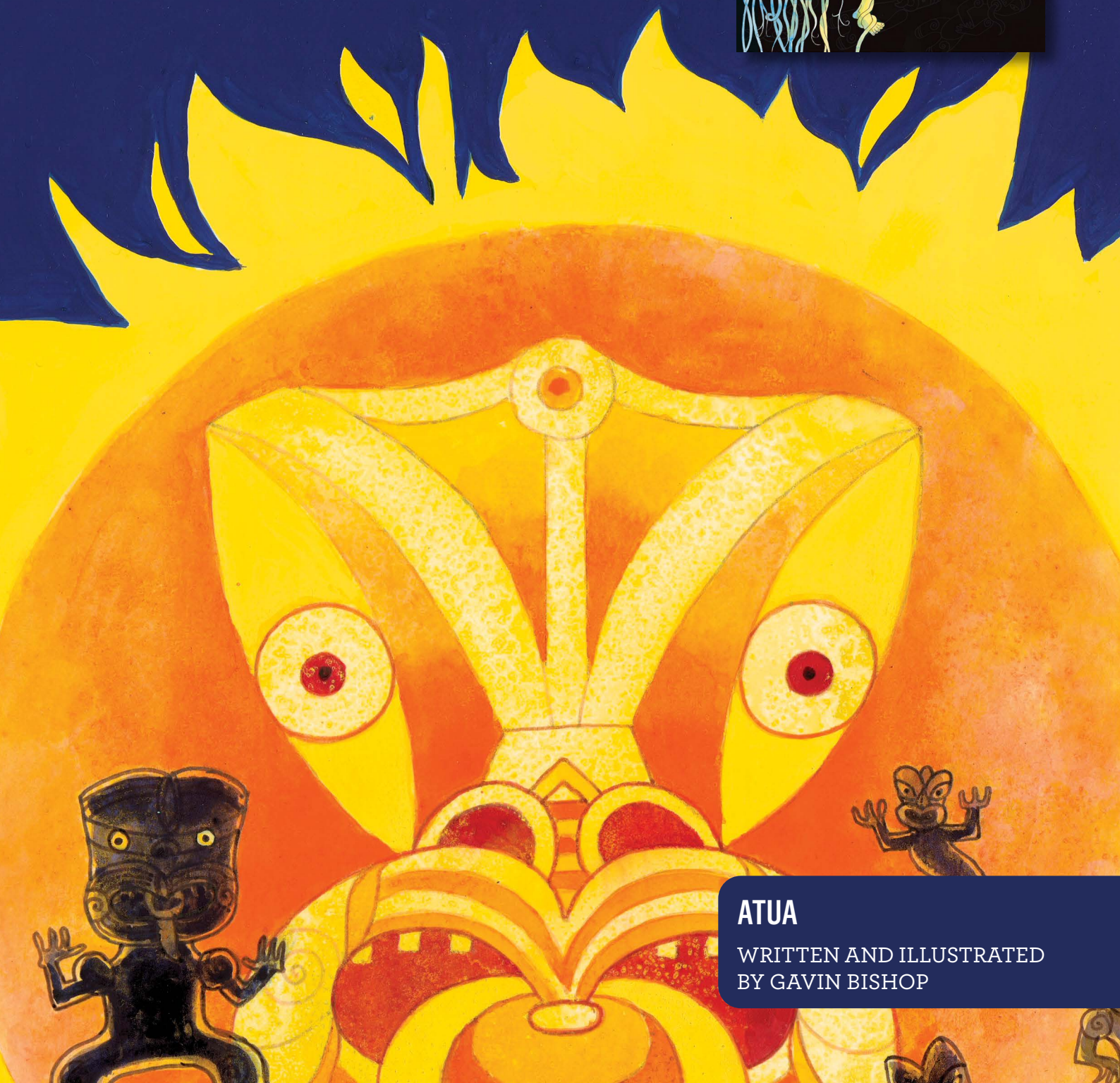
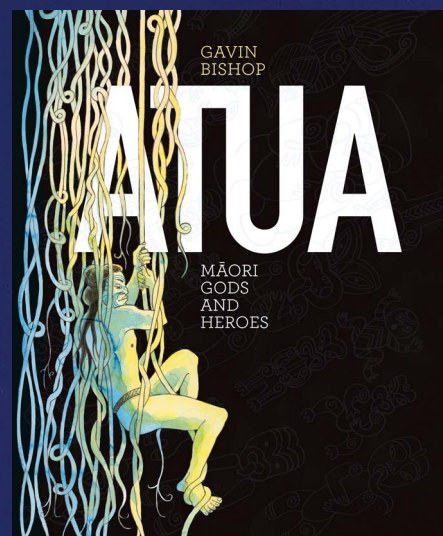


AUGUST 2021

ATUA TEACHER NOTES

BY LARA LIESBETH



ATUA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED
BY GAVIN BISHOP

BEFORE READING

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

- 1) Look at the cover and size of this book. What can you see? How do you know what this book will be about? Why do you think it is so large?
- 2) Who do you think the figure on the cover is? Why?
- 3) Why do you think there are embossed figures in the black background? What do they represent?
- 4) Turn to the back of the book. What information are you given here?
- 5) On the back cover this book is referred to as a 'compendium'. What is a compendium? What do you think you will find in this book if it is a compendium?



DURING READING

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

This book explores the myths and legends of te ao Māori, 'from the Creation to Migration'. It's a bit different from fiction books; the 'themes' or 'big ideas' are more factual and seeking to inform.

Can you think of ways some of these myths and legends inform our daily lives in Aotearoa? What do you know about these legends? Where / have you heard them before? Write your thinking below:

1) The separation of the parents Papatūānuku and Ranginui:

2) Descendants of the gods, in particular Māui:

3) The migrations:

DURING READING

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Choose THREE myths or legends that you haven't heard before.
Reread them and then write them in your own words below.

1) First myth/legend:

2) Second myth/legend:

3) Third myth/legend:



COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS

- 1) Which myth/legend interested you the most? Why?
- 2) What is Te Ao?
- 3) What is Te Pō?
- 4) Who is Tānemahuta?
- 5) What does kaitiakitanga mean?
- 6) What wisdoms were found in the three kete of knowledge?

a) Te kete Aronui:

b) Te kete Tuauri:

c) Te kete Tuatea:

COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS

7) In Māori legend, who separated Ranginui and Papatūānuku?
Who was he?

8) Who was Hine-nui-te-pō?

9) Who was Tāwhaki?

4) Who is Tānemahuta?

5) What does kaitiakitanga mean?

Read 'The Discovery of Aotearoa/Te Whakahiranga o Aotearoa'.
Who was Kupe and what did he do that was significant to us in
Aotearoa?

VOCABULARY

Here are some interesting words in te reo from the story Gavin
Bishop has written.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| a) Tūrangawaewae | j) Kuia |
| b) Wahine | k) Tā moko |
| c) Waka | l) Waiata |
| d) Auē | m) Whānau |
| e) Kāinga | n) Whanaungatanga |
| f) Mokopuna | o) tangihanga |
| g) Ponaturi | |
| h) Rotu | |
| i) Tikanga | |

1) Use the ngā kupu/glossary at the back of the book to write down
the definitions of these words in English.

2) Use them in a sentence. Check with your teacher to make sure
you are using them correctly. Share with a partner.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Gavin Bishop has written and illustrated *Atua* to share the mythical and legendary stories of Māori with everyone. The illustrations are rich with colour and context.

Answer these questions:

1) Colour can play an important role in illustration.

In *Atua*, Gavin Bishop has selected certain colours to feature strongly in the book. Find an example of each of the following colours featuring in a story, and describe how that colour is effective in supporting the words:

a) Black

b) Red

c) Yellow

c) Blue



ILLUSTRATIONS

- 2) Why do you think Gavin Bishop chose to colour Hine-nui-te-pō in shades of green?
- 3) The first pages use black symbolically; the final pages, blue. Explain this contrast in colour from the start to the end of the book. What effect does this have on you as a viewer/reader?

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE RESPONSES

- 1) Choose your favourite page from Atua. Write a letter to Gavin Bishop explaining why it is your favourite. Try to use lots of detailed examples to support your choice, like: colour, composition, word choice, font, and shading. Your teacher can help you understand these things further.
- 2) Research one legend or myth that is mentioned in this book and make a presentation to your class based on this. It could be a poster, or a speech with visuals. You decide!
- 3) Create a dance based on the description and actions of a Māori god from the book. Try to have a beginning, middle and end to the dance. Perform for the class.
- 4) Take a trip to your local museum. Find the section on Māori mythology and history. Can you find any of the legends described in Atua? Compare the way the legend is told at the museum with the way it is told by Gavin Bishop.
- 5) At the start of this book, Gavin Bishop has written his pepeha. What is a pepeha? Use the website [here](#) to help you write your own.
- 6) In groups of four, turn one of the stories in the compendium into a play. You will need a main character; who else will you include in the play? Practise and perform it for your class.

