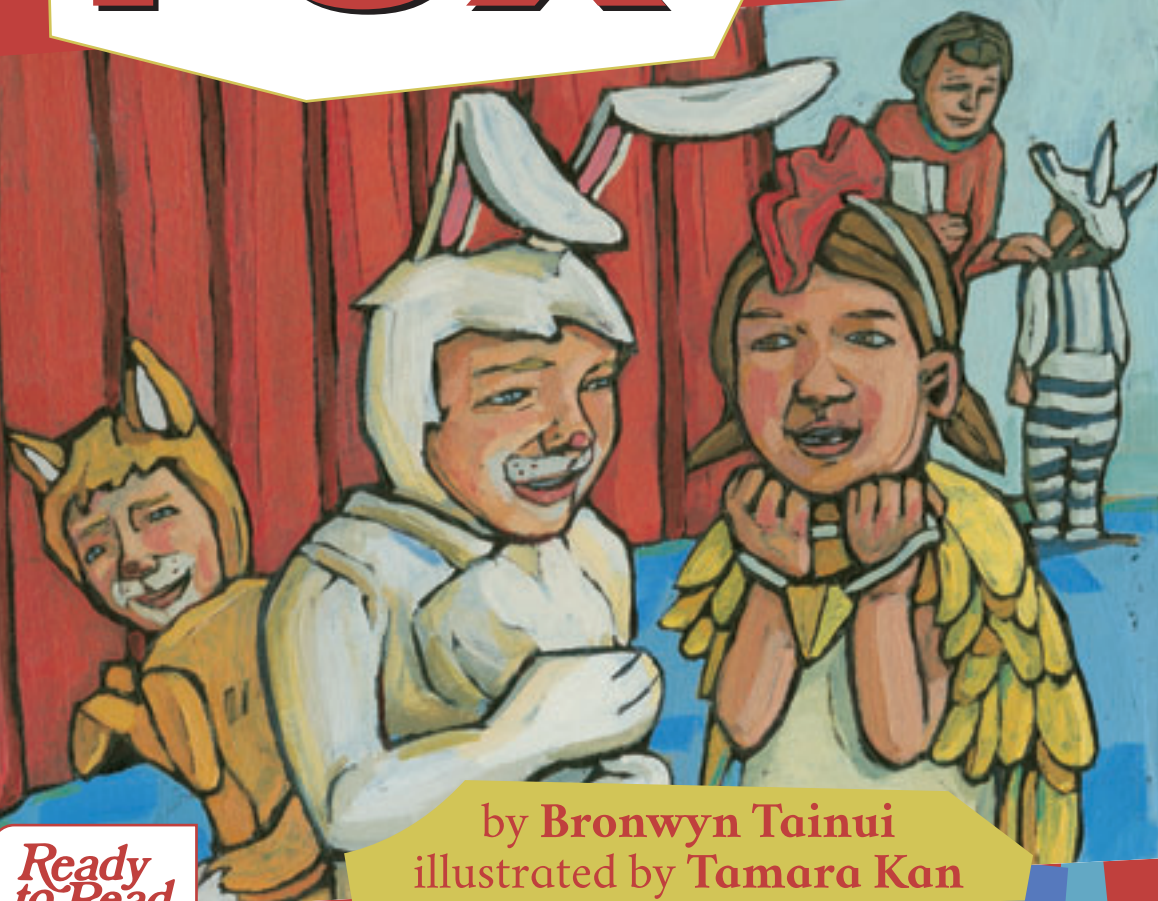


# I Want to be the FOX



by Bronwyn Tainui  
illustrated by Tamara Kan

*Ready  
to Read*

Published 2015 by the Ministry of Education,  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)

First published 2005 for the Ministry of Education  
by Learning Media Limited, Wellington, New Zealand.

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Series Editor: Kay Hancock  
Editor: Margaret Cahill  
Designer: Elton Gregory

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Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū

ISBN 978 0 478 16221 9 (print)  
ISBN 978 1 77690 396 2 (online)

Replacement copies may be ordered from Ministry of Education Customer Services,  
online at [www.thechair.co.nz](http://www.thechair.co.nz)  
by email: [orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz](mailto:orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz)  
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Running words: 331

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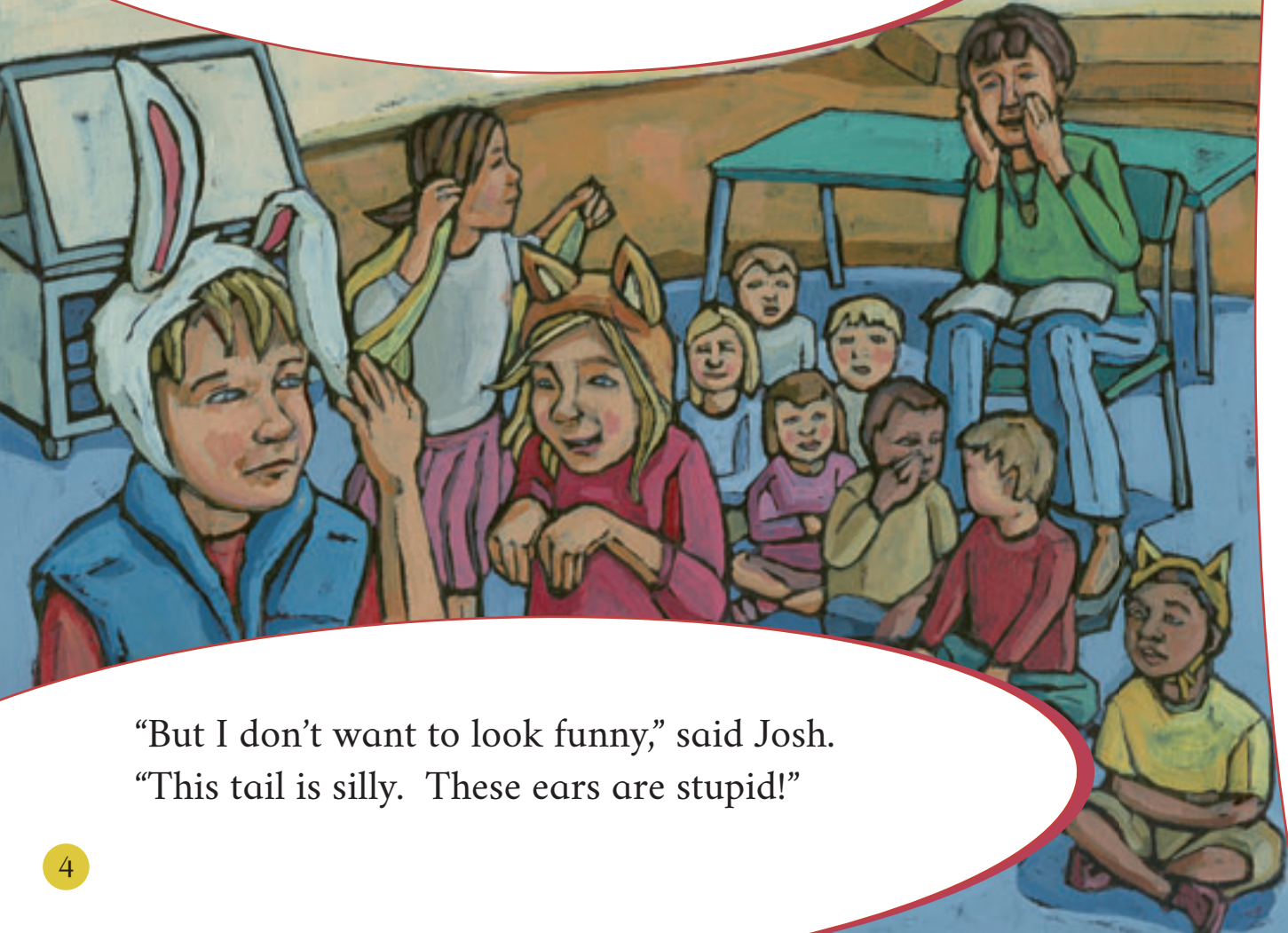
“Of course you’ll look funny,” said Emma.  
“The rabbit will make everyone laugh.”

“But I want to be the fox,” said Josh.

Josh was going to be the rabbit in the school play. He had to wear a tail and big ears. Josh didn’t want to be the rabbit. “I’ll look funny,” he said. “Everyone will laugh!”



The next day, Mrs Maxwell said,  
“Hop higher, Josh! Hop faster, Josh!  
Make those ears flop! Make that tail bob!  
Try to be funny.”



“But I don’t want to look funny,” said Josh.  
“This tail is silly. These ears are stupid!”



“Josh!” said Mrs Maxwell.  
“You’re the rabbit.  
We want you to be the rabbit  
because you can make people laugh.”  
“All right,” said Josh,  
“but I’d rather be the fox.”



That evening, Josh talked to Dad.  
“I don’t want to be the rabbit,” said Josh.  
“I want to be the fox.”

“You’ll be a good rabbit,” said Dad.  
“You’re good at making people laugh.  
That’s why Mrs Maxwell chose you.”



When Josh went to bed, he had an idea.  
If he couldn’t be the fox,  
then he was going to be a fantastic rabbit.





The next day, Josh put on his tail.  
He put on his big ears.  
He hopped high. He hopped fast.  
He bobbed his tail. He flapped his ears.  
He tricked the fox.  
The children laughed and laughed.

“Ka pai, Josh. That’s just what we want,”  
said Mrs Maxwell.

On the night of the school play,  
Josh waited at the back of the stage.  
“I hope I make everyone laugh,”  
he said to Emma. “I’ll feel bad if no one laughs!”  
Emma smiled. “They will,” she said.







The mums and dads laughed and cheered.  
They clapped and clapped.

Soon it was Josh's turn to go on stage.  
He hopped high and fast.  
His tail bobbed, and his ears flapped.  
He tricked the fox again and again.





Later, everyone said,  
“You were a star, Josh!  
That was the best play ever!”





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