

Māhuri



# The Best Place to Rest

**Ready to Read** Phonics Plus



By Samantha Montgomerie | Illustrated by Giselle Clarkson

# The Best Place to Rest

Published 2021 by the Ministry of Education,  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)

Developed by Child Well-being Research Institute, University of Canterbury,  
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[www.canterbury.ac.nz/childwellbeing/betterstartliteracy](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/childwellbeing/betterstartliteracy)

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Child Well-being Research Institute, University of Canterbury  
Designed and typeset by Smartwork Creative, [www.smartworkcreative.co.nz](http://www.smartworkcreative.co.nz)

ISBN 978-1-77663-962-5 (print)  
ISBN 978-1-77663-963-2 (online)

Teacher notes written by the Child Well-being Research Institute, University of Canterbury  
Teacher support materials for the Ready to Read texts can be found  
online at [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)

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The sun is hot.

“It is time to make the  
best nest for my eggs,”  
says Tūī.

Tūi looks at Frog's eggs.  
“My eggs keep wet in  
the stream,” says Frog.  
Frog's home is too wet  
for Tūi.





Tūī sees Ruru.

“I laid my eggs in  
this tree,” says Ruru.

Ruru’s nest is too  
dark for Tūī.

Tūi sees Weka.

“I am getting a soft leaf  
for my nest,” says Weka.





Weka pokes the leaf in.  
“I keep my nest tucked  
in this spot,” says Weka.  
Weka’s nest is too soft  
for Tūī.

Tūī starts to grab  
sticks and twigs.  
She takes them  
up into the tree.





Tūī puts fine moss  
into the nest.  
“You looked at a lot  
of homes,” says Pāpā,  
“but this is your best  
place to rest.”

## TEACHING NOTES

# The Best Place to Rest

### ■ Reading practice

This story provides children with practice in reading and understanding short words using carefully selected focus sounds.

#### Focus sounds

Revision

Introduce the text and read the story aloud together, pointing to each word as you read. Encourage children to sound out the regular words that they already know the sounds for. The regular words that contain the focus sounds for this book are listed below. For words that include sounds that the children haven't learnt yet, you may simply tell children the words as you read together. Give plenty of praise for children's reading attempts and encourage re-reading to build accuracy and fluency.

#### **Regular words for sounding out**

getting, tucked, laid, stream, leaf, start, dark

#### **Other words to tell children**

Pāpā

### ■ Phonological awareness

Practise segmenting and blending sounds together to make words. You could say, "Let's say the sounds (phonemes) together in each word I say."

Have children find each word you segment and blend on the page.

Use the table below for suggestions on how to segment and blend target words from this story.

dark	d-ar-k
egg	e-gg
nest	n-e-s-t
twig	t-w-i-g
make	m-ae-k

### ■ Morphological awareness

Show how the word **tuck** can change with the addition of a suffix:

tuck, tucks, tuck**ing**, tucked

Bring attention to the part of the word that is the same. Create spoken sentences using the different forms of the word **tuck**.

### ■ Vocabulary

Talk about the meaning of the word **fine** as used in the story (i.e. very thin or narrow). See if children can come up with other meanings of the word **fine**.

### ■ Spelling

Support children to listen and identify where the sound change occurs in words. Use the suggested letters or letter blocks to spell and read the words. Prompt as necessary to ensure success.



Use the phrasing: "If this word spells **best**, can you spell **nest**? If this word spells **nest**, can you spell **net**?"

Easier changes: best > nest > net > get > let

Harder changes: rest > rust > rut > root

### ■ Story discussion

It was great that Tūi found the best place for her eggs. This best place was her kāinga, her home. Talk with children about whether they have a favourite place. What makes it so special for them?

### ■ Story retell

Ask the children to retell the story to a friend or family member. Prompt as necessary using picture cues. Give plenty of praise and encouragement for verbal responses.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA



**Rākau**  
Tree



**Tupu**  
Seedling



**Kākano**  
Seed

# Māhuri Sapling

Tense morphemes  
Vowel digraphs

## Focus sounds

Revision



ISBN 978-1-77663-962-5



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