

# A Work of Art

by Simon Cooke



**SAM**



**MIA**



**KAHU**



**EMMA**



**JENNY**

*(holiday programme supervisor)*



**ARTIST**

**Scene:** The local park. **SAM, EMMA, MIA, and KAHU** sit on a bench surrounded by rubbish. **JENNY** is busy texting. Just in front of the bench, there is a sign covered by a piece of newspaper.

**MIA.** What a mess!

**KAHU.** Who dumped this rubbish in our park?

**EMMA.** Some people had a party here yesterday – they must have done it.

**SAM.** Dad said the party was something do with a famous artist.

**MIA** (*pointing*). Look over there. People are taking photos of all the rubbish, but no one's picking it up.

**JENNY** (*finishing her text*). That's where we come in, team. Does anyone know what today is?

**KAHU.** Friday.

**JENNY.** Apart from Friday.

**SAM.** Fish-and-chip day. At home, we always have fish and chips for dinner on Friday.

**JENNY.** Apart from it being Friday and fish-and-chip day?

**EMMA.** No idea.

**JENNY.** It's Environment Day. And we're going to take care of our environment.

**MIA.** She means we're going to pick up rubbish.

**KAHU.** Pick up rubbish? I'm supposed to be on holiday!

**JENNY.** It's important to look after our environment. Imagine if no one picked up their rubbish.

**MIA.** There'd be mountains of it.

**EMMA.** It would block roads.

**SAM.** It would cover houses.

**KAHU.** It would look like Sam's bedroom!

**JENNY** (*handing out gloves and sacks*). Exactly. So keeping our community tidy is very important.



**JENNY.** Right, I need to send a few important texts, so you start without me.

*She sits on the bench and starts texting.  
The others start picking up the rubbish.*

**KAHU.** This might not be so bad. We might even end up on TV – reporters like stories about kids doing good stuff.

**SAM.** TV? You wish!

*They carry on picking up rubbish until their sacks are full. No one notices the piece of newspaper covering the sign.*

**EMMA.** We've finished.

**SAM.** I'm exhausted.

**MIA.** But look at our park – it's spotless!

**JENNY** (*looking up from her phone and pointing to the piece of newspaper covering the sign*). Good work, team, but you've missed a bit.

**KAHU** (*picking up the newspaper and looking at the sign*). This sign says there's installation art somewhere in our park. What's installation art, Jenny?

**JENNY.** No idea. I'll look on the Internet. (*She taps her phone a few times.*) It says that installation art is a three-dimensional artwork that transforms or changes the space it's in.

**EMMA.** Space ... like a park?

**JENNY** (*shrugs*). I guess.

*Everyone looks around, trying to spot the artwork.*

**EMMA.** I don't see anything.

**KAHU.** Looks like the same old park to me.

**MIA.** Same swings and climbing frames.

**SAM.** Same roundabout and seesaw.

**JENNY** (*reading the sign*). It must be here somewhere. The sign says the installation shows what happens to communities when people don't help each other. Everything falls into chaos.

**SAM.** What's chaos?

**JENNY.** A big mess.

**KAHU.** Like your bedroom, Sam.

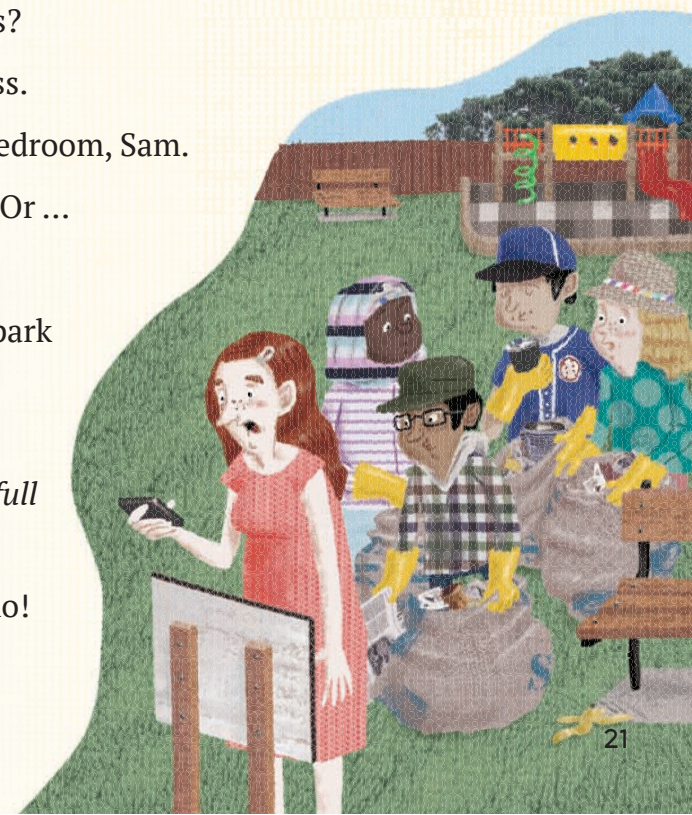
**JENNY** (*worried*). Or ...

**MIA.** Or ...?

**JENNY.** Or like a park full of rubbish.

*They all look at their sacks full of rubbish.*

**EVERYONE.** Oh no!







The **ARTIST** enters and walks around.

**ARTIST** (confused). Where's it gone? Where's my installation?

**JENNY**. Um ... about that.

**ARTIST** (sitting down on the park bench and holding his head in his hands). It took me all yesterday afternoon to install. I've got a TV interview in a few minutes, and now I have nothing to show them. This is a disaster!

**SAM** (apologetically). We cleaned it up.

**JENNY**. We didn't see the sign until it was too late.

**ARTIST** (looking thoughtful). You cleaned it up?

**KAHU**. We didn't realise it was art.

**EMMA**. We thought it was rubbish.

**MIA**. It's all here in our sacks.

**SAM**. We can help you put it back.

**JENNY**. I'm sorry. It's my fault. I should have noticed.

**ARTIST** (starting to smile). Don't be sorry. I made the artwork because I was afraid people had stopped caring about their community.

**JENNY**. So you're not going to tell anyone what we did?

**ARTIST**. I'm going to tell the TV people.

**JENNY**. Oh no, please ...

**ARTIST**. But not because I'm angry. You haven't ruined my installation. You've made it better. Your sacks of rubbish are the new installation – they represent hope for the future. It's easy to see that you all care about the environment.

**KAHU**. You haven't seen Sam's bedroom. It's a rubbish dump!

**SAM**. It's not a rubbish dump.

**KAHU**. Then what is it?

**SAM** (grinning). It's a work of art!





# A Work of Art

by Simon Cooke

Text copyright © Crown 2015

Illustrations by Josh Morgan copyright © Crown 2015

For copyright information about how you can use this material, go to: <http://www.tki.org.nz/Copyright-in-Schools/Terms-of-use>

Published 2015 by the Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)

All rights reserved.

Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

ISBN 978 0 478 16439 8 (online)

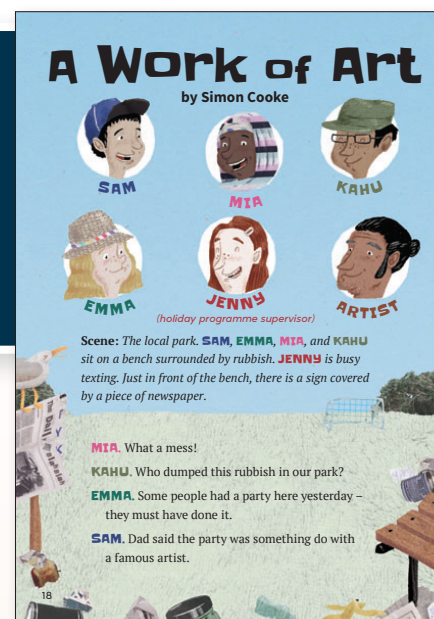
Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū

Editor: David Chadwick

Designer: Liz Tui Morris

Literacy Consultant: Melanie Winthrop

Consulting Editors: Hōne Apanui and Emeli Sione



## SCHOOL JOURNAL LEVEL 2, OCTOBER 2015

<b>Curriculum learning areas</b>	English Social Sciences Health and Physical Education
<b>Reading year level</b>	Year 4
<b>Keywords</b>	art, community, environment, humour, installations, plays, rubbish