

White Sunday in Sāmoa



by Sarona Aiono-Iosefa
photographs by
Jill MacGregor

*Ready
to Read*

Published 2015 by the Ministry of Education,
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
www.education.govt.nz

First published 2003 for the Ministry of Education
by Learning Media Limited, Wellington, New Zealand.

Text copyright © Crown 2003

Photographs copyright © Jill MacGregor 2003

The palm-frond background pattern used throughout this book is from
the Backgrounds and Objects image disc copyright © PhotoDisc, Inc. 1993.

Editor: Kay Hancock

Designer: Elton Gregory

All rights reserved.

Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū

ISBN 978 0 478 16239 4 (print)

ISBN 978 1 77663 592 4 (online)

Replacement copies may be ordered from Ministry of Education Customer Services,
online at www.thechair.co.nz

by email: orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz

or freephone 0800 660 662

Please quote item number 16239.

The teacher support material (TSM) and audio for Ready to Read texts
can be found online at www.readytoread.tki.org.nz

Tafu (tah-foo)

lavalava (lahva-lahva)

Tesa (tessa)

Veta (veh-ta)

Fili (fee-lee)

umu (oo-moo)

pale (pah-le)

Laumua (lau-moo-a)

fale (fah-le)

White Sunday in Sāmoa



by Sarona Aiono-Iosefa
photographs by Jill MacGregor

Ministry of Education



Soon it will be White Sunday.
Mum goes to town to buy new clothes
for Tafu to wear to church.

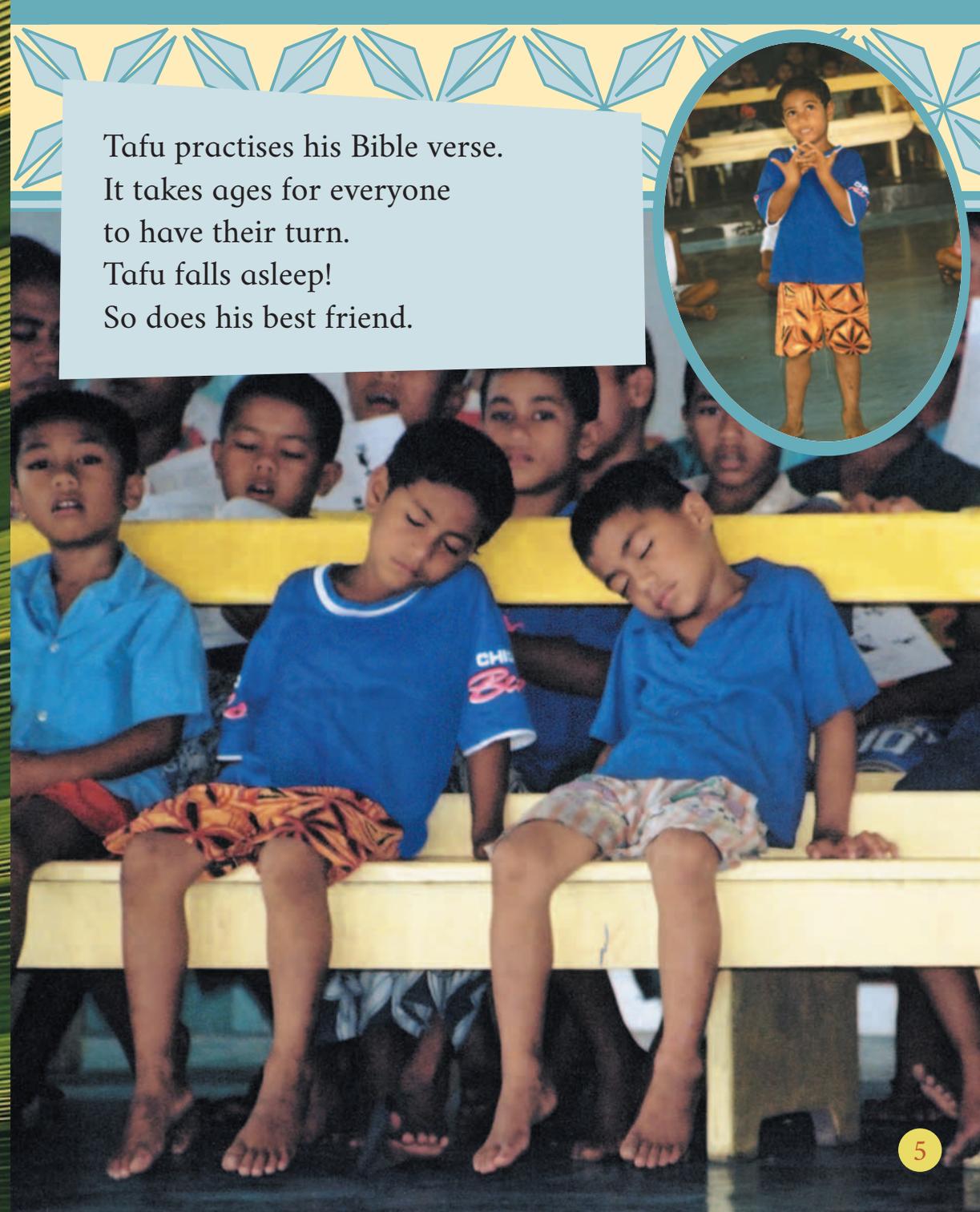
When Mum gets home,
Tafu tries on the new clothes.
The lavalava is too big.
Tafu will have to wear his white shorts.

“Never mind,” says Mum.
“You can wear the lavalava next year,
when you’re bigger.”





White Sunday will be a very special day.
The children all have a Bible verse to say,
and they will sing hymns together.
They must practise hard.



Tafu practises his Bible verse.
It takes ages for everyone
to have their turn.
Tafu falls asleep!
So does his best friend.





On Saturday, everyone helps to get ready. Aunty Tesa and Mum decorate the church. Tafu and his brother, Veta, collect ferns to pin on their shirts and wear on their heads. Uncle Fili gets the food ready for the umu.



After dinner, Dad prays that everything will go well. Tafu feels a bit nervous. Will he remember his verse tomorrow?



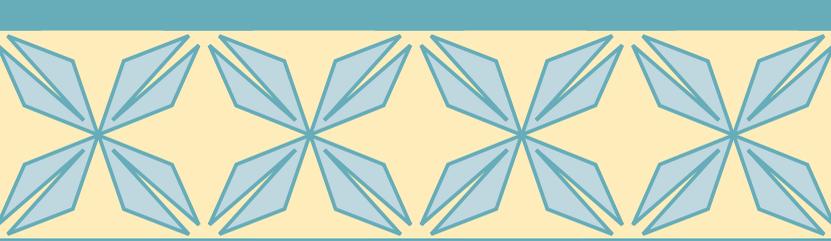


White Sunday at last! Time to get dressed.
Mum fixes his pale.

“I feel nervous, Mum,” says Tafu.
“What if I forget my verse
in front of all the people today?”

Mum gives him a hug.
“You’ll be fine,” she says.





Tafu walks to the church with his sister, Laumua. The children line up and sing as they go into the church.



Soon it is Tafu's turn to say his Bible verse. He is nervous, but he says it loudly.



Afterwards, Tafu changes out of his church clothes.



Then there is a special lunch with lots of food. Today, Tafu and Laumua can sit in the main fale like grown-ups. Auntie Tesa brings them their food. The children eat and eat.

Tafu puts away his new white clothes.
He feels sad that the day is over.
White Sunday is such a special day.

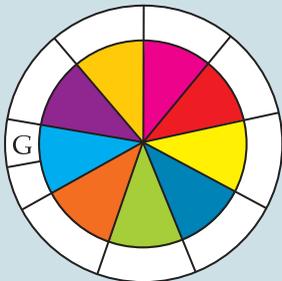


White Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday in October. The children dress in white to go to church. They sing and say Bible verses they have learnt off by heart. After church, there is a special lunch. The grown-ups make the food, and the children eat first.



Glossary

fale	A Samoan house
lavalava	Traditional clothing worn wrapped around the waist
pale	A headdress
umu	An earth oven



The teacher support material (TSM) and audio for Ready to Read texts can be found online at www.readytoread.tki.org.nz

To go directly to audio and TSM for this book, scan the QR code or use the short URL.



White Sunday
in Sāmoa

bit.ly/2Cs1SuH



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

New Zealand Government



9 780478 162394