

**Ingoa:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rangi:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Te Pū Harakeke**

Nā Jeanette King

Whatukura

Tērā tētahi kōtiro, ko Mairātea tōna ingoa. I tētahi rā, i tana haerenga ki te marae, i mea atu tōna whaea, “E kō, titiro atu. Ka kite koe i te pū harakeke rā? Kei reira tō whenua. I tō whānautanga mai, ka tanumia tō whenua ki raro i taua pū harakeke.”

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Ka haere atu a Mairātea ki te wāhi e tipu ana te pū harakeke. Ka kitea e ia he kōhatu tumutumu e takoto ana. Ka whakatangihia e ia ngā kōhatu, ka waiata. I tēnā, ka puta mai tētahi mokomoko. Ka ohorere a Mairātea.

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Taro ake, ka rata te mokomoko ki te piki ki runga i te ringa o Mairātea, ki te tākaro ki te noho puku noa. I ngā wā ka haere tōna whaea ki te marae, ka hokihoki tonu a Mairātea ki te kōrero, ki te waiata ki te mokomoko.

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“I te wā i tanumia tō whenua, i a au e karakia ana, ka puta mai tētahi mokomoko – he kaitiaki i te mauri o taua wāhi, o te pū harakeke, me tō whenua.”

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I te ata ka haere ngātahi rāua ki te pū harakeke, engari kāore te mokomoko i puta, ka waiata, ka whakatangihia āna kōhatu, ka karakia hoki a Māmā. Kātahi ka puta mai te mokomoko me ana punua. Tāpapa ana a Mairātea ki te taha o tana whānau hou.