

# KIWI CORKERS SERIES

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Chris Gurney writes children's picture books, mostly using rhyme and rhythm. Her first book 'Cindy and the Lost Jandal' was published in 2009 to launch Scholastic's Kiwi Corkers series, which are traditional tales written with a Kiwi twist. Since then, she has had eight more Kiwi Corkers books published, as well as four other picture books. Chris's latest picture book, 'Esau the Paw' is due for release in April this year.

[www.chris-gurney.com](http://www.chris-gurney.com)

## WHAT THE AUTHOR SAYS:

Each *Kiwi Corkers* story needed plenty of research, as the requirements were for native creatures and lots of kiwiana. I was sometimes daunted by the decided lack of large, scary native creatures, as these are often the focus in traditional tales (how lucky we are in New Zealand!). However, I had a great deal of fun writing every unique story. Each illustrator did a superb job of bringing the stories to life and incorporating all things Kiwi into the illustrations.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR OF THE LITTLE BLUE DUCK

Stevie Mahardhika was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, and moved to New Zealand to study at AUT. Stevie works with the Watermark group of illustrators.

[steviedraws.com](http://steviedraws.com)



The *Kiwi Corkers* series hatched from the idea of taking well-known tales and retelling them with a New Zealand flavour. The concept of reworking fairytales is not revolutionary, however the idea of bringing them into our familiar, uniquely Kiwi environment has made them popular stories that our children can relate to.

[www.scholastic.co.nz](http://www.scholastic.co.nz)



Published by Scholastic [www.scholastic.co.nz](http://www.scholastic.co.nz)

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

### READING

1. There are 14 books in the *Kiwi Corkers* series. Describe what it is about a *Kiwi Corkers* story that makes it different from other books.
2. Find the traditional tale that *The Little Blue Duck* was based on, and read it. Compare the *Little Red Hen* with *The Little Blue Duck*. What things are the same about the original and the Kiwi version, and what things are different?
3. How was *The Little Blue Duck* feeling on page 3; page 7; page 19; page 24?
4. Which excuse do you like the best in the story? What is the best excuse that you have used to get out of doing work?
5. Write a recipe for pavlova, based on what *The Little Blue Duck* did.
6. What is the moral of *The Little Blue Duck* story?

### ORAL LANGUAGE

- Divided into groups, choose a favourite *Kiwi Corker* story. Act out the stories to classmates.
- Pretend to be a television reporter interviewing one of the characters in 'The Little Blue Duck' about what happened on the day.
- Choose the equivalent of the characters in 'The Little Blue Duck', but instead act out the story using a favourite recipe and the children being themselves.
- Each character will come up with their own excuses why they cannot help the baker through the various stages of the baking.

### WRITTEN LANGUAGE

- The Weta is afraid of the rat in the paddock. Do you know why? Do some research and make a list of other NZ native creatures that are endangered by the rat. <http://www.chris-gurney.com/nz-rat-info.html>
- Make a pavlova as a class and take photos of each stage. Write instructions for each photo.
- Rewrite the very end of the book with *The Little Blue Duck* sharing the pavlova. As a challenge, try keeping the rhyme.

### VISUAL LANGUAGE

- The Blue Duck is an endangered NZ native bird. Find out more about it <http://www.chris-gurney.com/nz-blue-duck-info.html> and then make a poster that will educate others about the Blue Duck.
- Make a comic strip of part of the story.
- Make a "Wanted" poster of the rat, based on your research above. \*