

Fast Food

by Hera Black Taute

CHARACTERS

TE UA

HINEROA

NIWHAI

JADE

ANI

MUM

DAD

Scene: A beach on the island of Rēkohu. TE UA is visiting from Christchurch. His cousins, HINEROA, NIWHAI, JADE, and ANI, live on Rēkohu.

TE UA. I'm starving! When's dinner?

HINEROA. We're waiting for Mum and Dad.

TE UA. Where are they?

NIWHAI. They've gone to get us some fast food. Isn't that right, Jade?

JADE. What? (*NIWHAI nudges her with his elbow.*) Oh, right – yes, they're bringing us some fast food for tea.

HINEROA. Yum! I love fast food.

TE UA. So do I. Hamburgers and chips – mmm!

HINEROA (*to TE UA*). Can you see them yet?

TE UA (*looking all around*). No, and I can't see any shops, either.

NIWHAI. You must have left your glasses behind in Christchurch!

JADE. I suppose you left them for your cat to wear!

ANI (*glaring at NIWHAI and JADE*). Come on, Te Ua. Come and help me find some firewood.

TE UA. What for? It's summer – we don't need firewood.

JADE. When Mum and Dad come back, we'll light a bonfire on the beach.

TE UA. I hope they come back soon – I'm so hungry I could eat three hamburgers!

The children pick up driftwood from the beach and pile it in the centre of the stage.

TE UA. Is that enough?

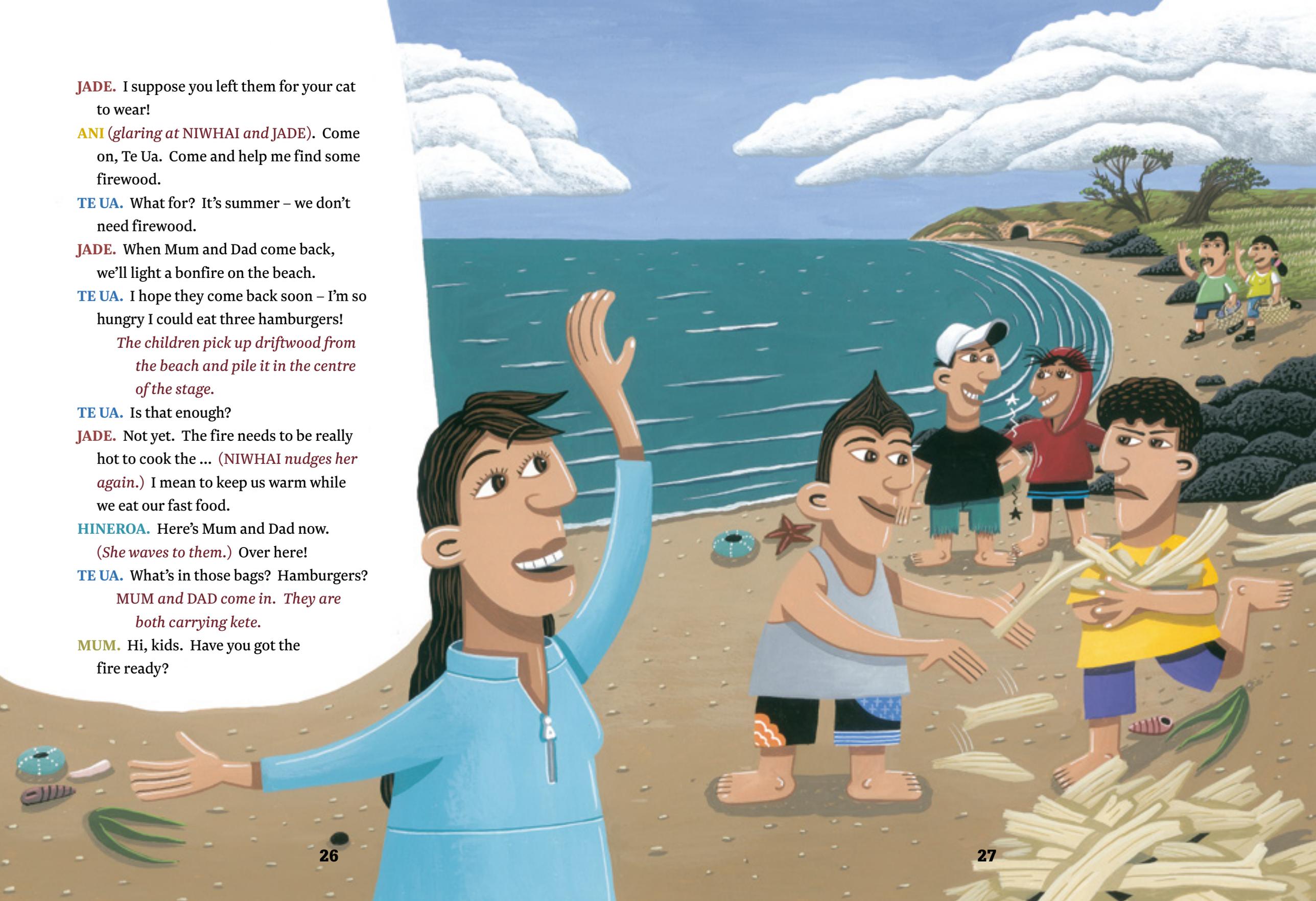
JADE. Not yet. The fire needs to be really hot to cook the ... (*NIWHAI nudges her again.*) I mean to keep us warm while we eat our fast food.

HINEROA. Here's Mum and Dad now. (*She waves to them.*) Over here!

TE UA. What's in those bags? Hamburgers?

MUM and DAD come in. They are both carrying kete.

MUM. Hi, kids. Have you got the fire ready?



DAD (*handing a kete to NIWHAI*). Here you are, Niwhai.

I'll light the fire while you get the pāua ready.

TE UA. Pāua?

MUM (*handing a kete to TE UA*). Here you are, Te Ua.

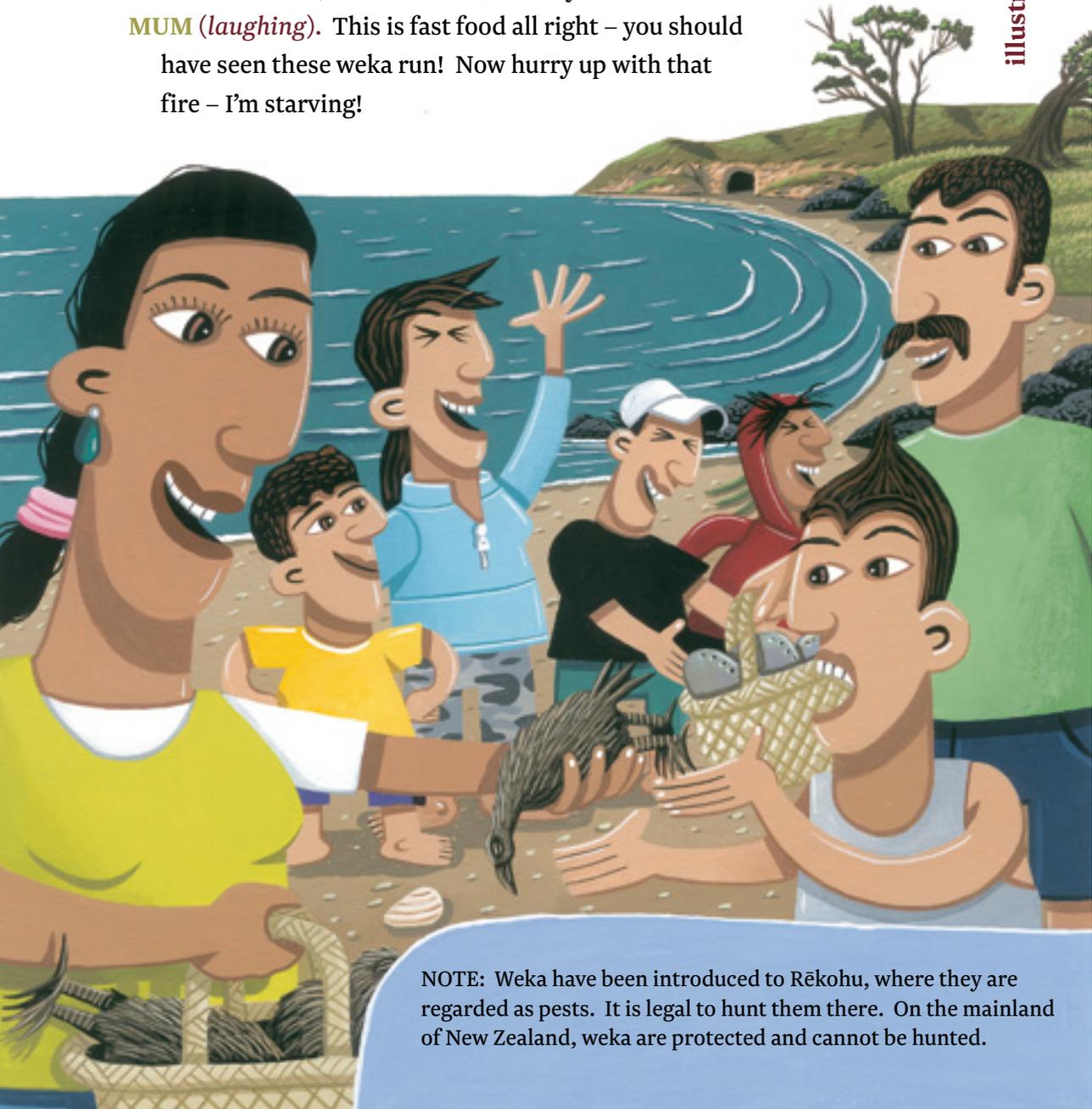
You can help me pluck these weka.

TE UA. What? I thought we were having fast food!

DAD. On Rēkohu, fast food means food you have to chase.

MUM (*laughing*). This is fast food all right – you should have seen these weka run! Now hurry up with that fire – I'm starving!

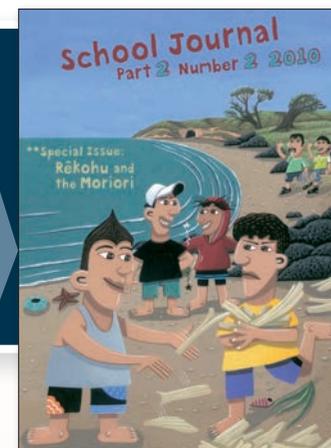
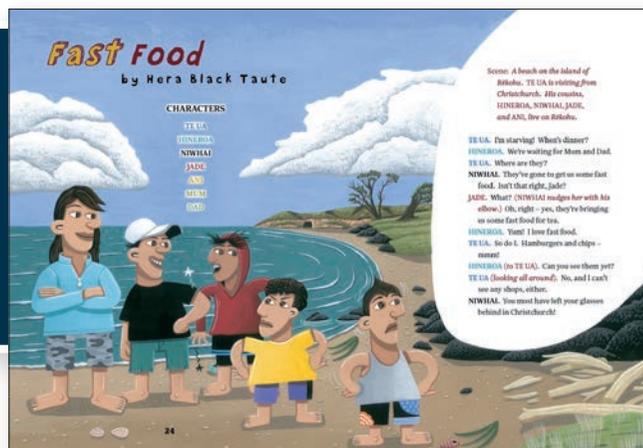
illustrations by Fraser Williamson



NOTE: Weka have been introduced to Rēkohu, where they are regarded as pests. It is legal to hunt them there. On the mainland of New Zealand, weka are protected and cannot be hunted.

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