

Kilikiti

Try this one: eller-funny.

Eller-funny (pronunciation's not exactly right, but kinda close).

Eller-funny is Samoan for elephant,
and it's spelt like this: elefane.

But don't say it so it rhymes with aeroplane.

Remember: eller-funny

(not exactly right, but kinda close).

So, elefane (eller-funny) is Samoan for elephant,

which is funny 'cos there are no elephants in Sāmoa.

It's the English word first – elephant –

transliterated (Google that!) to Samoan. Elefane.

Funny, eh?

Then there's kilikiti.

Kee-lee-kee-tee (perfect – top marks this time).

Have a guess. What could it mean?

Ummm ... Kittycat? Kilometre? Kitchenette?

Nope!

Try cricket (the game, not the grasshopper).

Makes sense, right, if you repeat it:

cricket (kee-lee-kee-tee)

cricket (kee-lee-kee-tee)

cricket (kee-lee-kee-tee).

You can hear it, the transliteration

from English to Samoan.

(By the way, kilikiti is a bit different from cricket,
and it's way more fun.

It's like a party.

When someone gets a run, the whole team

does a dance, sings a song, has a laugh.

And everybody – even the nanas – plays.

Not just the dudes in white.)

Tusiata Avia



Kilikiti

by Tusiata Avia

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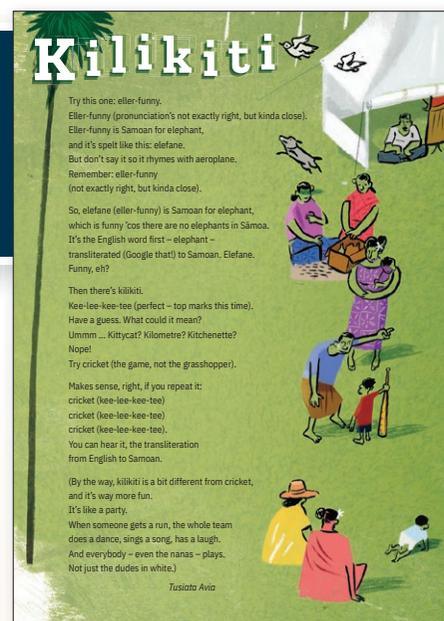
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Published 2018 by the Ministry of Education,
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
www.education.govt.nz

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ISBN 978 1 77669 464 8 (online)

Publishing Services: Lift Education E Tū
Editor: Susan Paris
Designer: Simon Waterfield
Literacy Consultant: Melanie Winthrop
Consulting Editors: Hōne Apanui and Emeli Sione



SCHOOL JOURNAL LEVEL 3 NOVEMBER 2018

Curriculum learning areas	English Social Sciences
Reading year level	Year 5
Keywords	belonging, community, cricket, culture, humour, identity, kilikiti, language, Pacific, poetry, pronunciation, phonetics, rhyme, Sāmoa, sport, transliteration