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# PŪĀTAKATAKA PŪĀWHIOWHIO TĀWHIRIMĀTEA'S TORNADO

Charlotte Gray-Sirikige, Cleo Arani, Haea o te Rangi Ferguson,  
Katya Rangi-Sadgrove, Maringikura Littlechild,  
Parekaawa Popham, Teina Walker, Whare o Te Riri Poata

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TĀWHIRIMĀTEA'S TORNADO



Written by / Nā Charlotte Gray-Sirikige rātou ko Cleo Arani,  
ko Haea o te Rangi Ferguson, ko Katya Rangi-Sadgrove,  
ko Maringikura Littlechild, ko Parekaawa Popham, ko Teina Walker,  
ko Whare o Te Riri Poata te pakiwaitara nei

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## About the authors

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Kōtuku is a Māori immersed kura in Rānui, West Auckland. The vision of the kura, Toitū te Kōtuku, provides purpose and connection to the environment and to whānau. Te Kōtuku prepares students to become leaders for their whānau, hapū and iwi, to realise their potential and be grounded in their origins. With the support of kaiako, a group of students ranging in age from 9-12 years worked with Auckland Emergency Management to create *Pūatakataka Pūāwhiowhio | Tāwhirimātea's Tornado*.

## Student authors:

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**Pūatakataka Pūāwhiowhio\***  
**Ka rewa hua he tia ara e**  
**Pūatakataka Pūāwhiowhio**  
**Miroia uruuru e**

**A driving force**  
**from the heavens**  
**Propelling one to the heights**  
**of enlightenment and wisdom**

\*Pūatakataka and Pūāwhiowhio were the two tornadoes that lifted Tāne Nui-ā-Rangi to the heavenly realms in his search for knowledge.



# INTRODUCTION: OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

Over the past hundred years, Earth's average yearly surface temperature has increased by roughly 1 degree Celsius. This number seems small, but this huge increase in stored heat is changing our climate.

In the past, major volcanic eruptions or changes in the Earth's orbit led to periods of global warming and ice ages. But today, the Earth is warming faster because of human activities such as burning fossil fuels, clearing land and forests, and landfills for garbage. Rising temperatures cause our climate to be more unpredictable, and we call this climate change.

The Earth is a system where everything is connected, and changes in one area can influence changes in all others. Climate change impacts our oceans. Melting polar ice and warmer oceans are causing sea levels to rise and coastal land to be washed away. Climate change also leads to a loss of

biodiversity and more severe natural disasters, like cyclones, tornadoes, heatwaves, droughts, fires, flooding, and storms. This affects our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety, and work. Some of us are more vulnerable to climate change, such as people living on small islands and in less economically wealthy countries.

You and your whānau can help tackle the climate crisis: eat less meat and dairy, cut back on flying, plant trees, walk/bus/bike instead of drive, use wind or solar power for energy, recycle and reuse, and save energy and water at home. Let's not throw rubbish on the ground or in the ocean – animals can get tangled and hurt. Remember to respect and protect our oceans, rivers, and green spaces!

Kia ora, I'm Aniwa!  
My friends and I want to teach you about natural disasters and help you get prepared for them. We each tell a story about a cyclone, flood, storm, and tornado. And afterwards, we'll help you get ready for emergencies too!





I te wā o tāukiuki, noho ai a Tāwhirimātea me āna tēina rātou ko ōna tuākana i waenga i o rātou mātua a Ranginui rāua ko Papatūānuku. He pōuri, he kōpipiri hoki.

“He kōpā rawa,” te kii a Tūmatauenga. “Me whakawehe i o tātou mātua.”

“Kāo!” te whakahoki a Tāwhirimātea.

“Hiahiatia ana te noho tata tonu ki o tātou mātua.”

A long time ago, Tāwhirimātea and his siblings lived between their parents, Ranginui the Sky Father and Papatūānuku the Earth Mother. It was dark and cramped.

“It’s too squashed,” said Tūmatauenga.

“We have to separate our parents.”

“No!” said Tāwhirimātea. “I want to stay close to our parents.”

Heoi anō, i tautokohia a Tūmatauenga e te katoa. Nō reira i takoto a Tānemahuta i tōna tuara i te puku o tōna māmā, ko ōna waewae ki te puku o tōna pāpā. Ka whakatāuketia, ka peia, ka panaia ka wehe rā anō ōna mātua.

Ko te ao mārama! Manahau ana te katoa.  
Ka puku te rae o Tāwhirimātea, ka kake ake ki tōna pāpā. Ko ia te kaitiaki o ngā hau.



But the other siblings agreed with Tūmatauenga. So Tānemahuta lay on his mother's puku and using his legs, pushed up onto his father's puku. He pushed and pushed until his parents parted.

Sunlight filled the world and the siblings danced for joy. Tāwhirimātea was so angry he went up into the sky with his father and became the guardian of the winds.



Ka maumaharatia te wehenga o ōna mātua ka hinapōuri ia.  
I aua wā ka tukuna e Āwhiowhio rātou ko ētahi atu o āna  
tamariki a Āwha, a Marangai ki a Papatūānuku.

Sometimes he remembers the pain of his parents being  
separated and he feels upset. On those days he sends  
tornadoes and some of his other children – Storm and  
Hurricane – down to Earth.

I tētahi Hātarei i haere te whānau ki te mākete. I hokona hāngi, kuku kōnatunatu me te rewena – ka noho ki te kai. Ka tau ai a Aniwa i tana kuku kōnatunatu ki tōna pakituri kia heke ai te wera.

One Saturday, a family went to the market.  
They bought hāngi meals, mussel fritters,  
and rewena bread and sat down to  
eat. Aniwa put her mussel fritter  
on her lap to cool down.

Koia nei tētahi o aua rā ka hīanga a Tāwhirimātea. Ka tukuna te hau pūkeri, ka taka te kuku kōnatunatu a Aniwa ki te papa.

This was one of those days when Tāwhirimātea liked to cause mischief. He sent a strong wind that blew Aniwa's mussel fritter onto the ground.



“E kare! Minaminahia ai tera e au!” te tangi a Aniwa.

“Kaua e māharahara, māku tētahi atu māu,” ko tā Sky ki tana teina me te awhiawhi i a ia.

“I was looking forward to that!” cried Aniwa.

“Don’t worry, I’ll get you a new one,” said Sky, giving her little sister a hug.

Engari kāre a Tāwhirimātea i mutu i āna mahi. Ka whakahuihuitia āna hau, ka tāwhiowhiohia rātou, ka takahuri, ka whakatere ake. I runga ake i te mākete ka kārikikiko te rangi. Ka koromiomio ana ngā rau. Ka timatahia te uatātā.



But Tāwhirimātea wasn’t finished. He gathered his winds and spun them round and round, faster and faster. The sky above the market turned a greenish-black colour. Tree leaves began to swirl. Heavy rain drops started to fall.



Kātahi ka pakō, ka tiwerawera!

“Anō nei he huinga motopaika!” ko tā Aniwa.

“Anō nei e whēoro ana a Hinemoana!” ko tā Sky.

“Anō nei e noho tata ana ki te tereina!” ko tā Whare.

Suddenly there was a loud, scary sound.

“It sounds like a group of motorbikes!” said Aniwa.

“It’s like the crashing noise of the sea!” said Sky.

“It’s like I’m sitting next to a train!” said Whare.

Ka hāparangi a Teina, “E hika!” Ka tohua te koeko nunui, pōuriri i te takahuri atu ki te māketē. Ko te āwhiowhio a Tāwhirimātea.

“Whoooooah!” shouted Teina, pointing at a huge dark cone spinning towards the market. It was Tāwhirimātea’s tornado.



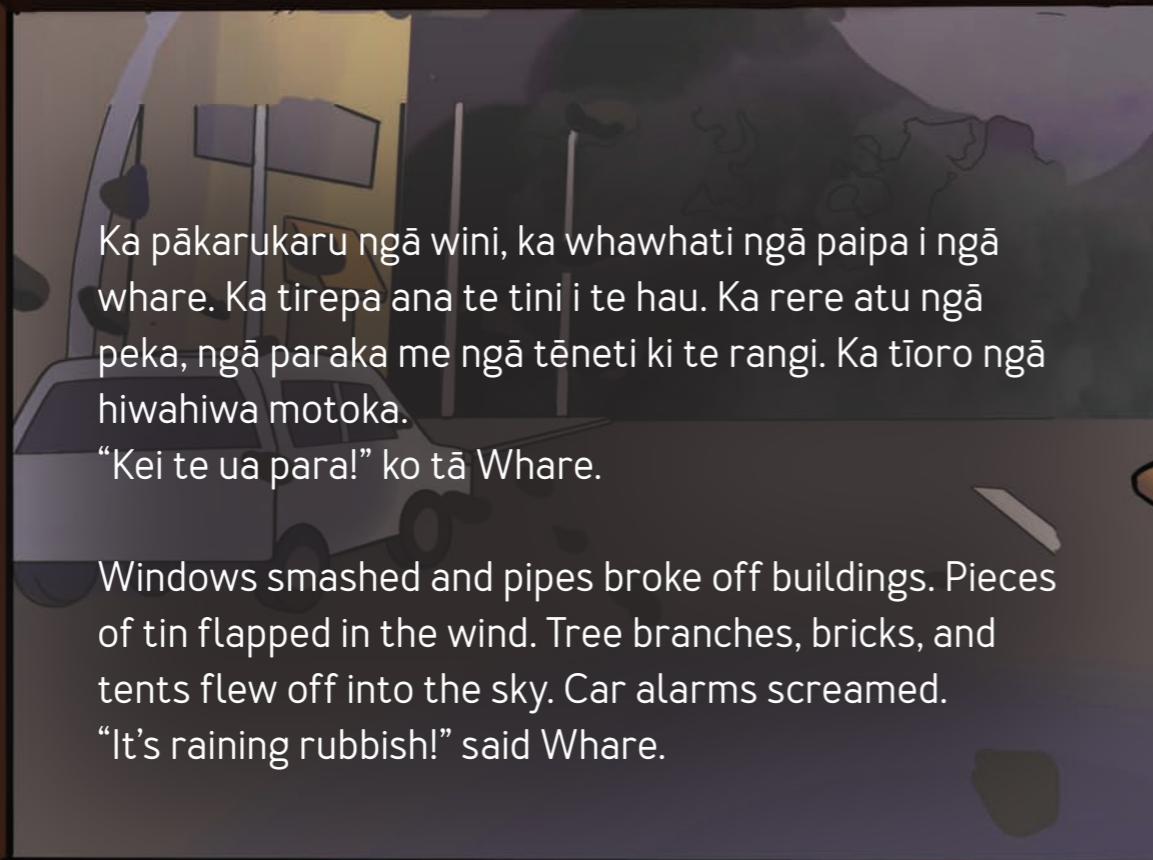
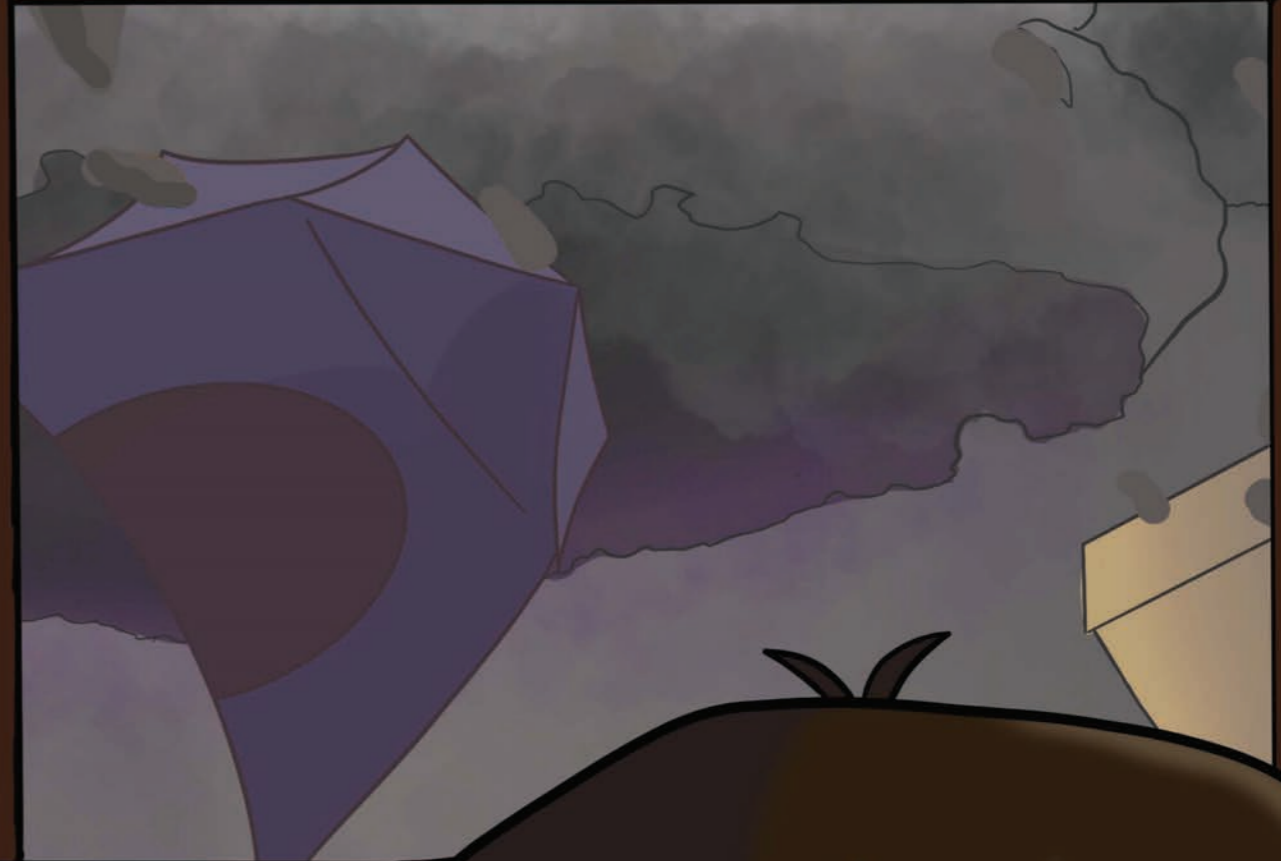
Ka oma te katoa ki te hōro, ka katia ngā kuaha ka neke atu i ngā matapihi.

Everyone ran to the hall, shut the doors and moved away from the windows.

I waho i ngotea te āwhiowhio ngā toa, ngā tūru me ngā tēpu anō nei he mīhini kaupuehu. I hikina tētahi hēti hoki, ka whiua ki te whare i tēra atu taha o te whiira.

Outside, the tornado sucked up stalls, chairs, and tables like a vacuum cleaner. It even picked up a shed and threw it into a building on the other side of the field.





Ka pākarukaru ngā wini, ka whawhati ngā paipa i ngā whare. Ka tirepa ana te tini i te hau. Ka rere atu ngā peka, ngā paraka me ngā tēneti ki te rangi. Ka tīoro ngā hiwahiwa motoka.

“Kei te ua para!” ko tā Whare.

Windows smashed and pipes broke off buildings. Pieces of tin flapped in the wind. Tree branches, bricks, and tents flew off into the sky. Car alarms screamed.

“It’s raining rubbish!” said Whare.



Ka wehe atu te āwhiowhio, ka puta te katoa ki waho, kāre e haumaruru i roto i ngā whare.  
I ohorere ki te kite i te nui o te whakamōtī. I takoto tahataha ngā taraka. I mararā ngā tohu rori. Tāwēwē ana ngā aho hiko i te rangi anō nei he ngākahi.

When the tornado left, everyone went outside because the building wasn't safe to stay in.  
They were shocked to see how much damage there was. Trucks were tipped on their sides. Broken road signs lay scattered. Power lines dangled in the air like snakes.

“Noho tawhiti atu i ngā pouhiko,” te kii a Pāpā.  
“Kia mataara ki ngā karāhe me ngā nēra,” te kii a Māmā.

“Stay far away from the power lines,” said Dad.  
“Watch out for broken glass and nails,” said Mum.



I tirohia te oranga o ngā kaumātua e ngā tāngata katoa. I mukua te karāhe i te waka o tētahi o ngā kaumātua e Aniwa. I taurimatia te punua ngeru e hūkiki ana e Sky i te mea he mana nui hoki tō ngā kararehe.

Everyone checked on the elders to make sure they were safe. Aniwa swept glass off a kaumatua's car. Sky looked after a shivering kitten because animals are important too.



Nā wai rā, i tae mai ngā kaimahi patuahi ki te whakawātea i ngā rākau i hinga atu. I whakatikahia ngā pouhiko e ngā mātanga hiko. I kūmanutia te hunga i whara e ngā kaimanapou.

“Kei te pai koe e parata?” te pātai a tēna, a tēna.

I mauria ētahi tāngata i ngā kai nō te marae – hanawiti, kōpaki, kōhua kai me te wai. Nā tētahi atu te rorerore tōtiti.

Soon some firemen came to clear the fallen trees. Linesmen fixed the power lines. Paramedics tended to those who were injured.

“You all good, bro?” people asked each other.

Some people from the marae brought kai to share – sandwiches, wraps, pots of food and water. Someone else made a sausage sizzle.



Ko te toa kuku kōnatunatu anake kāre i hinga i te āwhiowhio.  
“Akene pea he reka ki a Tāwhirimātea te kaimoana pēnei i a tātou!”  
te kii a Whare.

Haere ake te wā ka whiwhi a Aniwa i tana kuku kōnatunatu ā ka rere  
atu a Tāwhirimātea ki tētahi atu waahi i te ao, orotā ai te ngakinga.

Only the mussel fritter stall had been left untouched by the tornado.  
“Maybe Tāwhirimātea likes seafood as much as we do!” said Whare.  
Aniwa finally got her mussel fritter and Tāwhirimātea went off to  
another part of the world to wreak revenge.



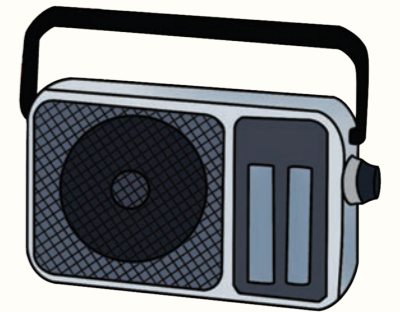
Wow, what an adventure!  
We're lucky we made it through the tornado safely – because we were prepared and knew what to do. So, do you want to get prepared too?

Take some time with your whānau to talk about what natural disasters could happen where you live, how you can prepare and stay safe, and who can help you. Look at the following pages and learn how to create a Family Emergency Plan and a Grab Bag.

**YOU READY?**



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS



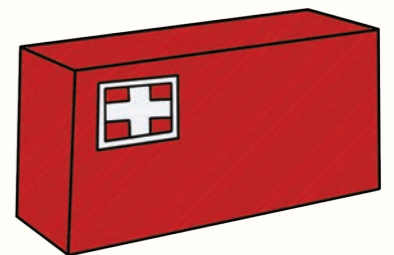
### Get prepared for an emergency

- Talk about the hazards in your home and for your area
- Make your home safer by securing furniture and heavy items
- Make a Family Emergency Plan
- Prepare an Emergency Grab Bag (in case you need to evacuate)
- Stay informed through radio, online, and Emergency Mobile Alert
- Check in with your friends and neighbours
- Have protective items like masks, gloves and shoes ready for any cleaning up

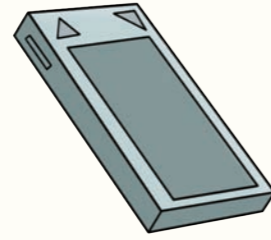
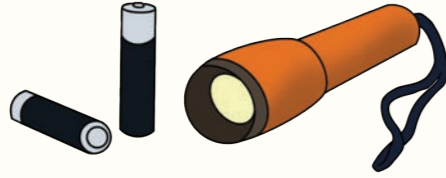


### Family Emergency Plan

- Write down the names of the people who live with you and two others who don't live with you and their mobile numbers. Memorise your home address and you parents' or guardians' phone numbers.
- Choose a meeting place if you can't get home – e.g., library, school, marae, church, or temple.
- Dial 111 for Emergency Services (Police, Fire or Ambulance) and 105 for Police Non-Emergencies.
- Keep extra food and water for at least three days (remember to include babies and pets). Keep a minimum of 3 litres of water per person per day for 3 days or more and change it every 12 months.
- Make sure you have alternative lighting, cooking and heating options in case there is no power.
- Find the radio or social media channels you will check to get the latest news and alerts.

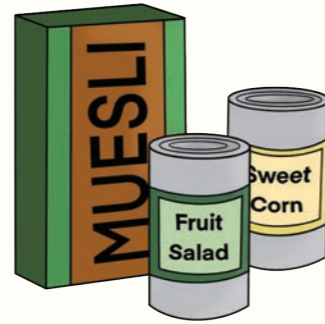
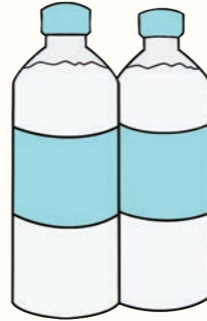






### Emergency Grab Bag

- Walking shoes, warm clothes, raincoat, and hat
- Water and snack food (remember babies and pets too) and special dietary requirements
- Hand sanitiser, gloves, masks
- Portable phone charger / power bank
- Cash
- Copies of important documents and photo ID
- Special needs items such as hearing aids, glasses and mobility aids (include spare batteries)
- Radio and batteries
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Torch and batteries
- Toiletries (towel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary items) and toilet paper
- Sleeping bag or blankets

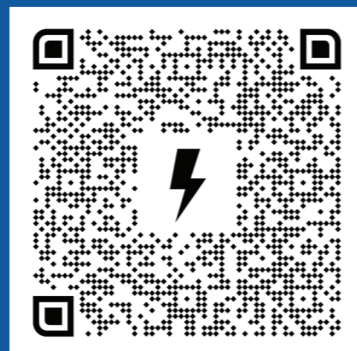


## CHECK OUT THE OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES:



Scan the code to find more helpful resources or to create a digital Family Emergency Plan.

[aem.org.nz/storybooks](http://aem.org.nz/storybooks)



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**National Emergency  
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Te Rākau Whakamarumarū



Kua paki te rā i te Hātarei ki te mākete, me te tino hiahia a Aniwa me tana whānau kia kai i a rātou kuku kōnatunatu. Ka tere pao ngā hiahia nā Tāwhirimātea, te atua o ngā hau, o te huarere me ōna mahi hīanga. Ka piki haere te pupuhi o ngā hau, ka timata te ua, katahi rā, ka hau mai he āwhiowhio ki te mākete. E whakapono ana, ka mōhio te whānau ki te āta haumaruru i a rātou anō mai i ngā karawhiunga āwhiowhio o Tāwhirimātea?

It's a sunny Saturday at the market and Aniwa and her whānau are excited to dig into their mussel fritters. But their plans are quickly derailed when Tāwhirimātea, the God of Weather, decides to cause some mischief. The wind starts to pick up, rain begins to fall, and soon, a tornado is headed straight for the market. Will the whānau know what to do to stay safe and protect themselves from the force of Tāwhirimātea's tornado?



**YOU  
READY?**

The *You Ready?* series follows a group of friends as they face dangerous weather events and natural disasters. From cyclones and tornadoes to flash floods and thunderstorms, the children use their quick thinking, knowledge and resilience to prepare for and stay safe in emergencies. The characters take you to different communities – Māori, Samoan, Hindi and Chinese – and teach you how to get ready too.

[aem.org.nz/storybooks](http://aem.org.nz/storybooks)



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