

Tāne Mahuta

by Ellie Job • year 7, Belmont Intermediate

Go get a life. Loser! She's so annoying ...

Thoughts galloped around in my head like horses. I tossed and turned beneath the soft covers of my bed. It was no use. Sleep wouldn't come. I climbed out of bed and thrust an old, ripped hoodie over my pyjamas.

My heartbeat became faster, and I sat down and took slow, deep breaths. The world was such a scary place. No knowledge of what the future would hold ... it was hard to think about. I pulled myself together and went out into the hall and quietly unlocked the front door, my hands still trembling. Silently, I set off towards the track. I needed to get away from my house, from my worries. I needed some time where it was just me and the whenua.

I found a spot to sit quietly and think. The chilly breeze rattled the leaves. Suddenly, I heard a rustle. It came closer. I held my breath in fright. As the mysterious creature emerged from the green wonderland, I gasped. It was a kiwi! Its feathers were brown, and its sleek beak shone in the moonlight as it moved along the midnight-black ground. The bird's beady eyes darted about its surroundings. Slowly but surely, it spotted me – but it didn't run away. It stayed, peering at me thoughtfully, wondering how on earth I'd ended up in its never-ending territory.

After a while, the kiwi got bored. It started pecking at the dirt. I watched it gobble a squirming worm and then go on its way. A light trickle of rain began to fall. Time to go. I hurried back down the track and out of the bush. As I passed the river, I could hear the water's quiet flow. The sound soothed my overwhelmed mind. I trudged home, feeling a lot calmer than I had before my little journey. Sleepy, even.

As soon as I got home, I fell into bed and drifted into a peaceful, much-needed sleep. My dreams were filled with visions of the kiwi, moving about, gobbling up my worries as if they were wriggling worms.



illustration by Kieran Rynhart

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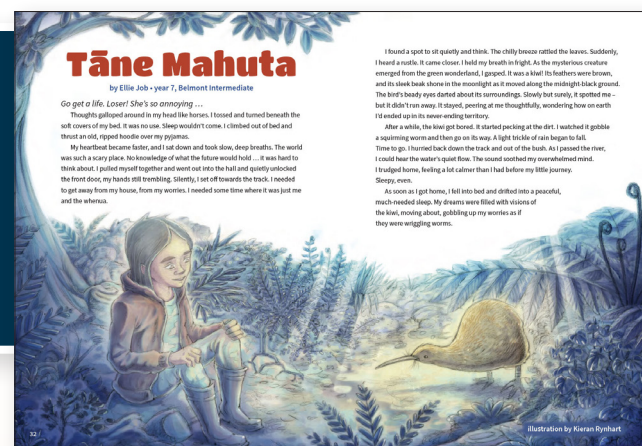
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