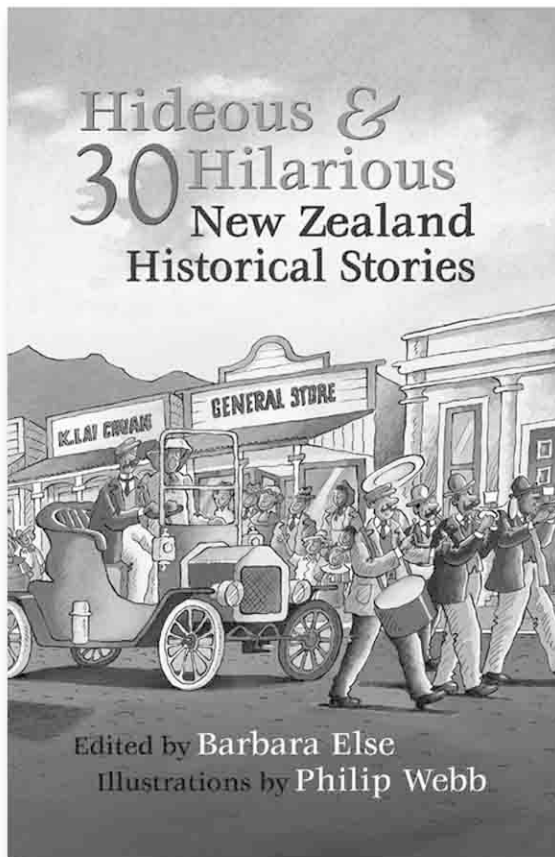


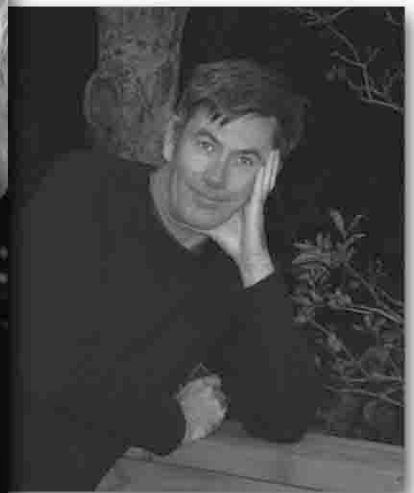
HIDEOUS & HILARIOUS



30 New Zealand Historical Stories

Edited by Barbara Else

Illustrations by Philip Webb



Includes classroom activities for students in years 4 to 8, in the following areas:

- Creative Writing
- Traditional Tales
- Social Studies
- Science
- Close Reading

Introducing History

Look at the title and the cover picture. What kind of stories do you think these might be?

Name 5 important events in New Zealand's history. See if they are found in the book. Note: This could be a whole class voting activity.

Read the introduction by Barbara Else. (pp 9–11) What is her job as editor of a collection of short stories?

What does 'the past' mean to you? How far back can you remember — what's your earliest memory?

'History is about facts' (p. 9) — do you agree with this? State why or why not. Many of these stories are not true yet they are called 'historical' stories. Why is that? How do people find out what happened in the past? Where do they look? How do we know if information is true? What does the expression 'history repeats itself' mean? Can what we know about the past help us to not make the same mistakes? (Consider these stories: 'The Matau', 'Bang! You're Dead' and 'Anzac Day'.)

CREATIVE WRITING

Point of View

Many of these stories are written from the point of view of a child. Read these stories: 'The Last of the Gold Rush', 'Billie Blue', 'Whale Watching', 'The Day My Mother Kissed the Hairy Man of Moehau' and 'The Perfect Plum Pudding Plan'. What are the advantages of this kind of story-telling? How does it help put the reader 'on the spot'?

Write a paragraph that describes your very first memory from your viewpoint. Now rewrite the scene from the point of view of someone watching you.

Two stories are written from an animal's point of view. See 'Uncle Russell's Revenge' and 'The Mystery of the Maungatapu Murders'. Retell 'Billie Blue' from the bird's point of view.

Write a description of the world seen through the eyes of a New Zealand native animal. Your adventure could be about a pigeon flying or a gecko being kidnapped.

Retell 'Dr Clock and the Moa Eggs' from the moa's point of view.

Endings

Some of the stories leave questions unanswered. Read 'The Vanishing Warrior', 'Treasure Deep' and 'Dr Clock and the Moa Eggs'.

Write an ending for 'The Vanishing Warrior' that explains what happens when they go up the secret path.

Write a letter to continue 'Treasure Deep'. Imagine your letter is from someone 50 years in the future.

Write a sequel to 'Dr Clock and the Moa Eggs', about another of Dr Clock's adventures in time (past or future).

Language Features

Descriptive language: read 'Billie Blue'. What kind of words are used to describe the earthquake? List some of the verbs and adjectives.

'A concrete ocean' is an effective metaphor. Why? Draw this scene.

'Like a drunk giraffe' is an amusing simile. Write some similes to describe wild movements using other wild animals. Illustrate them.

Sayings: read 'Bang! You're Dead'. What does the saying 'the bee's knees' mean?

Define these bee sayings:

- 'busy as a bee'
- 'she was the queen bee'
- 'they swarmed around me'
- 'a hive of activity'
- 'like bees to a honey pot'

Illustrate one of these sayings in cartoon form.

Puns are words that have a double meaning. These are often used in 'The Tip-off'.

Explain these puns: 'a close shave' (p. 126), 'on the right track' (p. 127) and 'tip-off'.

TRADITIONAL TALES

What is a 'traditional story' (p. 10) and why is it important to people from a particular country?

Legends: All cultures have legends, or ancient stories. Legends have their basis in fact, but real events, heroes, and animals can sometimes be larger than life.

Read 'Pouakai the Man-eater'. What kind of bird might Pouakai have been in real life? Research Haast's Eagle.

Read historical note 2 (p. 153). Go to the library and find the book *Kopuwaiti the Monster* by Queenie Rikihana Hyland. How is this book similar (or different) to the story

of Pouakai?

Read 'The Day My Mother Kissed the Hairy Man of Moehau'. What other ape-like, legendary monster does the Hairy Man remind you of?

Read 'The Fisherman's Tale'. What real-life sea creature might taniwha be like? Draw a picture of what you think the taniwha looks like.

Design a movie poster for one of these legendary monsters: a dragon, taniwha, Kraken, Bigfoot, Yeti, or Loch Ness Monster.

Nature myths

Nature myths are stories told by cultural groups to explain the natural world — such as landscape features, the seasons and fire.

Read ‘*Suna the Greedy Giant*’. What geographical feature is explained by this?

Draw a comic strip version of Suna.

Write a myth that explains an unusual landscape feature in your area, for example, a hill, river, or cave.

Read ‘*The Legend of Hape*’. What does it mean about stories ‘floating in the rivers, resting on distant mountains, carved into every bay’ (p. 83)?

Read ‘*The Fisherman’s Tale*’. This story could be seen as an explanation of whirlpools or dangerous animals in the sea. Paint a whirlpool.

Fairy Tales

Read ‘*Der Abschied — the Parting*’. List the fairy tales referred to in the story. In which country did the Grimm brothers collect their fairy tales?

What are the New Zealand equivalents of fairies, dragons and giants?

Read ‘*The Fisherman’s Tale*’ — this is like a fairy tale.

Identify similarities to these fairy tales: *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Puss in Boots*, *The Wolf and the Seven Kids*, *Jack the Giant Killer*.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Gold Mining

Read ‘*The Last of the Gold Rush*’. Research gold miners in Otago using books and the Internet. How was gold taken out of the ground and from rivers? Draw a diagram of one method. Where is gold still mined in New Zealand?

Read ‘*The Mystery of the Maungatapu Murders*’. Why was it called a ‘gold rush’? (p. 149)

What countries did the miners come from? What was a bushranger? (p.150)

Living in the Past

Read ‘*A Feather in her Hat*’. Compare the daily jobs, food and transport in 1913 with life today. (p. 31) What technology do we have today that’s different?

Read ‘*The Perfect Plum Pudding Plan*’. List the winter English traditions we still practise in our summer Christmas (see notes on p. 156).

Read ‘*The Tip-off*’. What is the machine pictured? (p. 125) How has the technology of washing clothes changed over hundreds of years? Illustrate a timeline showing changes.

Immigration

Many of the stories are about migrants to New Zealand.

Chinese: Read ‘*Mei’s Grandmother*’. Which Chinese customs were different to New Zealand ways? How was Mei’s grandmother’s childhood different to Mei’s?

Italian: Read ‘*Franco’s Gold*’. What ‘gold’ did the Italian bring to New Zealand?

German: Read ‘*Der Abschied — the Parting*’. Translate these German words from the context: Abschied, Weihnachten, Neuseeland, Lebkuchen (p. 144), Pfeffermüsse, Glühwein (p. 146), and Deutschland (p.148).

Interview someone who has come to New Zealand from a different culture. Why did they come here? What attitudes have they encountered from people here?

War

Read ‘*The Matau*’ and ‘*The Vanishing Warrior*’. Why were the Europeans fighting against the Maori? Research this. Do children still fight in wars in the world? What is your opinion about this?

What does the white bird symbolise in ‘*The Matau*’? (pp 59–60)

Read ‘*Bang! You’re Dead*’. Why were the marines in New Zealand? (See note 13 on p. 155.) Why was sugar rationed? Why do guns make people feel different? (p. 73)

Read ‘*Anzac Day*’. What happened to the Anzac soldiers? (See note 28 on p. 159) Why is this a very effective anti-war story, even though the war is barely mentioned?

Role of Women

Read ‘*Mei’s Grandmother*’ and ‘*A Heroic Tale*’. What was the role of women over 100 years ago? How were girls treated in comparison to boys? Was this fair? Is it true today?

Debate topic: A mother’s role is to bring up her children.

SCIENCE

Geology

Read ‘*Billie Blue*’. What causes earthquakes like this? Why did the sea go out? Map 5 major quakes in New Zealand from the past.

Read ‘*World on Fire*’. Why did the hill explode when the water poured in? (p. 45) What is a ‘shock wave’? What is under Lake Taupo now?

Read ‘*Train to Terror*’. List the dates of eruptions of Mt. Ruapehu in the past 20 years.

Draw an illustrated diagram of the world’s 5 biggest volcanic eruptions. Show the size of each.

Zoology

Introduced Animals: read ‘*Uncle Russell’s Revenge*’. Create a timeline of events showing the spread of rabbits.

Humans introduced many animals to New Zealand that have caused problems. Introduced animals wiped out many native birds. What have these animals done: hedgehogs, rabbits, rats, cats, stoats, ferrets? Illustrate a Wanted poster for one of these deadly predators: weasel, rat, feral cat.

Whales: read ‘*Whale Watching*’. What were whales hunted for? (see note 5 page 153). Read *The Last Whale* by Renée van de Weert. Did Maori hunt whales? What is the problem with hunting whales today?

CLOSE READING

'Pouakai the Man-eater'

When in history does this story happen? What clues tell you this? How did people survive then? What kinds of bird traps were there?

Draw the trap, then design a different trap for Pouakai.

Do you feel sorry for the bird? How have sharks suffered from a similar fear?

Compare with Sinbad's adventure with the giant Roc bird.

Create a story-map of the main events in the tale.

'Billie Blue'

Why did the narrator mention 'real' butter and jam?

Why is Billie acting so strangely?

Are animals sensitive to impending disasters? Find out.

Read another version of the Napier earthquake story.

'Whale Watching'

What was 'flogging' and 'firewater'? (p. 34)

Why did they throw sea water over Tama?

'The whale spoke to me of many important things'. (p. 37)

What might the whale have said to Tama?

Why did he not tell a lie? (p. 38)

What does 'whale watching' mean today?

How have attitudes to whaling changed?

'Uncle Russell's Revenge'

Why are the words 'sporting purposes' repeated? (p. 52)

Are rabbits defenceless? (p.52)

Debate — Is it right to hunt wild animals for sport?

There is a lot of alliteration here. What do these phrases mean: 'robust and resilient' (p. 53), 'rampant reproduction' (p. 53), 'ran roughshod' (p. 54)?

Write a short poem about rabbits using only the letter 'r' if possible.

What does the last line mean, 'To get his own back'?

'The Legend of Hape'

Every name carries with it a story. What does your own name mean?

What is a 'club foot'?

Was it fair to send only the strong and good-looking people on the expedition (page 84)? Explain your answer.

Is it fair to exclude people with disabilities from some activities or jobs? — consider people like Stephen Hawking.

What does it mean to 'defy space and time'? (p. 85)

What is a karanga? (p. 85)

'Silly Old Goat'

'Poor doesn't have to mean scruffy' (p. 87) — what does this mean?

What would you do in Annie's situation? For example, if an adult lied to you or ripped you off?

Why do adults often get believed before children?

How did Annie get justice?

'The Clay Boy'

What time in history is this story set? Is it fact or invention?

Why was it considered 'bad' to draw pictures?

What did a man need to learn in those days?

What kind of attitude did the boy have?

Draw an animal picture with clay, chalk, burnt wood and rock. Which material is best?

Find out where cave drawings are found (see note 22, pp 157–8).

'The Tip-off'

What does the title mean?

Do you have habits you are told off for?

How many different ways could Grandad have lost his finger tip?

How much could a penny buy in the 1930s?

What does microsurgery do?

Write a story about an injury you have had.