

A Good Kaitiaki

When I was six, I got the kaitiaki award for saving a bee that landed in the school pool, and Mum's held it over me ever since.

She says, "Hey, son. How about you be a good kaitiaki and tidy your room?"

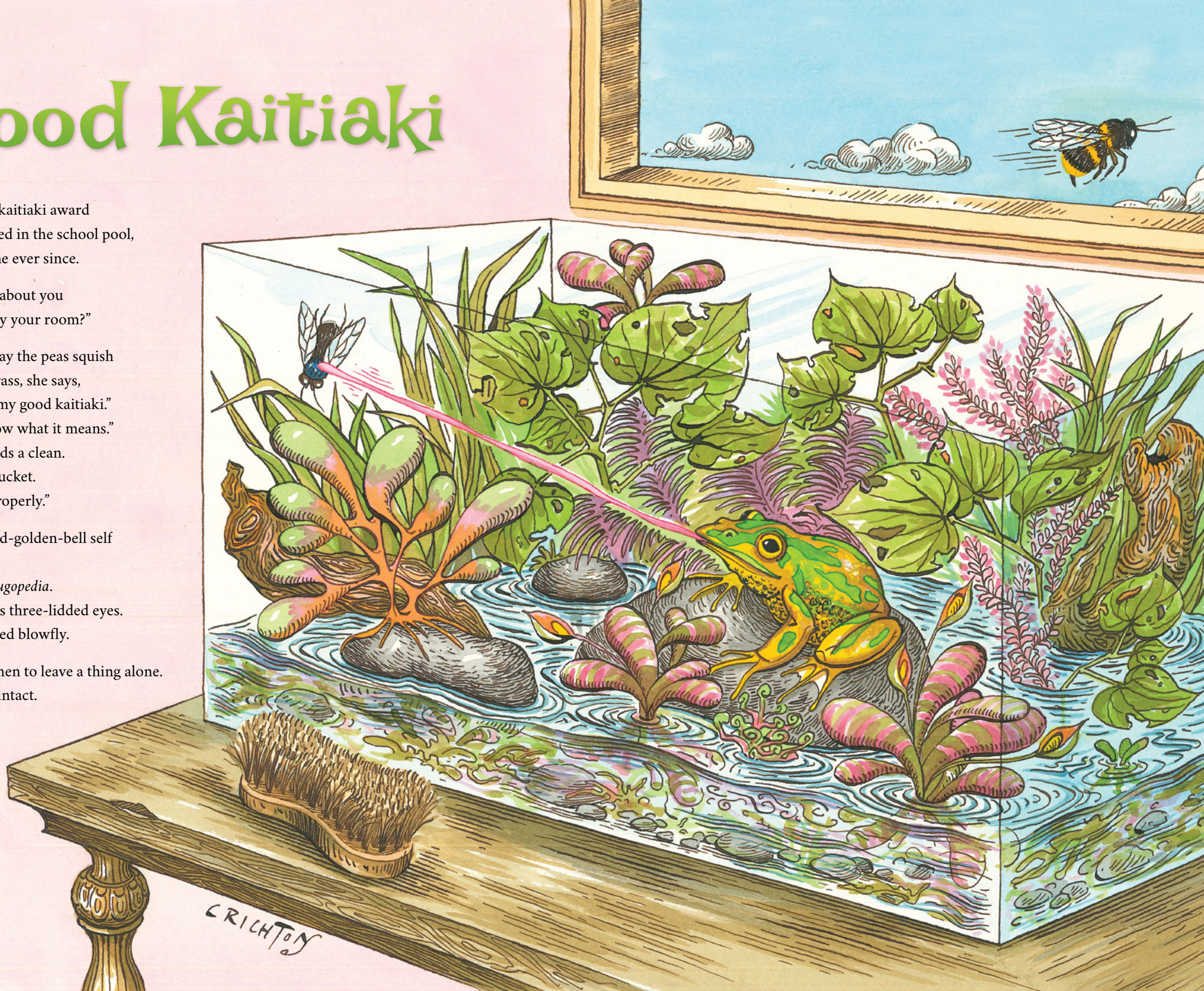
If I complain about the way the peas squish like slugs and taste like grass, she says, "That doesn't sound like my good kaitiaki." I say, "You don't even know what it means." She says, "Fred's tank needs a clean. Here's a brush. Here's a bucket. Make sure you scrub it properly."

Fred throws his green-and-golden-bell self around his algaed home.

I read him the *Ultimate Bugopedia*. He listens carefully, blinks three-lidded eyes. I feed him a freshly hatched blowfly.

A good kaitiaki knows when to leave a thing alone. The bee flew away, sting intact.

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Published 2022 by the Ministry of Education,
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
www.education.govt.nz

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ISBN 978 1 77690 816 5 (online)
ISSN 2624 3636 (online)

Publishing Services: Lift Education E Tū
Editor: Susan Paris
Designer: Liz Tui Morris
Literacy Consultant: Melanie Winthrop
Consulting Editors: Ariana Tikao and Emeli Sione



SCHOOL JOURNAL LEVEL 3 NOVEMBER 2022

Curriculum learning area

English

Reading year level

Year 6

Keywords

humour, kaitiaki, kaitiakitanga, poetry