

Rākau



A Colourful World



Ready to Read Phonics Plus

by **Samantha Montgomerie** | illustrated by **Stevie Mahardhika**

Whānau Notes

Your child can read the story to you.

Help them with any words they don't know.

After reading, talk about the story, characters, and pictures.

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by Samantha Montgomerie

illustrated by Stevie Mahardhika

Ministry of Education

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“Come quickly,” says Miss Lee.
“It’s time to see the paintings
of your important places.”
The kids run swiftly to the mat.
They are excited to see
their paintings.



Sam's painting is bright.

"This garden is important to me," says Sam.

"The dragon dances in the garden. It brings luck for the New Year. The fireworks are the brightest you will see!"



“I love my grandpa’s place,”
says Jack.

“My grandpa has the fastest
planes. He is teaching me
to loop-the-loop. We have
fun. I want to fly my plane as
fast as my grandpa.”



“This is our oldest tree,” says Nat. “I climb to the highest branch. I like thinking about it growing up and up over the years.”



“At the marae, we have carvings of my tīpuna.

This is where I feel closest to them,” says Tāne.

“Sleeping there is fun.

My dad has the loudest snore,” says Tāne, grinning.



Lani's painting is the biggest. "This house is important to me," says Lani. "It belongs to Tinā. It is on the longest beach with the brightest sand. We have a lot of fun there together."



“What wonderful paintings,” says Miss Lee. She pins them up. “See how colourful our world is,” says Miss Lee, “when we look at what is important to each of us.”

Focus points

- This book focuses on the suffix **-est**. This suffix is normally added to a word to compare items.
- There are some multisyllabic words that children might need help to break up (important, excited).

Before reading

This book provides children with the opportunity to practise reading the letters and sounds they are learning in meaningful connected text.

Read these words

brightest

closest

loudest

highest

oldest

biggest

Spelling

With children, read the words below and group them in pairs with the base word and **-est** form:

- bright – brightest; loud – loudest; big – biggest; long – longest; close – closest

Encourage children to talk about what happens in some words to the last consonant or vowel in the base word when the **-est** suffix is added.

Morphology

This book contains words with the **-est** suffix. Words with this suffix are adjectives (describing words) that are used to make comparisons.

Ask children to list the words in the story that contain the **-est** suffix. Encourage them to talk about what each word means.

Vocabulary

Tell the children the meaning of any new vocabulary, for example:

- **tīpuna**: ancestors, grandparents, grandfathers, grandmothers – and the eastern dialect variation of tūpuna (children might be more familiar with tūpuna)
- **Tinā**: mother or grandmother; often used to show respect for older Samoan women

During reading

- The children read the title together. Make a connection between the title and the picture.
- The children read each page together using their decoding strategies. Once the page is read, guide them to connect the meaning of the text with the illustration.
- If a child gets stuck while reading, help them find the meaningful units to decode the word (for example, suffixes and base words).

Kupu Māori | Māori words

tīpuna

marae

For pronunciation, see: <https://maoridictionary.co.nz>

Here, you could include children who speak te reo Māori as the language experts.

After reading

Discussion questions

- What did Miss Lee ask the children to paint?
- What three things were in Sam's painting?
- What did Tāne tell us about his dad?

Story discussion

In the story, the children have painted pictures of their important places. Encourage children to talk about places that are important to them and the reasons why.

Fluency and story retell

Reread the story to build accuracy and fluency; share the story with a buddy.



Rākau
Tree

Focus sounds

Suffixes -est



Māhuri
Sapling



Tupu
Seedling



Kākano
Seed

