Whales* has remained a strong seller both in schools and for the tourist trade. This success was followed by her own story of how the paua got its colours, published as *Tangaroa’s Gift: Te Koha a Tangaroa* (1990), and *Te Kooti’s Diamond/Te Taimano a Te Kooti* (1991).