

RUA AND TE MANU



A traditional story of Ngāti Porou

Retold and illustrated
by Isobel Te Aho-White

This story tells how whakairo,
the art of carving, came to the world.

Long ago, Rua (Rua-te-pupuke) and his son, Te Manu (Te Manu-hau-turuki),
lived in a village by the sea.

Rua liked to hunt
in the forest.



Te Manu liked to go
paddling in his waka.



Rua warned Te Manu
to keep safe.

Don't go too far.
Beware of Tangaroa.

All right, Pāpā.
I will be careful.



But one day, Te Manu
paddled too far.

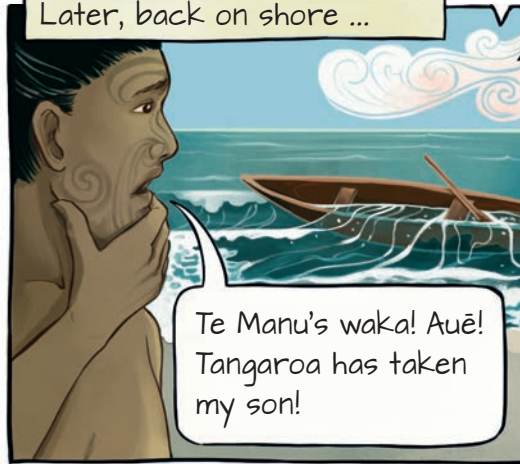
Auē! The current
is too strong!

Underneath the waves,
the sea god, Tangaroa,
was watching and waiting ...



Later, back on shore ...

Te Manu's waka! Auē!
Tangaroa has taken
my son!



I must find Te Manu and
bring him back home.



Far out at sea, something
caught Rua's eye.

What's that?
A whare under
the sea?



He dived into the water.

These carvings
are tino pai!



But then Rua saw the tekoteko fixed to the top of the whare.



That is my son!

Suddenly Rua heard a voice.



Tēnā koe.

This is the whare of Tangaroa. You will have to defeat him if you want to get your son back. I will help you.

Then, he set fire to the whare.



Tēnā koe, e kuia. I am listening.



Tangaroa and his sea whānau are out catching food, but they will return at sunset. While they sleep, you must fill up all the holes in the whare so that they cannot tell if it is day or night. Then set the whare on fire!

AUĒ!



Tangaroa burst out of the whare ...



So Rua hid and waited. At last, Tangaroa and his whānau returned.



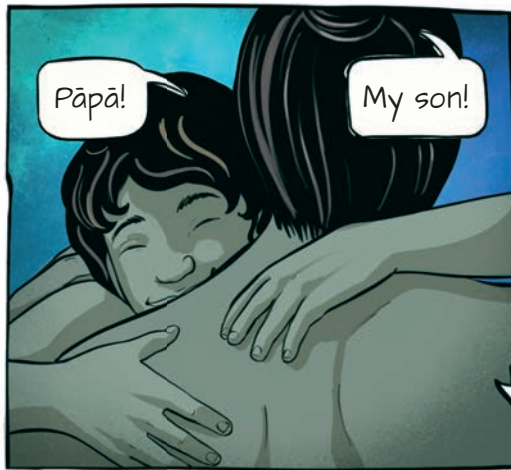
When Tangaroa was sleeping, Rua did as the kuia had told him and filled the holes in the whare with mud.



... followed by his sea whānau. Rua killed many of the fish, but some escaped.



Rua took Te Manu down from the roof. At last, his son could move and talk again.



They gazed at the burning whare and the carvings lying on the ground.



And that is the story of how whakairo, the art of carving, came to the world.



Rua and Te Manu

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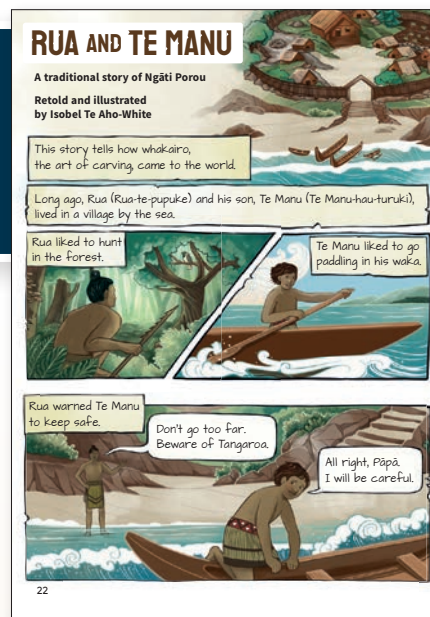
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