

# Tukutuku

In pairs, we make them,  
one on each side,  
a kanikani of hands  
lashing and binding  
pīngao, kiekie, or harakeke  
across kaho and down kākaho.

Within these patterns  
our stories are woven,  
the zigzags of the kaokao  
like mountains  
or men swinging arms in haka.  
These are stitches of strength.

On this panel,  
māngōroa is laced  
like pinpricks of starlight  
leading us across the sea,  
the eyes of many looking to the skies.  
These are stitches of guidance.

Inside the wharenuī,  
between the poupou,  
these precious taonga stand.  
We are warmed  
by woven memories.  
These are stitches of ancestors.

*Kelly Joseph*



## Glossary

**harakeke:** a type of flax

**kanikani:** a dance

**taonga:** a treasure

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by Kelly Joseph

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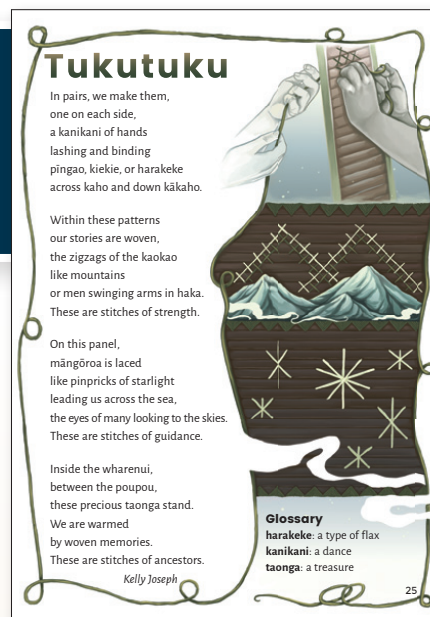
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