

Kākano

I am small,
but within me
I hold great taonga,
waiting to be shared.

All I need is wai, hihi rā,
onemata, and wā.
Then my taonga is free,
and I begin to grow.

I am kai.
I am hāora.
I am tipu ora.
Green and precious life!

Kelly Joseph

Glossary

hāora oxygen

hihi rā the sun's rays

kai food

kākano seed

onemata fertile soil

taonga treasure

tipu ora budding life

wā time

wai water

Author's note

This poem was inspired by the Māori proverb:

Ahakoā he iti, he pounamu – although small, it is precious.

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by Kelly Joseph

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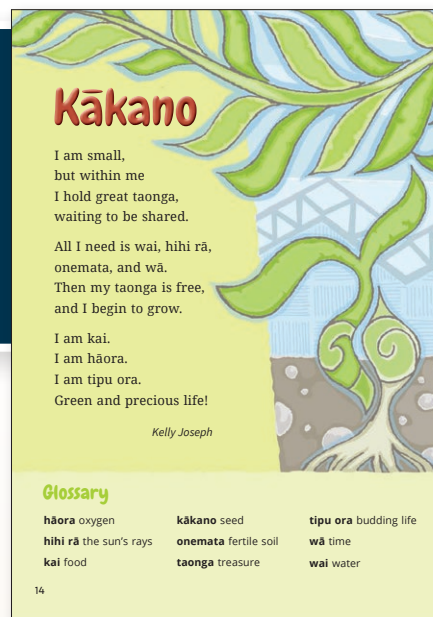
Published 2015 by the Ministry of Education
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
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Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

ISBN 978-0-478-44650-0 (online)

Publishing services Lift Education E tū
Series Editor: David Chadwick
Designer: Liz Tui Morris
Literacy Consultant: Kay Hancock
Consulting Editors: Hōne Apanui and Emeli Sione



[New Zealand Government](http://www.govt.nz)



JUNIOR JOURNAL 50

Curriculum learning area	English, Science
Reading year level	Year 3
Keywords	seeds, plants, germination, taonga, treasures, poetry