## Piki Kōtuku

Taku piki kōtuku e, ka tau mai koe i hea? I rere mai i tūārangi, i Rangiātea. Ehara i te mea poka noa tō taenga mokorea.

E te toi o te kurutao, ko te tini kei muri rā, ōu tīpuna kairangi, kaiwhakatere moana, kaipōkai marohi o neherā.

Tōku māpihi pounamu, i ahu koe i a wai? I ngā ringa rehe o mua whakairohia, hangaia e te kāhui kahurangi hei taonga ahurei. My rare feather plume, where are you from? You flew in from far away, from Rangiātea. Your arrival at this time is not by chance.

You are the tip of the arrow, many stand behind you, your mighty ancestors, expert navigators and explorers of long ago.

My pounamu treasure, who made you? You were shaped by the skilled hands of your noble ancestors into a unique taonga. Taku piki kōtuku e, he wero ki tua, kia hoki te mauri ki te whenua, kotahitanga ki ngā tāngata.

Nō reira, e te tau e, kia māia, kia toa. Whakaritea ōu pūmanawa kia puāwai tō reanga. My precious child, a challenge lies ahead, to return the mauri to our lands, and bring unity to our people.

So, my dear one, be brave and strong. Prepare your talents and gifts so your generation will blossom.

Ariana Tikao

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by Ariana Tikao illustrations by Isobel Joy Te Aho-White

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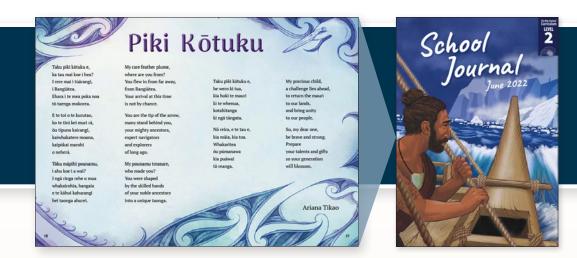
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