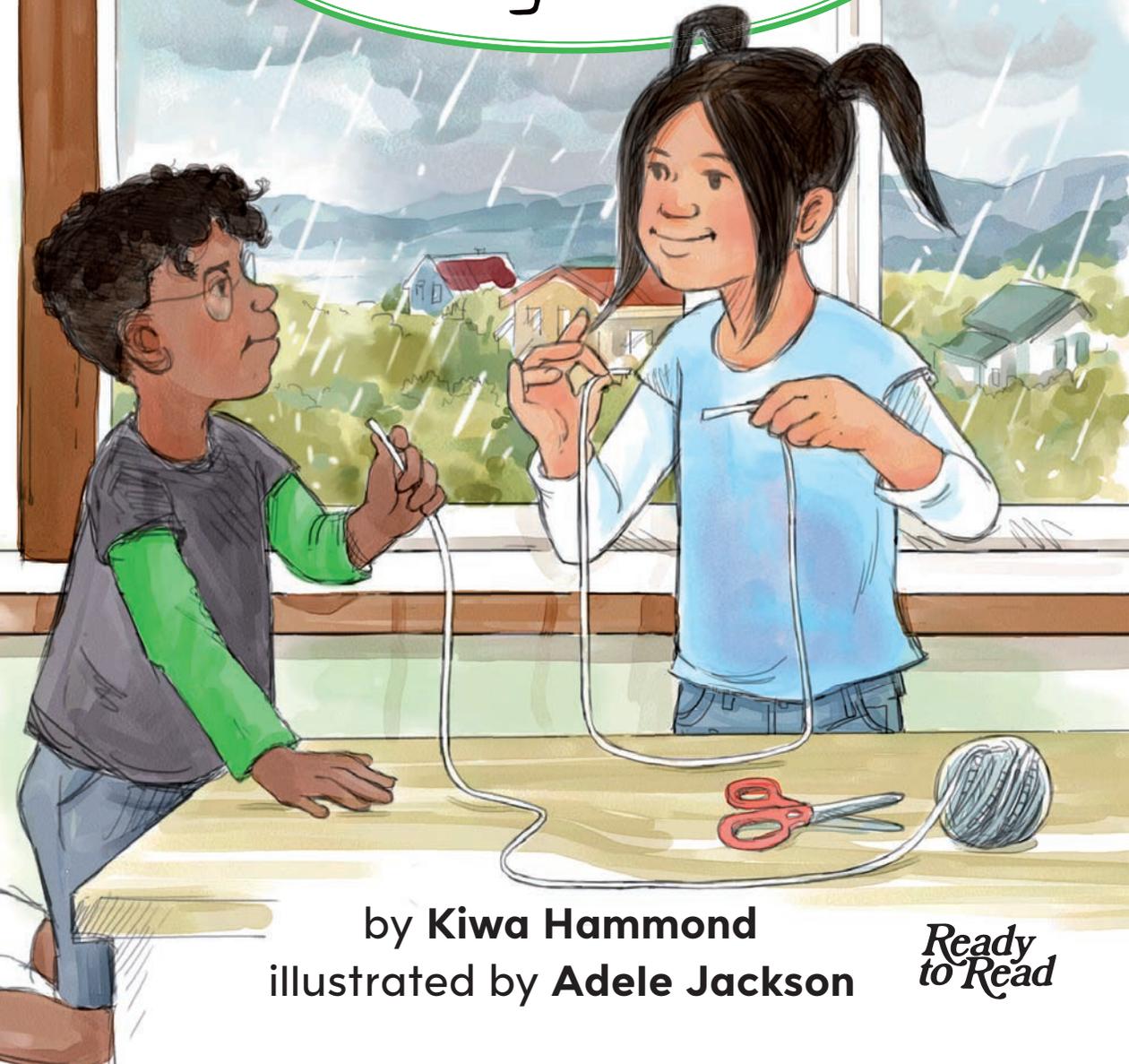


# Whai String Games



by **Kiwa Hammond**  
illustrated by **Adele Jackson**

*Ready  
to Read*

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Running words: 343

**Hani** (Hah-nee)

**Hōhā** (hor-har): to be bored

**Mahi** (Mah-hee)

**Titiro mai** (tee-tee-raw my): watch me

**Whai** (fy): string games

For more support with pronunciation, go to [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)  
to hear an audio version of the text.

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It was raining outside. Mahi and her cousin Hani wanted the rain to stop.

“I’m bored,” said Hani. “Hōhā! There’s nothing to do.”

“You could play a game,” said Aunty.

“Here you are, Mahi.”

She handed Mahi a ball of string.

“A game with string?” said Hani.

Mahi smiled. She knew what Aunty meant.



Mahi got some scissors and cut off two long pieces of string.

“Ka pai,” said Mahi. “That looks just right.”

“Just right for what?” asked Hani.

Mahi smiled.

Mahi made a loop from one piece of string. She gave the loop to Hani and made another loop for herself.

“What do I do with this?” asked Hani.

“Titiro mai. Watch me,” said Mahi.

“This is called whai. Just do what I do.”

Hani watched Mahi put the string around her fingers.

“Now you try, Hani,” said Mahi.

Hani did it, too.

“Do you mean like this?” he asked.

“Yes,” smiled Mahi. “Ka pai. That’s just right.”



“Now watch this,” said Mahi. She put a finger under the string and made a little loop. Then she did the same thing with the string on her other hand.

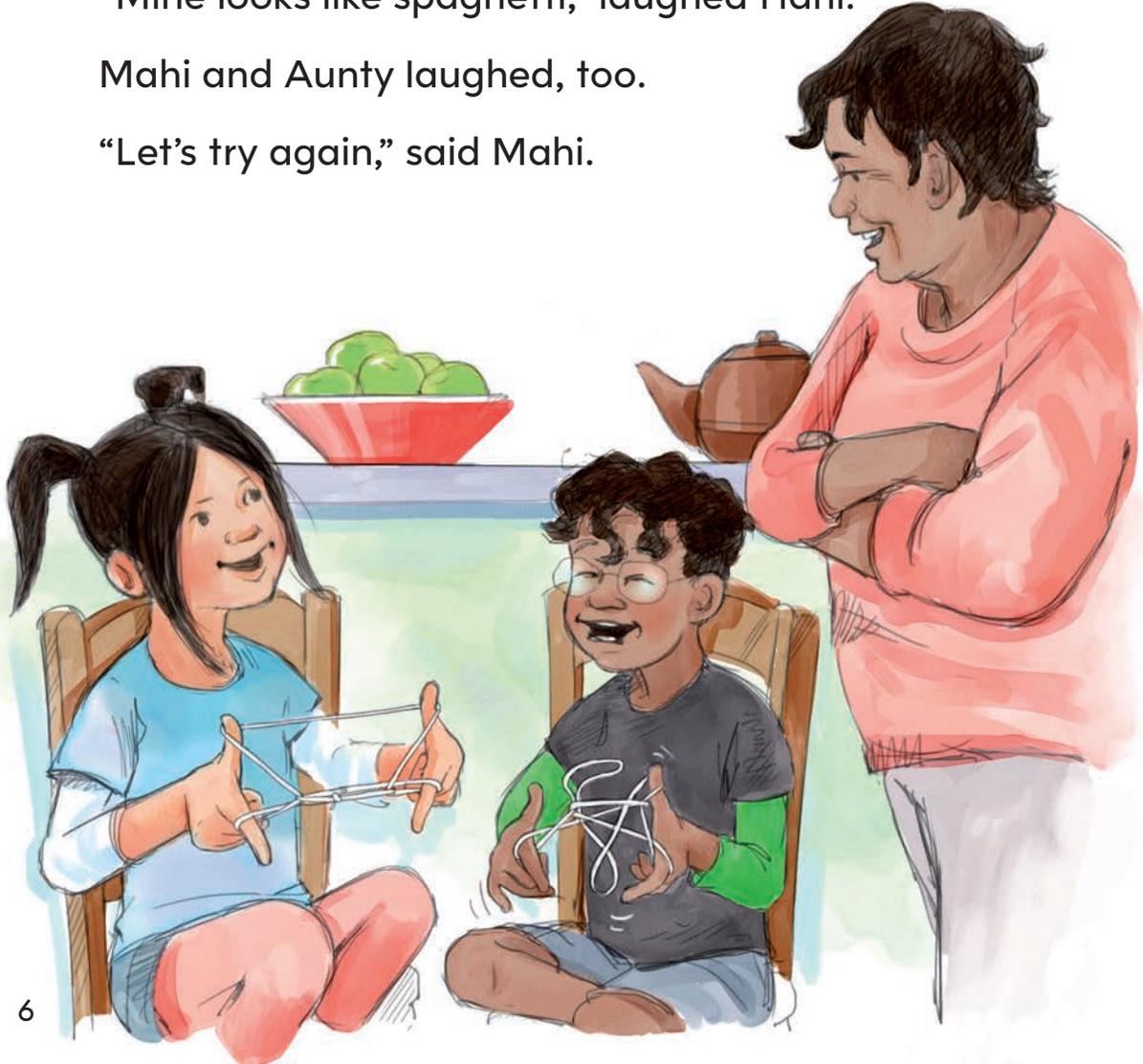


Hani tried it, too. He needed a bit of help. Step by step, Mahi showed Hani how to make a pattern. Her fingers and thumbs moved up and down and over and under.

Aunty watched and smiled.



Then Mahi held up her hands.  
“Here it is. It’s a cup and saucer,” said Mahi.  
“Does your whai pattern look like mine?”  
“Mine looks like spaghetti,” laughed Hani.  
Mahi and Aunty laughed, too.  
“Let’s try again,” said Mahi.



Hani tried again, and Mahi helped him when he got stuck. This time, Hani did it.

“Look,” said Hani. “I can do it! Look at my cup and saucer.”

“You are a quick learner, Hani,” said Mahi.

“You are a good teacher, Mahi,” said Hani.



Mahi tried out some other patterns.

Hani made the cup and saucer  
over and over again.

“Look at all those cups and saucers!”  
said Aunty. “It must be time for morning tea!”





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Whai – String Games

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