



TEACHING GUIDE

'THE ELVES AND THE CLOAKMAKER' – KIWI CORKER

Synopsis -

Kahu is a cloakmaker who toils night and day to weave cloaks to sell to his customers. His wife picks the flax and extracts the fibres for the cloaks and Kahu finds the feathers. It is nearly Christmas and they must finish their cloaks in time, but when they fall asleep, four elves sneak into the house to help.

Each night the Patupaiarehe come to help them so that they can get their cloaks finished in time for Christmas. Kahu and his wife now have plenty of money thanks to the help of the Patupaiarehe, and they wish to show their gratitude. So they make the four elves each a set of clothes and leave them out on Christmas Eve. The Patupaiarehe are excited to find them and quickly dress themselves and dance out of the house, leaving Kahu and his wife very happy to have repaid the good deed.

Themes – Fairy tales, working hard, Maori mythology, good deeds, helping one another, gratitude, Christmas.

Questions –

1. Which traditional fairy tale is 'The Elves and the Cloakmaker' based on?
2. What things did Kahu and his wife have to do before Kahu could begin to weave the cloaks?
3. What does 'tahi, rua, toru, wha' mean in English? Why do you think they chanted that?
4. What is a patupaiarehe?
5. If you could pick names for the four elves (patupaiarehe), what would they be?
6. Why did the Elves help Kahu? Would the Elves have helped Kahu if he was a mean, dishonest man? Why, or why not?
7. If Patupaiarehe crept into your house at night to help you out, what things would you like them to do for you? Write your own story where a Patupaiarehe helps you do one of your chores.
8. Can you remember the last time you helped someone out or did a good deed? What was it? How did it make you feel?
9. If someone asks you for help, do you give it to him? Why is it important that we help others when they need it? When people help you, do you thank them? Make a 'thank you' card for someone who has helped you lately and surprise him/her with it.

Expert –

1. Who used to wear Maori cloaks? What sort of person would wear a Maori cloak today?
2. Can you find out more about the Patupaiarehe in Maori Mythology? What did Maori people believe they looked like?