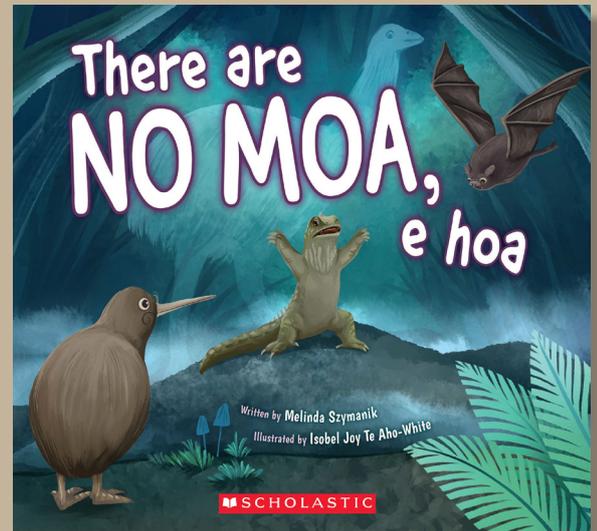


There are No Moa, e Hoa

By Melinda Szymanik

Illustrations by Isobel Joy Te Aho-White

Translated by Pānia Papa



• Reading • Writing • Thinking Skills • School Values • Art

Synopsis

Things have been quiet in the forest and Kiwi and Bat have gone back to their old lives. When the cry goes up calling for help they find a frightened Tuatara who is sure she has seen a Moa. How can that be? Moa haven't been around for hundreds of years. Disbelieving, Bat and Kiwi dismiss all of Tuatara's evidence that Moa have returned but when the Moa makes direct contact with Tuatara we find that the huge bird is just lonely and in need of a friend (e hoa), and they go off into the mountains together. A te reo Māori edition has also been published, *Kua Kore he Moa, e Hoa*.

About the Author

Melinda Szymanik is an award winning author of picture books, short stories and novels for children. Her books include *The Were-Nana*, winner of Children's Choice at the 2009 NZ Post Children's Book Awards, and *Fuzzy Doodle*, a 2017 White Raven selection. Melinda lives with her family in Tāmaki Makaurau. This is her seventh picture book with Scholastic.

About the Illustrator

Isobel Joy Te Aho-White (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngai Tahu) is an Illustrator based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Her book *Santa's Worst Christmas*, written by Pania Tahau-Hodges and Bryony Walker (Huia, 2019) was nominated for the 2020 NCYA Book Awards across four categories, and her book *Whiti: Colossal Squid of the Deep* (Te Papa Press, 2020) written by Victoria Cleal, won a Whitley award for best children's book.

About the Translator

Pānia Papa (Ngāti Korokī-Kahukura and Ngāti Mahuta) is not a native speaker of te reo Māori. However, after beginning her journey in te reo at intermediate school, her passion for the language has led to her becoming a sought-after Māori language consultant, TV presenter, translator and editor. Pānia is CEO of the Kotahi Rau Pukapuka Charitable Trust, whose goal is to produce 100 great books for teens and adult readers in te reo Māori.



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Comprehension Questions

- 1) What evidence does Tuatara have that Moa have returned?
- 2) How does the story explain away Tuatara's evidence?
- 3) Why is Tuatara afraid? What does she think Moa wants to do to her?
- 4) Is Moa real, a ghost, or a figment of Tuatara's imagination? What evidence makes you think that? Does what we believe her to be change the way we think about the ending?

Shared Learning and Discussion Points

- 1) Kiwi says his are the biggest bird feet in the forest. Is this true?
- 2) How long ago did Moa walk the land? Why are they no longer here?
- 3) In the story Moa says they are vegetarian. What did Moa eat? Where did they live? In the forest? In the mountains? Or somewhere else?
- 4) Tuatara says she is called a living fossil. How long have Tuatara existed – would there been Tuatara around when dinosaurs walked the earth?
- 5) This book has an underlying message about friendship, as suggested by the title. Who makes the best friend for Tuatara? Share why you think so. Why does Moa say that Tuatara is the only one that can see them? And is everyone trying to be a friend? Or not?

Activities

- 1) Tuatara drew a cave painting to show where she'd gone. Draw your own picture of Tuatara riding on Moa's back. Or draw a picture in the style of a cave painting of BatKiwi.
- 2) How big would a Moa feather be? Was it the biggest ever New Zealand bird feather? Which New Zealand native bird (living or extinct) might have a bigger one? Which NZ native bird has the smallest feather? How big is it? Make a model of both the biggest and the smallest and compare them.
- 3) There are some fun and interesting expressions used in the story

'too true, too true ... the right question is who,'

'my bones know'

'The ground trembles. The trees shiver!'

'a full moon rose like the huge golden eye of a ruru.'

Using one of these, either as inspiration or as a line or title in your work, write a poem.

Written by Melinda Szymanik



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