

## Teacher Notes

# Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai

Michaela Keeble & Tokerau Brown

## Synopsis

*Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai* talks directly to the reader, drawing on the stories that spin around him—his father’s mātauranga, his mother’s politics, his many pet birds, and his best friend who is taller, even though he’s younger.

*Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai* is trying to understand his role in his family, community and the larger world. His preoccupation is who is the boss—his nanna at the marae, his older siblings, or any number of atua? His steadfast dad, his Pākehā mum, the “leader of the free world”, or *Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai* himself? He bumps up against authority, trying to reconcile the kind and just rules of nanna and the unjust power of leaders he sees every day on the TV.

Thoughtful, funny and confronting, *Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai* is about the hustle for belonging, and our place in the epic spiral of space, time and culture.

## Before Reading—Understand

If you have not done so already, before reading this story, you might like to read/view *Rona and the Moon* and the story of Ranginui and Papatūānuku being separated.

→ **LISTEN** Read the first page to ākonga.

*My name is Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai.  
You can call me Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai.*

→ **ASK**

- What is your full name?
- How do you pronounce your name?
- Is there a story about your name?  
(Ākonga might like to ask their whānau to help them answer this pātai.)
- What is this character’s name?
- How do we pronounce this name?  
(You might discuss Māori phonics vs. English phonics, the use of macrons to elongate sounds, etc.)

→ **MORE FOR TEACHERS** If you are unsure of pronunciation, [listen here](#).



A resource for teachers working with ākonga in Year 5–8 or Phase 2 and Phase 3 of Te Mātaiaho.

This resource aims to foster the essential pedagogy of Te piko o te māhuri, where teachers create new learning opportunities that connect with who ākonga are, what they know, where they are from, who has come before them, and who stands with them.

*Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai* knows who he is, where he comes from, and who stands with him.

### Curriculum areas | Te Mātaiaho

- English
- Social Sciences

### Themes

- Whānau and belonging
- Stories passed down through generations
- Leadership and power
- Colonisation
- Aspirations
- Identity
- Self esteem
- Children’s rights



GECKO PRESS

→ **ASK** What might the story or meaning of this name be?

→ **MORE FOR TEACHERS** You might use the definitions from Te Aka to support a discussion about a 'small leader/rangatira'.

#### **Paku**

2. (modifier) small, little, minute, tiny, diminutive.

*I roto māua i tētahi rūma paku i muri o te whare e purei kārī ana. / He and I were in a small room at the back of the house playing cards.*

*He ngārara paku te namu. / The sandfly is a small insect.*

#### **Manu ariki whakatakāpōkai**

1. (noun) supreme commander.

*Ki te kākā manu ariki whakatakāpōkai o te ata hāpara, e karangatia nei tōna ingoa ko 'Te Toa Takitini', tēnā koe (TTT 1/5/1930:2054). / To the supreme commander of the dawn, called 'Te Toa Takitini', greetings.*

→ **LISTEN** Say to ākonga: This story is about a little leader, who is sharing about the world he lives in. He has a big whānau and is always thinking! Let's see what we discover about Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai's world.

## During Reading—Understand

### **TE AO**

→ **DO** As you read, write down each character you are introduced to using the template on page 4. These are all the people and beings that surround Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai in his world.

→ **MORE FOR TEACHERS** (from Te Aka) **Whānau** 2. (noun) extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to a number of people—the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society. In the modern context the term is sometimes used to include friends who may not have any kinship ties to other members.

→ **ASK** Who are the important people in your whānau? Ākonga might like to complete a map of their whānau similar to the one on page 4, and draw themselves in the centre of their universe.

## During Reading—Know

### **3 X 3 GRID**

→ **DO** While reading, complete the 3x3 grid on page 5 to answer these questions:

1. What are three new words you have come across while reading/listening to this book?
2. What are three things Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai strongly believes?
3. What are three things this book makes you question or wonder about?

You can choose where to pause and ponder at three stages of the book. We suggest stopping at these points:

1. But if you take your phone outside, you can play it with Papatūānuku.
2. There's probably a tower.
3. I am not afraid of anything.

## After Reading—Know/Do

### **QUESTIONING DICE**

Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai loves making sense of the world around him. He knows that wondering, asking questions, observing, and experiencing supports him to learn!

→ **DO** Create a set of questioning dice from the templates on pages 6 and 7. Print the template on A4 (or A3 for larger dice), cut out and colour in.

→ **MORE FOR TEACHERS** At first you might take turns to roll the dice as a reading group, and construct questions about Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai with your ākonga. For example: Ākonga roll a 'why' and 'might' and you might ask "Why might Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai believe the world started when he was born?"

See [this link](#) for information about using questioning dice and developing higher-order questions.



## THINK / PAIR / SHARE

→ **ASK** Think about who is in your whānau and who is the boss in the whānau.

- Is there more than one boss?
- Are people bosses at different times, depending on what you are doing?
- Is there another word for 'boss'?
- What makes a good or bad 'boss' or leader or rangatira?
- What is rangatiratanga? (It is the essence of a leader.)

→ **MORE FOR TEACHERS** Rangatiratanga is the essence of a leader. From Te Aka: **Rangatiratanga** 1. (noun) chieftainship, right to exercise authority, chiefly autonomy, chiefly authority, ownership, leadership of a social group, domain of the rangatira, noble birth, attributes of a chief.

→ **DO** Create a rangatira profile on a chosen rangatira you are inspired by in relation to the criteria discussed as a group (above) and inspired by the book. Note: There is no age limit on rangatiratanga!

## SAY IT!

→ **DO** In groups, or as a class, take on the roles to answer the questions on the grid on page 8 for a Say It.

→ **MORE FOR TEACHERS** A Say It is like a mini role play, where ākonga are challenged to take on the role of a character to demonstrate their comprehension and level of understanding about themes and events within a text. It is a great tool for oral language development.

See [this link](#) for more information about Say-it activities.



## NGĀ MATA O TE ATUA: FACES OF THE ATUA

Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai asks us, have we ever seen the faces of the atua?

Tokerau Brown, the illustrator of this book, has drawn what he imagines—what do you imagine?

→ **DO** Choose an atua that you are interested in and imagine the face. Create your own drawing of the atua. You might choose from Rangi, Papa or Tāne, or you might do some research to find out about others.



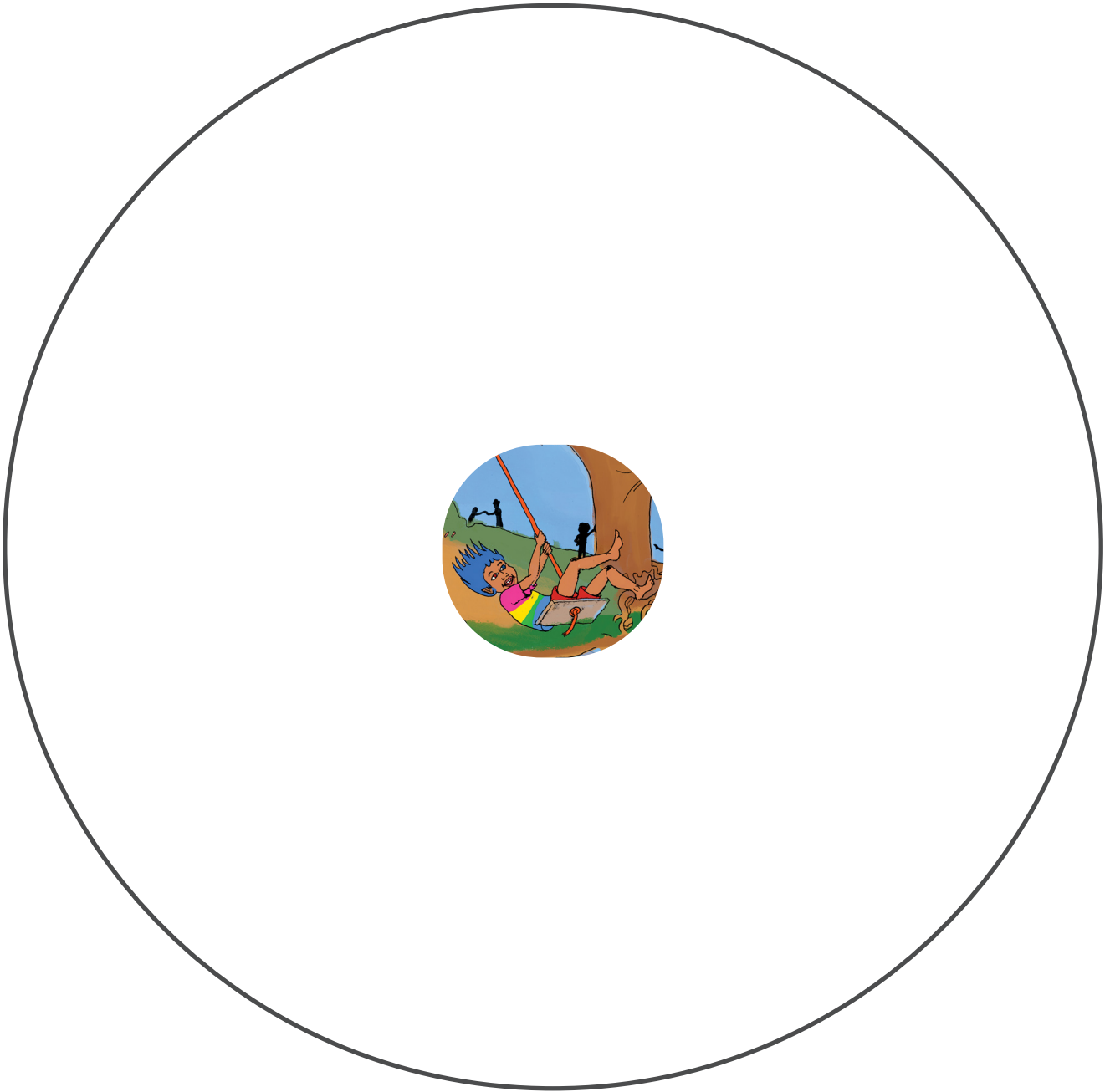
## For more information

Contact: Sarah Rennie, [sarah@geckopress.com](mailto:sarah@geckopress.com)  
Created for Gecko Press by Kyla Hansell

SIGN UP TO OUR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES  
NEWSLETTER AT [GEEKOPRESS.COM](http://GEEKOPRESS.COM)

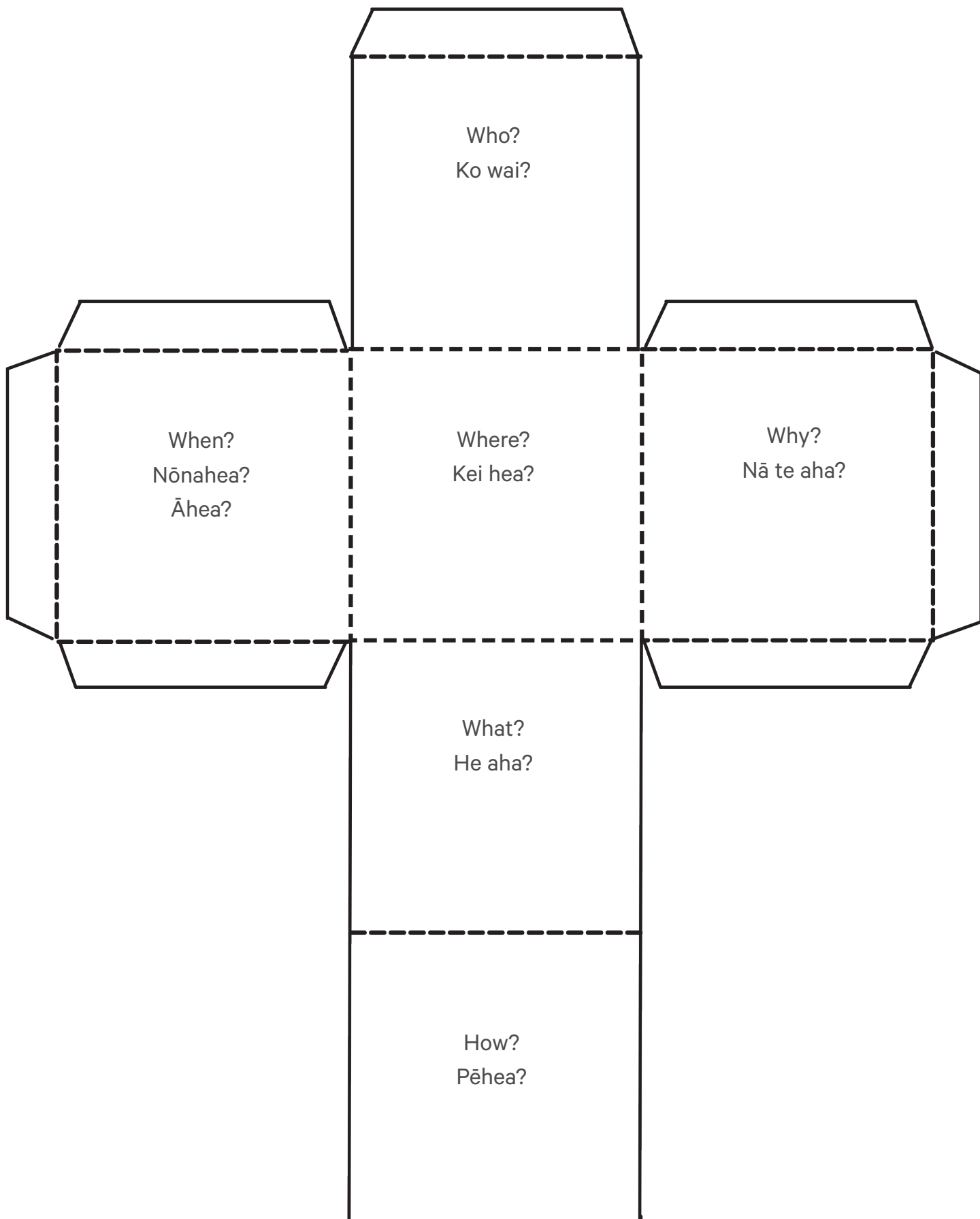


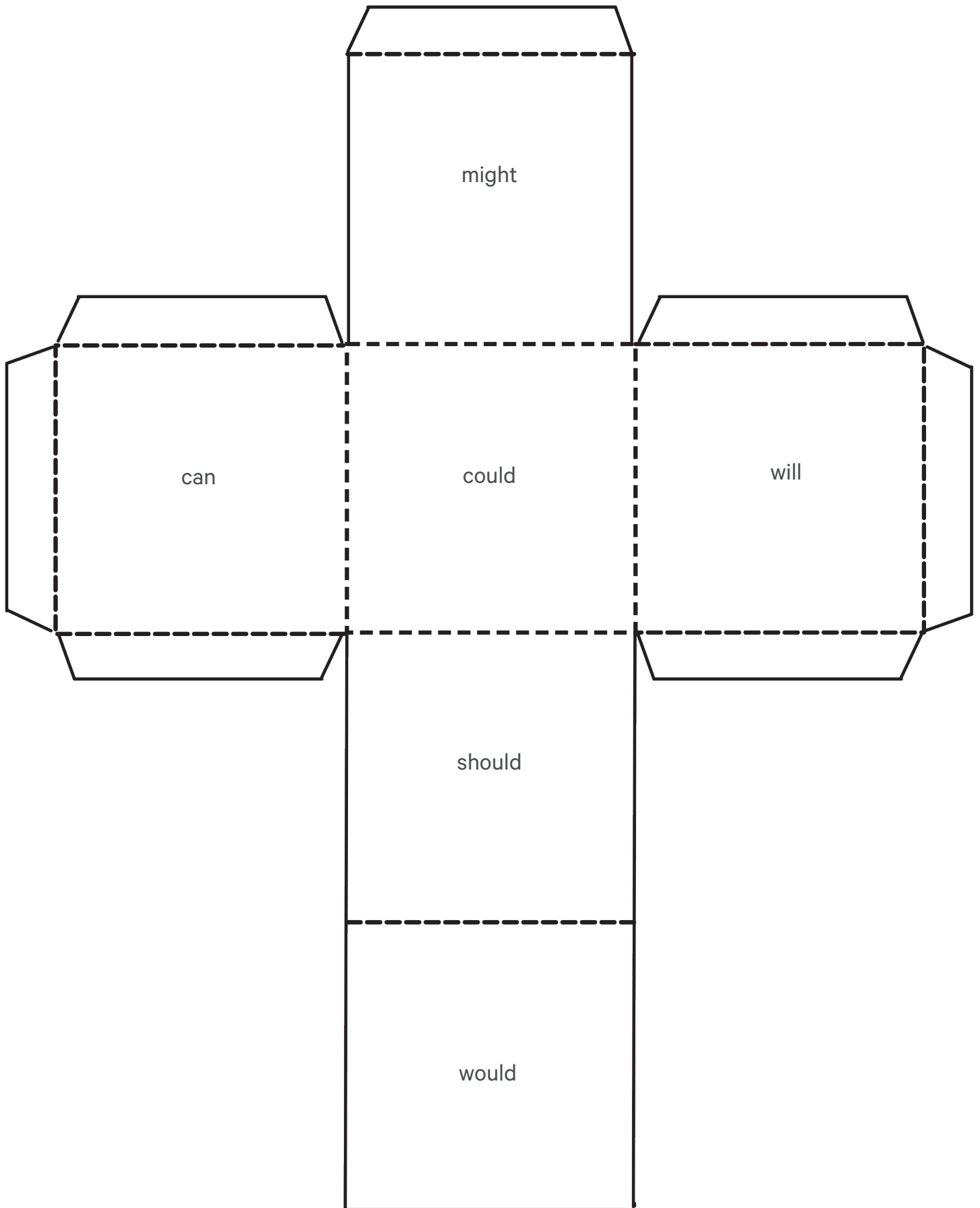
Whānau in Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai’s world



### 3 x 3 grid

What are three new words you have come across while reading/listening to this book?	What are three things Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai strongly believes?	What are three things this book makes you question or wonder about?
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.





## Say It!

	A	B	C
1.	<p>You are Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai.</p> <p>Tell us about your best friend.</p>	<p>You are Mum.</p> <p>Tell us why you want to help Dad and Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai fight for their land back.</p>	<p>You are Fred.</p> <p>Tell us why you love being Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai's favourite toy.</p>
2.	<p>You are Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai.</p> <p>Tell us why you don't like people who think they are bosses of the world.</p>	<p>You are Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai.</p> <p>Tell us how Tāne separated Rangi and Papa and why that makes you happy.</p>	<p>You are Ranginui.</p> <p>Tell us why you still cry for Papatūānuku.</p>
3.	<p>You are Nanna.</p> <p>Tell us all the reasons you are proud of Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai.</p>	<p>You are Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai.</p> <p>Tell us all the things you love to do and all the things you are good at.</p>	<p>You are Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakāpōkai.</p> <p>Tell us about your whānau.</p>