

# *Wining's Wairau*

The settler and his wife sit almost *in*  
their fire – no woodburner with its safe glass door

through which to watch the flames. Mr Wining's  
just returned from hunting, and his eager dog

waits to see what food might come  
his way. Billowing smoke, a hanging pot and kettle

must mean dinner – there's no oven here –  
and if you want to know what's next to eat,

then just look up to where  
the still-bright birds and headless fish

dangle from the rafters. Corn, too, hangs there to dry –  
I don't think there's a supermarket nearby.

For chairs, pull up a whalebone, or choose the floor,  
and after dinner, we'll do a sketch in chalk  
or draw a game of hangman on the wall.

*Jenny Bornholdt*



# Wining's Wairau

by Jenny Bornholdt

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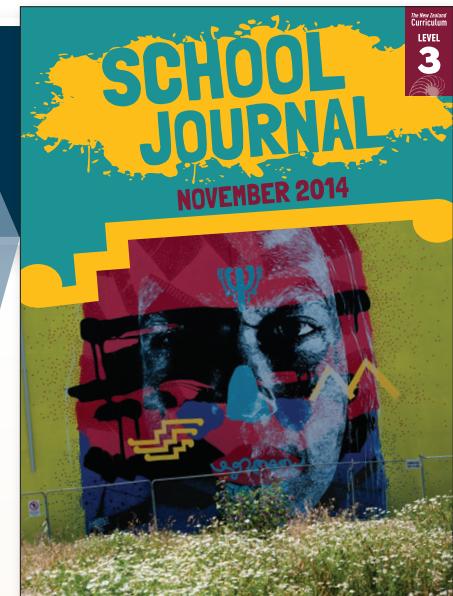


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