

Rākau



A Midnight Roam

Ready to Read Phonics Plus



by Samantha Montgomerie | illustrated by Giselle Clarkson

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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A Midnight Roam



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illustrated by Giselle Clarkson





It is midnight, and Kiwi is hunting for food because she is hungry.

She runs with her beak tapping the ground so she can sniff for food. Tap, tap, sniff, sniff. She explores in the dirt for her dinner.



Kiwi stops on the track and
digs to uncover a worm.

The worm wiggles and squirms
in Kiwi's beak.

Kiwi is happy to have found
food but is unhappy to have
dirt in her nostrils.



“Achoo!” sneezes Kiwi.

The worm shoots out of her beak, hangs in mid-air, then falls into the stream. Splash!

“That’s unfair,” thinks Kiwi.

“Now I need to hunt for food again. Who can help me?”



Frog appears in the moonlight.


Kiwi is sitting midway across
the stream.

“Are you unwell, Kiwi?” asks Frog.

“No, I’m fine,” says Kiwi.

“I just have dirt in my nostrils,
and I’m unhappy that I lost
my food.”





“That’s unlucky,” says Frog,
“but there’s plenty of food
in the stream. Why don’t you
swim and search in the water
with me?”

“I’m not like you,” says Kiwi.
“I poke around in the dirt for
my food.”



Kiwi hears a sound but is unsure what it is.

Suddenly Ruru loops through the air and swoops down to Kiwi.

“Why don’t you fly like me?” asks Ruru. “I can see food from above.”



“I’m unable to fly, and it’s unwise for me to swim,” says Kiwi. “I’ll return to the track and try again. Ka kite.” “Good luck, Kiwi,” says Frog. “We don’t hunt in the same way, but we all like a midnight roam.”



Focus points

- This book focuses on the prefixes **un-** and **mid-**. Tell children the meaning of these prefixes and how they change the meaning of the word they are a part of.
- It also introduces a number of vocabulary words including kupu Māori.

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

midnight

uncover

unhappy

mid-air

unfair

midway

unwell

Morphology

Write down the word **unlike** and talk about the morphemes **un** and **like**. The prefix **un-** at the start of the word means “not” or “the opposite of”. Adding the prefix to the word **like** changes its meaning. Come up with some other words that start with this prefix and look at them in their base and derived forms. Encourage children to notice that the spelling of the base word does not change when the prefix is added:

like – unlike; well – unwell; able – unable; happy – unhappy

The prefix **mid-** means middle, for example, **midnight** means “middle of the night”.

Encourage the children to find all the words in the story that start with the **mid-** prefix. Ask them to think of other words that use this prefix, for example, midday, mid-year, midweek, mid-point.

Vocabulary

Tell the children the meaning of any new vocabulary:

- **explores:** travels through an area to learn about it
- **wiggles:** moves back and forth or up and down
- **squirms:** wriggles and twists from side to side
- **nostrils:** the openings at the bottom of our nose through which we breathe and smell
- **suddenly:** quickly and unexpectedly
- **unwise:** not smart or sensible; foolish

During reading

- The children read the title together. Make a connection between the title and the picture.
- The children read each page 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, prefixes and base words).

Kupu Māori | Māori words

Ka kite

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

- Why does Frog ask Kiwi if she is unwell?
- What sound does Kiwi hear?
- Where are Kiwi's nostrils?

Story discussion

Kiwi, Frog, and Ruru discover that they all like to come out at night. They also find out that they are different from one another. Frog searches for food in the water, Ruru flies and hunts from the air, and Kiwi uses her beak to search for food in the soil. Encourage children to talk about the ways they are the same and different, for example, they may play different sports.

Fluency and story retell

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



Rākau
Tree

Focus sounds

mid-

un-



Māhuri
Sapling



Tupu
Seedling



Kākano
Seed

