

SCHOOL JOURNAL STORY LIBRARY

The New Zealand  
Curriculum

LEVEL

3



# HOME

STORIES FROM NEW NEW ZEALANDERS



BY KATE PARIS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STACEY SIMPKIN

School Journal Story Library is a targeted series that supplements other instructional series texts. It provides additional scaffolds and supports for teachers to use to accelerate students' literacy learning.

*Home: Stories from New New Zealanders* has been carefully levelled. While the contexts and concepts link to English and social sciences at level 3 of the curriculum, the text has a reading year level of year 4.

Teacher support material (available at [www.schooljournalstorylibrary.tki.org.nz](http://www.schooljournalstorylibrary.tki.org.nz)) contains key information to help teachers provide the additional support and scaffolding that some students may need to meet the specific reading, writing, and curriculum demands of *Home: Stories from New New Zealanders*.

**Ane** (AH-nay)

**braai** (BR-eye)

**koeksisters** (COOK-sisters)

**Mohibullah** (mow-HEE-bullah)

**Aleisa** (ah-lay-sah)

**Barkhadle** (bahk-AL-dee)

**Tiria** (tee-ree-yah)

**Sierra Leone** (see-ER-a lee-OWN)

**Eid al-Fitr** (EED-ahl-fitter)

**Ramadan** (rah-mah-dahn)

For more support with pronunciation, go to [www.schooljournalstorylibrary.tki.org.nz](http://www.schooljournalstorylibrary.tki.org.nz) to hear an audio version of the text.



# HOME

STORIES FROM NEW NEW ZEALANDERS



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## A BIG MOVE

**When I was nine, my family moved from a small town in the South Island to a small town in the North Island.**

As our ferry headed out to sea, Dad told me to wave goodbye. He said that I wouldn't see the South Island again for a long time. That's when it sunk in: this wasn't just another holiday. I knew the North Island well. My favourite aunties and uncles lived there – my grandparents too. But I grew up in the South Island. It was my home.

Now I'm a teacher in Auckland. Every year, my school welcomes students who have moved much further than I did. I've always wondered what it must be like to leave your home and move to a faraway country. How did those students manage such an enormous change?





# ANE

Ane lived with her mum and little sister near Cape Town in South Africa. In 2017, her mum decided they should move to New Zealand. She wanted to give her daughters a better chance of going to university.

“I was excited to move to New Zealand, but I didn’t want to leave my friends and family behind in danger,” says Ane. There’s a lot of violence in South Africa, and Ane’s family were often scared.

Life in South Africa was tough, but moving to New Zealand had its own challenges. Ane knew nothing about her new country. She was scared that her English wouldn’t be good enough. But the people she met helped her settle in. Her neighbour was also from South Africa, and the kids at her new school were very kind. “They were just always there, supporting me, telling me everything would be all right.”

.....  
*“I was excited to move to New Zealand, but I didn’t want to leave my friends and family behind in danger.”*  
.....

Ane soon found a lot to like about her new home. “The schools in New Zealand are better than in South Africa. There’s quite a lot of racism in South African schools. There are more opportunities here – and the environment is very beautiful.”

Ane and her family still miss South Africa. To remind them of home, every Wednesday they have a braai – a kind of barbecue where you cook food on a fire. “And on Saturdays, the tradition is to cook koeksisters – my nana’s nana’s nana’s nana started it! Koeksisters are balls of dough that are cooked and then dipped in syrup, a bit like a doughnut.” Ane’s cooking teacher, Mr Calwell, often begs her to bring them to class.





# MOHIBULLAH

Mohibullah arrived in New Zealand as a **refugee** in 2015. His dad died in Pakistan in 2011, and the fighting there made his mum and younger siblings want to leave.

Mohibullah was only nine when he left Pakistan. He'd never heard of New Zealand before, and he couldn't speak English. Thankfully, there were people who spoke Urdu, his native language, at the Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC). The MRRC helps refugees get ready for life in New Zealand. With their help, Mohibullah learnt to speak English in a month!

It took a while for Mohibullah to adjust to the many changes. Some of the things he loved about Pakistan didn't happen in his new neighbourhood. "After school in Pakistan, all the children go outside and play cricket. No one plays here."

*"After school in Pakistan, all the children go outside and play cricket. No one plays here."*

There were also people from lots of different cultures at his new school – cultures he hadn't encountered in Pakistan. The MRRC helped Mohibullah prepare for school in New Zealand so he knew what to do. He even found some similarities. They didn't play cricket, but at least they had football.

Mohibullah uses an online messenger to keep in touch with his friends in Pakistan. He misses his old home and wishes people in New Zealand knew more about Pakistan's culture and history. When he's older, Mohibullah hopes to spend time in both countries – working as a police officer in New Zealand and returning to Pakistan for holidays.



# DIANA

Diana moved to Auckland in 2017 from Aleisa in Sāmoa. One of her uncles lives in New Zealand, and he offered to adopt her. It was an exciting but difficult decision for Diana to make. She wanted to come to New Zealand to get a good education, but she didn't know much about her new country. "I miss my mum and my dad and my family," she says.

Diana's uncle and auntie helped her to feel more at home. She moved into a room that another uncle once lived in. They decorated it with pink curtains so it would feel more like her own.

On her first day at school, Diana remembers feeling very scared. She didn't know what to expect. "In Samoan schools, if you're talking and distracting people, you get in heaps of trouble." She also didn't know any people in her class, but then she met Hanna. Diana was lucky. She had already learnt to speak English in Sāmoa, and the two girls quickly became friends. School is now one of Diana's favourite things about New Zealand.

Growing up in Aleisa has influenced Diana's view of life in her new country. "People in New Zealand know more. And they're rich. They spend money on things they don't need." But not everything is different. Church is the same. Taro is the same.

*"In Samoan schools,  
if you're talking and  
distracting people, you  
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Every day when Diana's cousin comes home, Diana borrows her laptop and goes online. "Then I talk with my mum and my family." She still has friends in Sāmoa, and she has plans to go back for the holidays soon. Aleisa will always be her first home.



# BARKHADLE

Barkhadle was born in Kenya. After staying in Tiria, in Sierra Leone, he and his mum, five brothers, and three sisters all moved to New Zealand. He already had an auntie who lived here, and she wanted her family to come, too. Barkhadle was still quite young when they moved. He doesn't remember much about life in Africa – except that it was hot!

There were lots of little things that surprised Barkhadle on his first day in New Zealand. “We went to my cousin's house, and we stayed with him. They had stairs! I hadn't seen stairs before.” He also found it strange watching his baby brother and cousin playing with toys. They didn't have many toys in Africa.

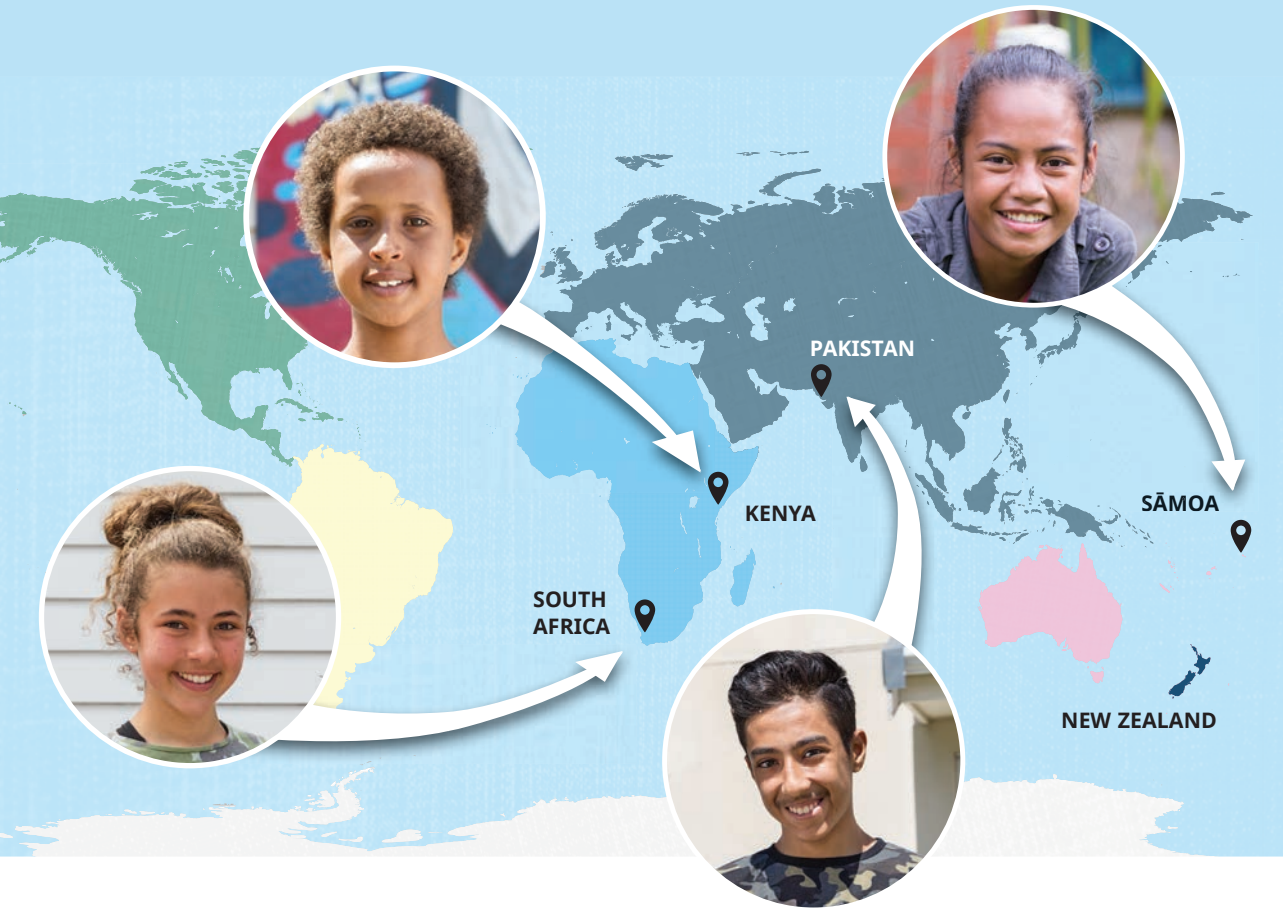
Barkhadle knew only a little English before he arrived. This made going to school and reading books especially hard. The friendliness of his teachers and classmates made a big difference. “They treated me well. I walked into my new classroom, and there were students playing and laughing – and my new teacher taught me to play with them.”

.....  
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.....

New Zealand is a long way from Africa, but some things are familiar. Eid al-Fitr (Eid) is a religious holiday that marks the end of Ramadan – a holy month for Muslims. It's celebrated by Muslim people around the world, including in New Zealand and parts of Africa. Barkhadle always looks forward to Eid. He enjoys doing some of the same things that he and his family did in Africa.

## BRAVE JOURNEYS

Māori first arrived in New Zealand more than seven hundred years ago. Since then, people from all around the world have travelled thousands of kilometres to live here. More brave young people make this journey every day, and talking with them can teach us a lot. How could you help the new New Zealanders that you meet?



### GLOSSARY

**refugee:** a person who has been forced to leave their country because of war, danger, or a natural disaster

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