

Te Marama



Tonight I can't sleep.
Te Marama
floods my room
with silvery light.
Outside, the moana swells
high upon the shore
– ngā tai a Kupe.

Koro fished and planted
by the phases of Te Marama.
Koro told me that she is
the tamaiti of Rangi,
sibling of Te Rā and Ngā Whetū.
Together they make
a whānau of light.

Koro always said, “Titiro whakatau! Look carefully!”
In the atarau, I remember him.

Te Marama – new, waxing, full, waning, new again.
Endlessly crossing the sky.

Kelly Joseph

GLOSSARY

atarau: moonlight

Koro: Grandad

moana: sea

ngā tai a Kupe: a king tide; high seas
(the seas of Kupe)

Ngā Whetū: the stars

Rangi (Rangi-nui): the sky father

tamaiti: child

Te Marama: the moon

Te Rā: the sun

Titiro whakatau: gaze or watch intently

whānau: family

Te Marama

by Kelly Joseph

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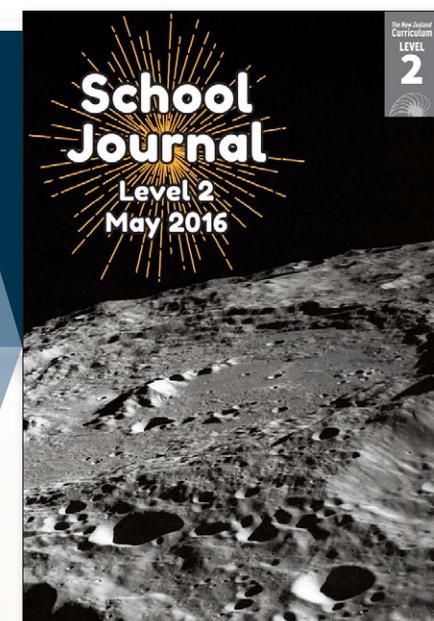
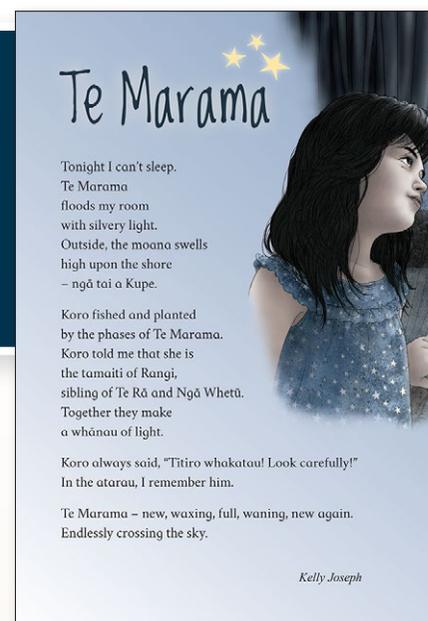
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