



Junior Journal 63



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Ministry of Education



Volunteers

by Bronwen Wall

What do you do in your free time? Some people choose to be volunteers – people who like to help others. I talked to some young volunteers to find out why they do it.

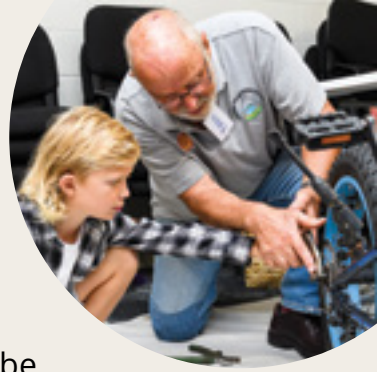


Loch Green – Repair Cafe

Loch is eight years old and volunteers at the Repair Cafe in Levin.



Bronwen: Kia ora, Loch. I've heard that you volunteer at the Repair Cafe. What is a repair cafe?



Loch: Well, the Repair Cafe is a place where you can bring broken things to be fixed. Volunteers are there to give you free advice and help. It's good for the environment to repair things instead of throwing them away. There are quite a few repair cafes around Aotearoa.

Bronwen: That sounds great. How do you help at the Repair Cafe?

Loch: I go along with my dad. He helps there, too. First I say "Hi" to everyone. Some people bring in things to be fixed, and others just come to have a look around. I make tea and coffee and give out cakes and biscuits to make them feel welcome.



Bronwen: What do you enjoy about volunteering?

Loch: I find out all sorts of interesting stuff about the things people bring in, and I really like talking to new people. The best thing is that it makes me feel good and makes me smile. Helping people is very satisfying.

Bronwen: It sounds like you have a fun time. Thanks for talking with me, Loch. Keep up the good work.

Te Ranginui-a-Ihu Ngariki Irwin – Te Wairoa Charitable Trust

Te Ranginui lives in Te Araroa on the east coast of the North Island. He helps out at Te Wairoa Charitable Trust, which looks after the local environment.



Bronwen: Kia ora, Te Ranginui. You are a volunteer, aren't you?

Te Ranginui: Yes. My two brothers are volunteers, too.

Bronwen: Tell me about why you volunteer.

Te Ranginui: We live in the best place on Earth – and we want to look after it. Te Araroa is the first place in Aotearoa to see the sun each day. We have a great beach, where we can fish straight from te moana. We've also got the Raukūmara forest, and we've got Te Waha o Rerekohu – the oldest and largest pōhutukawa tree in the world.



Bronwen: It sounds like a special place. No wonder you want to look after it.

Te Ranginui: Yes. Our whānau started a **rōpū** called Te Wairoa Charitable Trust. The trust looks after our environment and helps us connect to our **whenua**.

Bronwen: What do you and your brothers do to help?

Te Ranginui: The trust set up a native plant nursery on our whenua, and we join in with the rest of our rōpū to look after the plants. We water seedlings, and we put them in pots. We also pull out weeds and identify the different seedlings as they start coming through. We're really lucky to have the nursery. It helps us to connect with our **taiao**.



Bronwen: Thanks for telling us about your mahi, Te Ranginui, and thanks to you and your brothers for helping make Te Araroa even more special.

rōpū

an organisation

taiao

natural environment

whenua

land

Eulie Norton – Climate and Community



Eulie is ten years old and has been volunteering since she was seven. She volunteers to help make her community and the world a better place to live.

Bronwen: Kia ora, Eulie. Tell me about the volunteering that you do.

Eulie: I try to do whatever I can to help people take action about climate change. I've spoken at council meetings, and I've sent letters to the government about problems caused by climate change. I talked to a special government committee as well.

I also help out at community events. We had a Matariki event, and I served soup and washed dishes afterwards.

I've organised and helped with beach and riverside clean-ups, and I've also spoken to my local council about building a new community swimming pool. Our old pool closed in 2019. My friends and I went to lots of birthday parties at the old pool, and my school went there for swimming lessons and competitions. We all miss the old pool and want the council to build a new one.

Bronwen: Why do you volunteer so much?

Eulie: I'm trying to help build a better community and a better world – for me and for everyone.

The Matariki event was held so that people from my community could come together to have fun and support each other.

I help with beach clean-ups and climate change because I think it's important to show that we can all do things to help our planet. If I do these things and talk with people about them, it helps make the environment better, and it helps people understand how important these places are for animals and humans.

And if I didn't tell the council, they might not understand how important a swimming pool is to my community and kids like me.



Bronwen: It sounds like a lot of work.

Eulie: *It is* a lot of work, but it also feels really good because I'm doing something for our future.

Bronwen: Thanks, Eulie, for telling us about your volunteering.





There are many young people doing great things to help make Aotearoa New Zealand a better place to live. Thanks to all of you for working so hard for our communities.



Kūmara

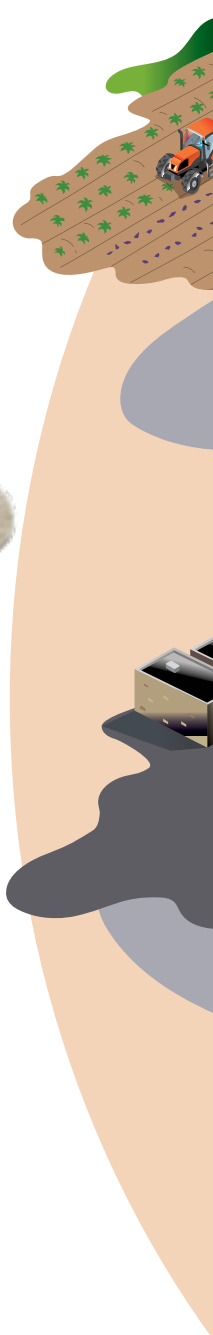
Behind the Scenes

by Trish Puharich

illustrations by Scott Pearson



There's nothing quite like a bowl of tasty kūmara fries or wedges. Yum! But where does that kūmara come from? Some people grow their own kūmara or buy it from a market, but most people in Aotearoa buy their kūmara from a supermarket. Have you ever wondered how the kūmara gets to the supermarket? You might be surprised by how many people are involved. Let's take a look at the journey of the kūmara.



An isometric illustration of a market garden. It features a wooden barn, a blue polytunnel, several rows of crops in the ground, and a tractor. A white truck is parked nearby, and a person is walking. The scene is set on a green hillside.

Market garden

An isometric illustration of a packhouse. It is a large, two-story building with a grey roof and brown walls. A white truck is parked in front, and a yellow forklift is loading a pallet onto it. A person is standing near the truck. The building has several loading docks.

Packhouse

An isometric illustration of a distribution centre. It is a large, white, rectangular building with a flat roof. A white truck with a red logo is parked in front, and a yellow forklift is loading a pallet onto it. A person is standing near the truck. The building has several loading docks.

Distribution centre

An isometric illustration of a supermarket. It is a long, yellow building with a green sign above the entrance. A white van is parked in front, and a person is walking. A red car is parked in the lot. A yellow forklift is loading a pallet onto a white truck. A person is standing near the truck. The building has several windows and a green sign above the entrance.

Supermarket

The market garden

A large garden where vegetables are grown to be sold

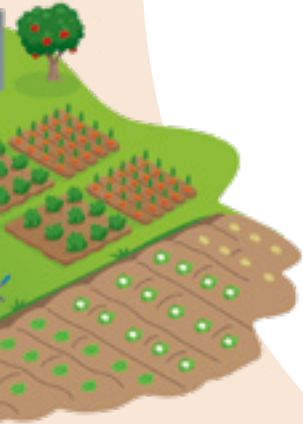


- Gardeners grow the kūmara, then dig them up and put them into bins.
- Workers load the bins onto a truck.
- A truck driver takes the bins to the packhouse.

The packhouse

A building where the kūmara are packed and stored

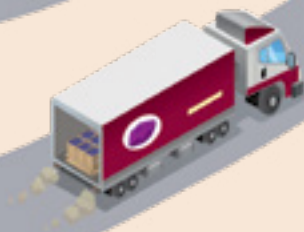
- Workers wash the kūmara, sort them for size and colour, pack them into crates or bags, and lift them onto pallets.
- Office workers take orders for kūmara from distribution centres.
- Packhouse workers put the orders together, ready to be loaded onto trucks.



The distribution centre

A place that orders products from packhouses and then sends them to supermarkets and other stores or shops

- A driver delivers the kūmara order from the packhouse to the distribution centre.
- Office workers receive orders from supermarkets for kūmara and other products.
- Workers get the orders ready and load them onto trucks.
- A truck driver sets off with the orders for the supermarket.





The supermarket

A big store that sells many different kinds of food and household products

- The truck driver arrives at the supermarket. (This is often early in the morning when there are no customers.)
- Workers move the kūmara to the storage area.
- Store workers collect the kūmara and put them on the shelves, ready for customers to buy.

So, next time you go to the supermarket, think about the journey of the kūmara and all the people who have helped behind the scenes.



Kūmara Wedges

Safety note: Knives and hot oil can be dangerous so be sure to get an adult to help you with this recipe.

Ingredients

- 3 or 4 medium-sized kūmara
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- Sour cream or hummus


Method

- Preheat the oven to 200 degrees Celsius.
- Peel the kūmara and cut them into wedges.
- Coat them in the oil and curry powder.
- Bake the wedges on an oven tray for 20–25 minutes until golden brown.
- Serve with sour cream or hummus.



One Jandal

Tim Upperton



I heard a joke the other day –
A boy walks up the street with one jandal on,
and his friend says, “Hey, you lose a jandal?”
“Nah,” the boy says, “I found one.”

Well, it was funny at the time,
but it also got me thinking
about the jandals we find sometimes.
Always just one!
And it looks good, but it’s not much use
without the other jandal.
One’s never any good, really, on its own.
You need two, and if we’re talking about
more than jandals, and I think you know by now
we are, even two’s often not enough.

Just yesterday, my uncle's car
got stuck in the soft sand, tide coming in,
and it took him, my auntie, my cousins, and me,
and a guy who wandered over – all of us,
to push it out. My auntie fell on her face
when the car got moving, and she laughed,
and we all laughed, and my uncle,
he shook the guy's hand and said, "Thanks, bro,"
and the guy said, "Don't mention it,"
and off he went down the beach.

We all get a car stuck in the sand
sooner or later, don't we?
And what I'm saying is,
you can drive a car on your own just fine,
but when it gets stuck, it's good to know
you've got people around you can call on,
people who'll help you push.



Settling

by Abbas Nazari



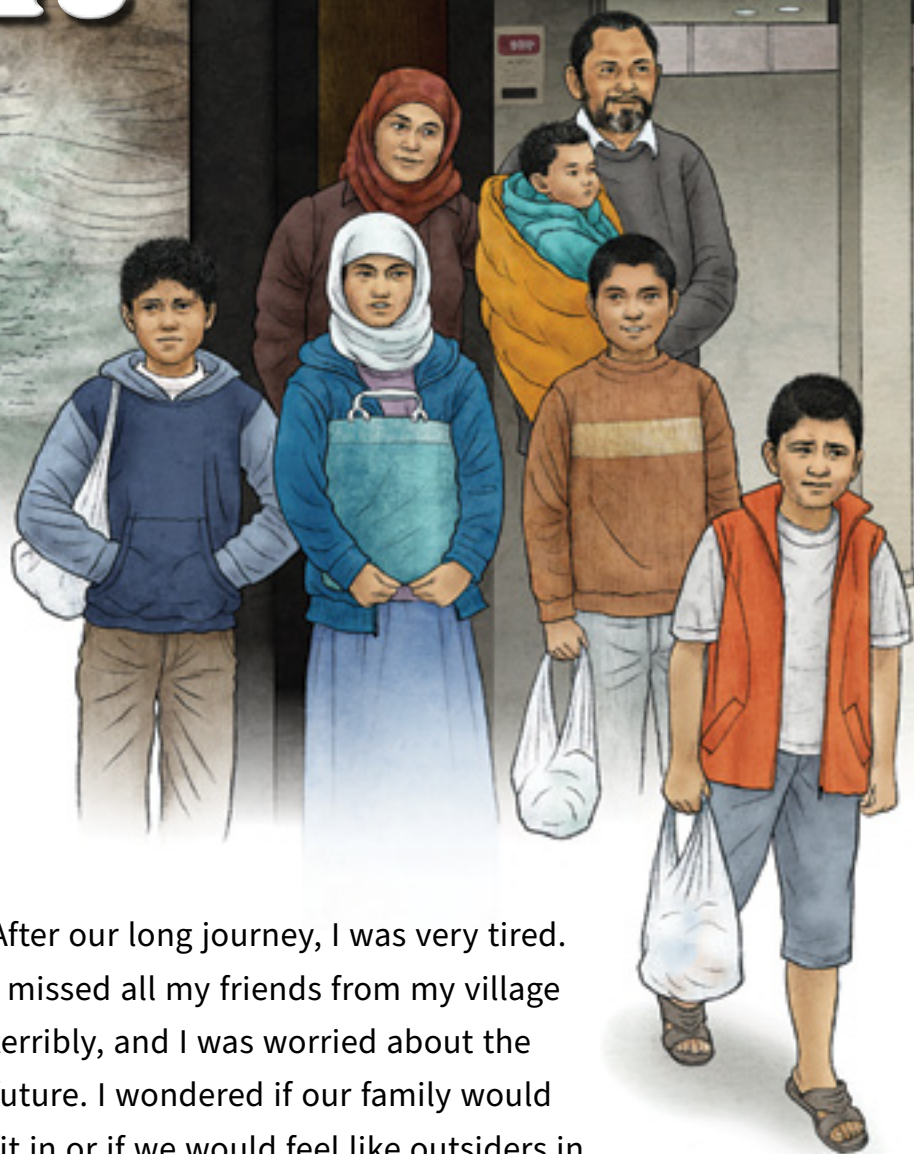
Abbas Nazari was only seven years old in 2001 when he and his family became **refugees**.* There was a war in Afghanistan, and the fighting was coming closer and closer to the family's village. They had to leave their home and find a new place to live. They had to leave their friends, and everything they owned, and set off on a long and very dangerous journey over deserts, mountains, and stormy oceans. Finally, they and many other refugees from Afghanistan were rescued from a sinking boat near Australia. The New Zealand government offered some of the refugees a home in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Now, twenty-one years later, Abbas tells his story.

* **refugees** – people who are forced to leave their homes because of danger



In



After our long journey, I was very tired. I missed all my friends from my village terribly, and I was worried about the future. I wondered if our family would fit in or if we would feel like outsiders in this foreign land.

First, we were taken to the Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre in Auckland. At the centre, we learnt some things to help us settle in to our new life in New Zealand. For example, I needed to start learning English. I learnt the English alphabet and some simple sentences, such as “Hello, my name is Abbas.” After two months, we moved to Christchurch to live.

I was still worried. We looked a little different. My mum and sister wore headscarves. The food in my school lunch was different from what the other kids had for their lunch. And we were still learning to speak English too. I wondered if these differences meant I wouldn't be able to make new friends.

But the kids in my street were really friendly. A lot of them were about my age. They were a mix of Māori, Asian, Pacific, and Pākehā. We played rugby and football at the local park. Some weekends, we would take our bikes to the bike park and teach each other new tricks.





My favourite day of the week was Friday. That's when our school sports team would go to the big park in the city to play against other schools. I was so proud to be part of the team, all working together. I had found friends who didn't mind that I looked different or sounded different.

My English wasn't great, so I was in a special class for people who didn't speak English as their first language. But I learnt pretty quickly, and soon, I was feeling confident. I wasn't worried any more. I had found my community in the classroom, on the football field, and in our neighbourhood.



All our family were learning new things, but we also held on to the things we had brought with us from our village life. My parents made sure that we spoke our Afghan language at home to keep our **mother tongue** alive.* I liked fish and chips and sausage rolls, but Mum always cooked Afghan food so we wouldn't forget the taste. We also took part in all the Afghan cultural celebrations with the other Afghan families who lived in Christchurch.

When I think about Afghanistan, I have many different feelings at once. I am sad and scared for the people who we left behind. I hope they are safe. I miss my village, and I miss running in the mountains and swimming in the river the way I used to do.

For a while, I had nightmares about the journey from our village to New Zealand. I dreamt about the burning hot deserts, the terrifying ocean, and the scary people who didn't seem to like us. But I don't think about those things any more. I remind myself how lucky I am to be part of a safe, loving, and caring community. I miss my village, but for now, I am happy. I have many new friends around me. There are new rivers to swim in and new mountains to climb.



Water Worries

by Feana Tu'akoi

CHARACTERS

FARMER

MAYOR

SCIENTIST

ENGINEER

TOWN CLERK

DAVID

DAISY

DAMON

DORA

Scene One: A meeting room at the council offices. It's a hot day and the characters are fanning themselves, trying to cool down.



DORA (*grumbling*). It's too hot in here. I should have flown into the hills with the other dragons.

FARMER. It's too hot everywhere!

TOWN CLERK. Yes, it's been like this for ages. How long is it going to drag on? (**DORA** looks at her crossly.) Sorry. I didn't say dragon. I said drag on. I meant ...

SCIENTIST (*interrupting*). It's hot because of global warming. The world is getting hotter.

ENGINEER (*reaching for the water jug*). I need a drink of water to cool down.

TOWN CLERK. I'm sorry, but the jug's empty. We don't have enough water.

ENGINEER. But we get our water from the river. And the river comes from the mountains. And the mountains are covered with snow. We should have plenty of water.

DORA. Well, there wasn't any water in the river this morning.

ENGINEER. That's odd.

MAYOR. Ahem! Tēnā koutou. Thank you for coming, everyone. Our water problem is getting worse. There wasn't even enough water for me to have a shower this morning.

FARMER (*nodding*). I couldn't water my crops. My wheat is wilting.

SCIENTIST. I couldn't boil my eggs for breakfast. I had to fry them.

TOWN CLERK. I couldn't clean my car windscreen. I had to bike to work.

DORA. And I couldn't clean my scales properly. They're all dusty!

SCIENTIST. The river's drying up because of global warming.

ENGINEER (*sharing the screen on her laptop*). But the river **isn't** drying up. Look at these photos from yesterday. I sent a drone out to check. There's plenty of water in the river.

FARMER. I don't get it. Sometimes there's plenty of water, and sometimes there's none. Why does it keep changing?





MAYOR. This is a big problem. We should try every way we can think of to solve it. How can we find out what's going on?

ENGINEER. It might be a problem with our water pipes. They might be blocked. I'll get my team to check them.

ENGINEER *leaves the room.*

SCIENTIST (*crossly*). It's not blocked pipes. It's global warming! We have to plant more trees. I'll get a team together.

FARMER. I'll help. I love to plant things.

SCIENTIST *and FARMER leave the room.*

DORA. I'll fly up into the hills and talk to the other dragons. The river flows down through the hills. They might have noticed something.

MAYOR. Good idea, Dora. And I'll think of ways our town can use less water. Let's get to it!

Scene Two: *Dragons DAVID, DAISY, and DAMON are asleep beside the river. DORA has just landed close by.*



DORA (*crossly*). I might have known it was too hot to fly!
It's even worse up here. I should have stayed in town.

The other DRAGONS wake up.

DAVID. Is that you, Dora? What are you complaining about?

DORA. There you are! I've been looking everywhere for you.

DAISY. You should have looked near the river. It's too hot to be anywhere else.

DORA (*pointing*). The engineer was right. There's plenty of water in the river!

DAMON (*rolling his eyes*). Of **course** there's water in the river! Where else would it be?

DORA. There's a big problem in town. We're running out of water. The scientist says the river's drying up because of global warming.

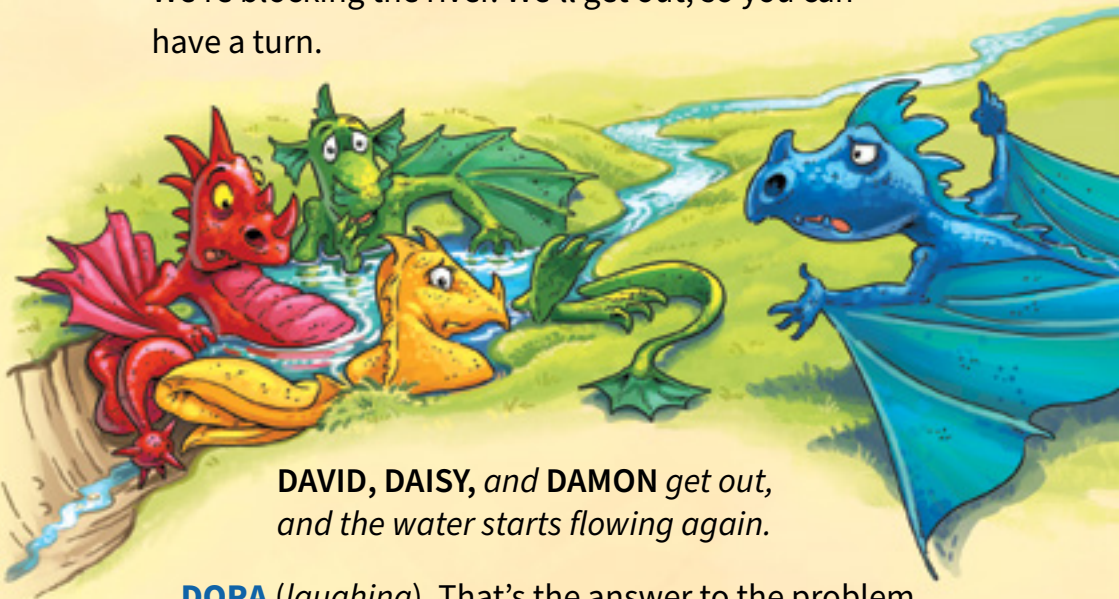
DAVID. Global warming is a serious problem, but there's plenty of water in this river. Come on, Dora. Join us for a swim. It will cool you down.

DORA watches from the bank while the other dragons jump into the river.

DAISY. Come on in, Dora! The water's lovely and cool.

DORA. I can't. There's no room.

DAVID (*looking around*). Oops! I see what you mean. We're blocking the river. We'll get out, so you can have a turn.



DAVID, DAISY, and DAMON get out, and the water starts flowing again.

DORA (*laughing*). That's the answer to the problem.

You guys are the reason the water keeps stopping!

DAVID. What do you mean?

DORA. You are too big for the river. When you all get in together, you stop the water from getting through. You're just like a big dam.

DAMON. Oh no! We didn't even notice. It's been so hot. We've been having lots of swims.

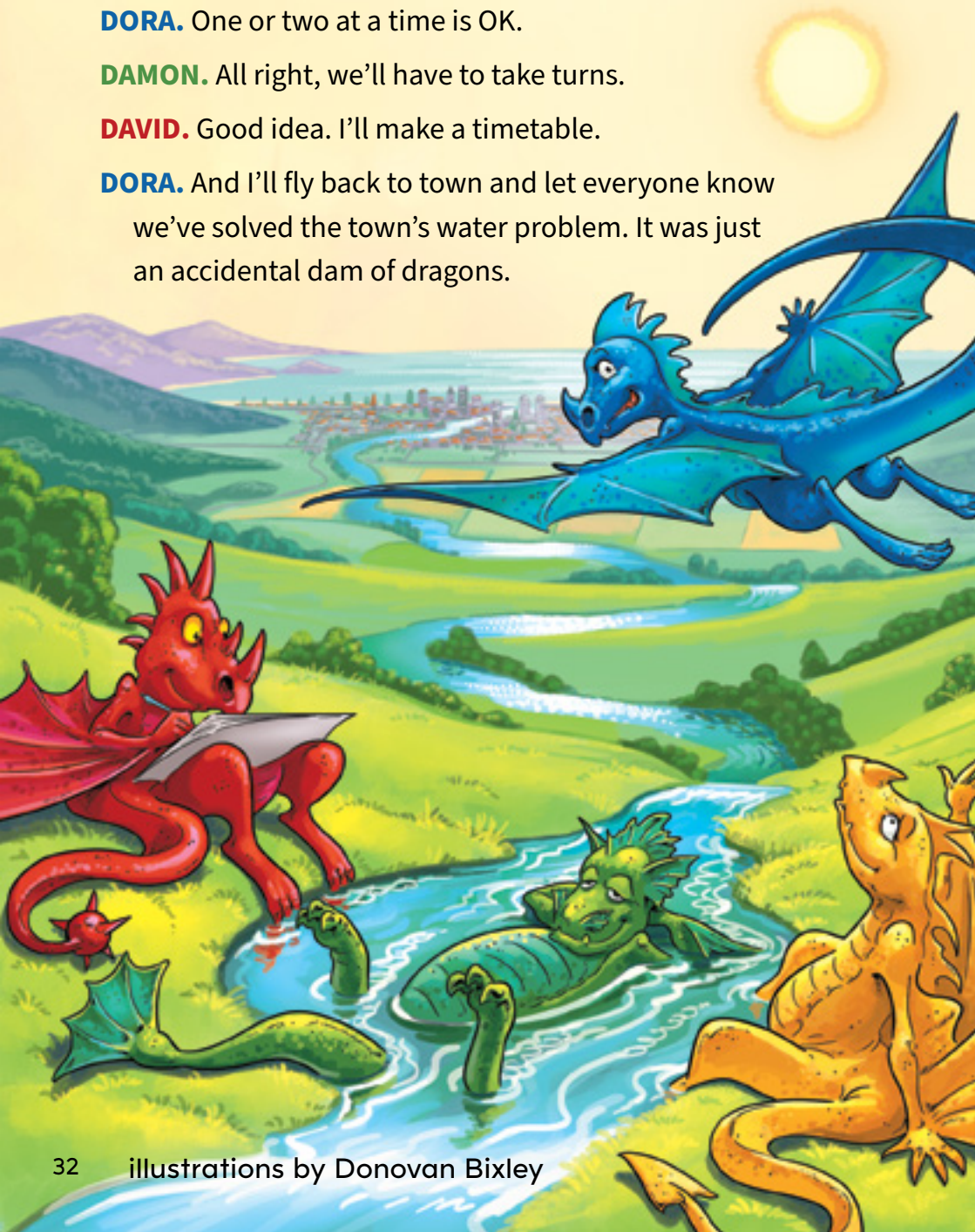
DAISY. So how can we cool off, without blocking the river?

DORA. One or two at a time is OK.

DAMON. All right, we'll have to take turns.

DAVID. Good idea. I'll make a timetable.

DORA. And I'll fly back to town and let everyone know we've solved the town's water problem. It was just an accidental dam of dragons.



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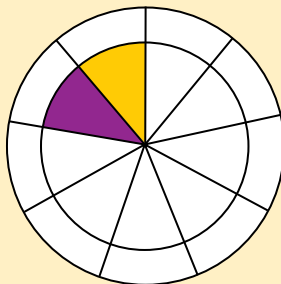
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TITLE	GUIDED READING LEVEL
Volunteers	Gold 1
Kūmara – Behind the Scenes	Purple 1
Settling In	Purple 2
Water Worries	Purple 2





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  Volunteers

  Kūmara – Behind the Scenes

  Settling In

 One Jandal

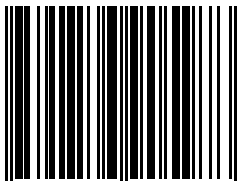
 Water Worries



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