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TEACHERS' RESOURCE KIT

Sleeps Standing Witi Ihimaera & Hemi Kelly

Both fiction and fact, this fascinating book is a kaleidoscopic exploration of the Battle of Orakau.



During three days in 1864, 300 Maori men, women and children fought an Imperial army and captured the imagination of the world. The battle marked the end of the Land Wars in the Waikato and resulted in vast tracts of land being confiscated for European settlement. Instead of following the usual standpoint of the victors, this book takes a Maori perspective. It is centred around Witi Ihimaera's moving novella, Sleeps Standing, which views the battle through the eyes of a 16-year-old boy named Moetu.

Alongside the novella are non-fiction narratives from Maori eyewitnesses, together with images and a Maori translation by Hemi Kelly, further giving voice to and illuminating the people who tried to protect their culture and land.

It is estimated that, at the height of the battle, 1700 immensely superior troops, well-armed and amply resourced, laid siege to the hastily constructed pa at Orakau. The defenders were heavily outnumbered with few supplies or weapons but, when told to submit, they replied:

'E hoa, ka whawhai tonu matou, ake, ake, ake!'
'Friend, I shall fight against you for ever, for ever!'



SPECIFICATIONS:

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RESOURCE KIT CONTAINS:

- Close-reading questions (English)
- Close-reading questions (Māori)

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Sleeps Standing - Moetū

Teacher Notes - English

- 1. The battle of Ōrākau is compared to what other famous battles of the world?
- 2. It is said that there were approximately 300 Māori defenders at Ōrākau, how many were estimated to be woman and children?
- 3. In the story of *Sleeps Standing: Moetū*, what was the role of the older children during the battle?
- 4. Ōrākau was the biggest pan-tribal Māori war against the British Imperial Troops:
 - a. Which iwi fought at Ōrākau alongside Ngāti Maniapoto?
 - b. Why did they decide to fight a battle outside of their own tribal lands?
- 5. Select and research one of the leading characters in the story and discuss an act of leadership and bravery demonstrated by that character during the battle.
- 6. What were the key factors leading up to the battle and during the battle that lead to the defenders of the pā running out of provisions and ammunition?
- 7. What is the meaning of the proverb, "he wahine, he whenua, e mate ai te tangata?"
- 8. By 1864, 20,000 imperial troops were marshalled under Lieutenant-General Duncan Cameron; how many soldiers in total lay siege on the pā of Ōrākau?
- 9. By which way did the soldiers enter the Waikato district?
- 10. Discuss the significance of the kākā and the dog mentioned in the story.
- 11. Discuss why it was imperative for the women to farewell the dead and ask permission before wearing their clothes.
- 12. In you own thoughts, why did Rewi Manga Maniapoto refuse to surrender and why did Ahumai Te Paerata insist that if the men were to die then so shall the women and children?
- 13. What is the significance of the shag formation the kāwau mārō employed by the defenders during their escape?
- 14. Choose an image of one of the ancestors either Māori or Pākehā from the book who fought at Ōrākau and create a biography. What did they do prior to the battle? Did they survive? If so, what did they do after Ōrākau?

- 15. *Sleeps Standing* was written to honour the New Zealand Wars. Why is it important to know our own New Zealand history?
- 16. Do you have a local hero, Māori or Pākehā, who was in the New Zealand Wars? Is there a particular local story that interests you?
- 17. Start writing your own family history by writing a short biography of a grandparent.
- 18. Compare and contrast the English and Māori versions of two extracts.
- 19. Translate a section of *Sleeps Standing* from the eyewitness accounts, which is only published in Māori, into English.
- 20. Translate a section of *Sleeps Standing*, which is only published in English into Māori.
- 21. The novella *Sleeps Standing* is structured as a story within a story. Give reasons why this structure is helpful in telling the story of the Battle of Ōrākau.
- 22. Invite a local historian to your class and interview him/her on your local history.

Teachers Notes - Māori Translation

Tā te kaiako

- 1. E whakaritea ana te pakanga i Ōrākau ki ēwhea pakanga nunui o te ao?
- E kīia ana i te takiwā o te 300 ngā Māori i wawao i te pā o Ōrākau, tokowhia o ērā he wāhine, e tamariki?
- 3. I te pukapuka o *Sleeps Standing: Moetū*, he aha te mahi a ngā tamariki pakeke i te roanga o te pakanga?
- 4. Ko Ōrākau te pakanga nunui i whawhai ai ētehi iwi e maha ki te Pākehā:
 - a. Ko wai ngā iwi i whawhai i Ōrākau i te taha o Ngāti Maniapoto?
 - b. He aha rātou i uru ai ki tētehi pakanga i waho atu i ō rātou ake rohe?
- 5. Kōwhiria tētehi tangata matua o roto i te pukapuka; rangahaua taua tangata, ā, homai he kōrero mō tōna māia me tōna kaha ki te ārahi i ētehi atu i te pakanga.
- 6. He aha ngā āhuatanga matua i pā ki ngā iwi o te pā o Ōrākau i te wā i mua tata i te pakanga, i te roanga anō hoki o te pakanga i pau ai te wai, ngā kai me ā rātou matā?
- 7. He aha te tikanga o te whakataukī, "he wahine, he whenua, e mate ai te tangata?"
- 8. Nō te tau 1864, e 20,000 ngā hōia i te whakahaerehia e Rūtene-Tianara Duncan Cameron; tokowhia katoa ngā hōia i whakaeke i te pā o Ōrākau?
- 9. He aha te huarahi i whāia ai e ngā hōia ki roto o Waikato?
- 10. Matapakihia te tikanga o te kākā me te kurī e kōrerohia ana i roto i te pukapuka.
- 11. Matapakihia te take i tika ai te poroporoaki a ngā wāhine i ngā mate i mua i tā ngā wāhine kuhu i ō ngā mate kākahu.
- 12. I ō whakaaro ake, he a Rewi Manga Maniapoto i kore ai e whakahauraro, ā, he aha hoki a Ahumai Te Paerata i tohe ai kia mate tahi ngā wāhine me ngā tamariki i te taha o ngā tāne?
- 13. He aha te tikanga o te nekehanga, o kawau mārō, i whakamahia e ngā tāngata o te pā i tō rātou putanga ki waho?
- 14. Kōwhiria tētehi whakaahua o tētehi tūpuna no roto mai i te pukapuka i whawhai i Ōrākau, tērā pea he Māori, he Pākehā rānei. Ā, māu e tuhi mai tētehi haurongo

- mōna; he aha āna mahi i mua i te pakanga? I ora rānei ia? Mehemea āe, he aha āna mahi i muri mai i te pakanga o Ōrākau?
- 15. I tuhia a *Sleeps Standing* hei whakamana i ngā pakanga o Aotearoa. He aha te take me mōhio tātou ki ngā tāhuhu kōrero o Aotearoa?
- 16. Ko wai to tuahangata, tuawahine rānei no roto mai i ngā pakanga o Aotearoa? Ākunei pea he Māori, he Pākehā rānei. He korero ano no to rohe e whaipānga ana ki a koe?
- 17. Tuhia he kõrero mõ tõ whānau ake, me tīmata koe i te tuhi i tētehi haurongo mõ tētehi o õ tūpuna.
- 18. Tirohia ngā ritenga me ngā rerekētanga o ētehi wāhanga o te tuhinga Pākehā me te tuhinga Māori.
- 19. Whakapākehātia tētehi wāhanga o ngā kōrero ā-waha i tuhia noatia ki te reo Māori, kei te wāhanga o muri o *Sleeps Standing*.
- 20. Whakamāoritia tētehi wāhanga o ngā kōrero ā-waha i tuhia noatia ki te reo Pākehā, kei te wāhanga o muri o *Sleeps Standing*.
- 21. I tuhia te pukapuka o *Sleeps Standing,* anō he kōrero kei roto i tētehi atu kōrero. Homai ētehi take i māmā ai te kōrerotanga o te pakanga o Ōrākau mā roto mai i tēnei momo tuhi.
- 22. Pōwhiritia tētehi tangata mōhio ki ngā tāhuhu kōrero o tō rohe ki te akoranga, ā, uiuitia taua tangata e pā ana ki ngā tāhuhu kōrero ā-rohe.