

# Super Huhu

by Sarah Johnson



Grace and her friends were up in the treehouse at Ata's place. Grace had put them there by using her superpower – she could teleport people. Grace's friends had superpowers, too.

So, how did they get superpowers? Well, last summer, a very strange thing had happened. Ata, Tomu, Zala, Grace, and Ji-ho had been playing outside when a ball of green light appeared in the sky. It hovered above them and then rose into the sky and disappeared.

Over the next few weeks, the friends discovered they could do things other kids couldn't. Ata could hear things far away, Tomu could blow enormous breaths, Zala could make people forget things, Grace could teleport people, and Ji-ho got a huge surprise when he went swimming and discovered he could turn into a shark! At first, the friends weren't very good at using their superpowers. They needed to learn how to control them, so they went to the treehouse, where no one could see them, to practise.

Tomu was feeling grumpy. "What good are our superpowers anyway?" he grumbled. "What's useful about being able to do this?" He blew a big breath, "HUUUFFFF!"

At that exact moment, a huhu grub poked its head out of a hole in a nearby branch. Tomu's breath blew straight into its open mouth. Instantly, the grub swelled up to the size of a hippopotamus. The branch cracked, and the tree started to creak and sway ...



"Get that bug away from here!" shouted Ji-ho. "The tree's going to fall down!"

"OK, OK," said Tomu. He took another big breath and blew. The giant grub flew out of the tree and hurtled through the air. "That's got rid of it," he said.

“Hmm,” said Grace. “But where will it land?”

“Shhh,” said Ata. “I can hear something.” He frowned in concentration. “Someone’s calling for help. It’s coming from the school. Grace, we need to get down there.”

One by one, Grace teleported the friends to the school. They landed on the school field. Right away, they could see what the problem was. The giant huhu grub had landed on the school roof. Its huge, flabby body had spread and flopped all over the windows and doors.



“Help!” cried a muffled voice. “Help!”

“It’s Ms Cronk!” said Ji-ho. “She’s trapped inside the school.” Ms Cronk was the school principal.

“What’s she doing here on Saturday?” said Tomu crossly.

“It doesn’t matter why she’s here,” said Grace. “We have to get her out!”

“How?” asked Zala. “That grub is huge.”

“It’s too big for me to teleport,” said Grace. “Tomu, you need to blow that grub off the roof.”

“And then what?” asked Ata.

“And then blow it into the sea,” said Grace.

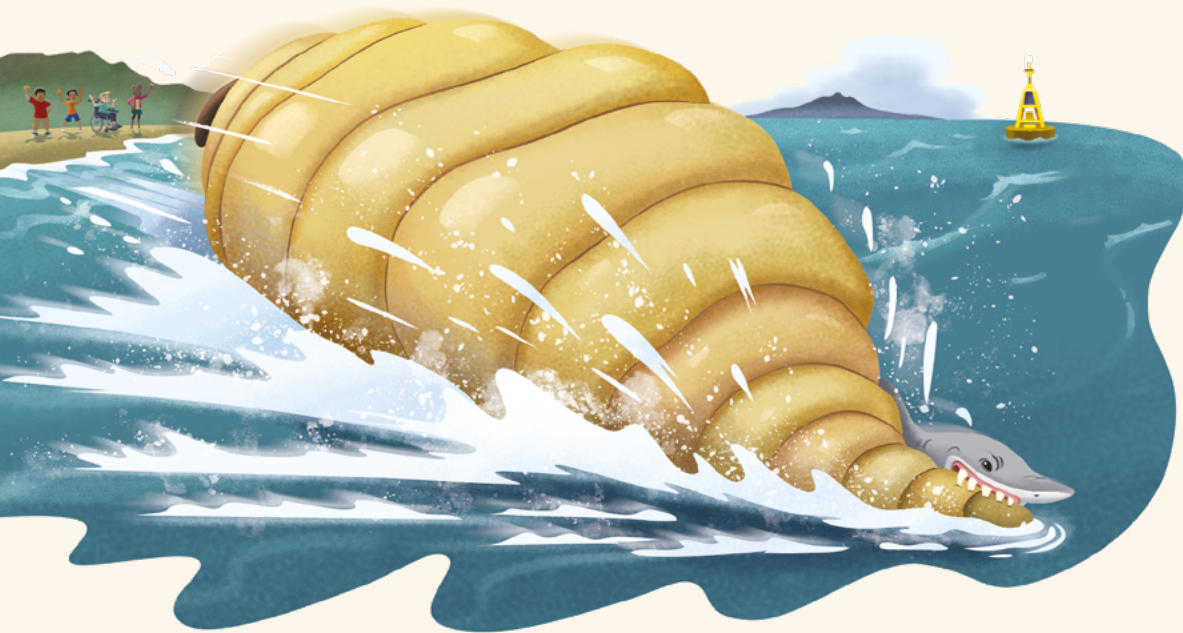
“Right,” said Ji-ho. “Tomu, you get the grub moving, and Grace, you teleport us to the beach. Let’s go!”

Tomu blew hard. The huhu grub slithered off the school roof and onto the playground. He blew again, and it rolled out of the playground and down the steep hill that led to the sea. The grub began to gather speed. By the time it reached the bottom of the hill, it was rolling so fast it flew straight over an ice-cream truck, bounced on the sand high into the air, and then landed in the sea. Splash!



Ji-ho was in the sea, waiting. As soon as the grub hit the water, Ji-ho transformed into a shark and bit the huge grub on its tail. Holding on to the tail tightly, and using all his strength, he dragged the grub far out to sea.

Ji-ho's friends on the beach could see the grub's huge body bobbing off into the distance. They watched it grow smaller and smaller until it completely disappeared.



A few minutes later, a shark's fin broke the surface of the water and moved quickly towards the beach. There was a lot of splashing, and then Ji-ho appeared from the waves.

"Phew!" exclaimed Ata. "Thank goodness we got that sorted."

Grace teleported them all back to the school. Ms Cronk was standing in the playground. "Kia ora, tamariki mā," she said. "I've just had a very frightening experience. I was inside, then suddenly everything went dark. There was something covering the windows and the door was blocked. I couldn't get out. It was a huge monster! We need to warn people about it!"

"I don't think we do, Ms Cronk," said Zala gently. She looked into Ms Cronk's eyes and smiled. "I think you should just forget about it."

Ms Cronk looked confused. She stared up at the school roof and scratched her head. Then she looked at the five friends. "Oh, kia ora, tamariki mā. It's a lovely day," she said. "I've just come to school to do some work. I'd better get started." She turned and went back into the building.

"Our superpowers are useful after all," said Grace. "Together, we saved Ms Cronk."

"And what's more, she'll never know it was us," smiled Zala.

"Now that is a superpower!" laughed Tomu.



# Super Huhu

by Sarah Johnson

The text is copyright © Crown 2023.

The illustrations are by Scott Pearson and are copyright © Crown 2023.

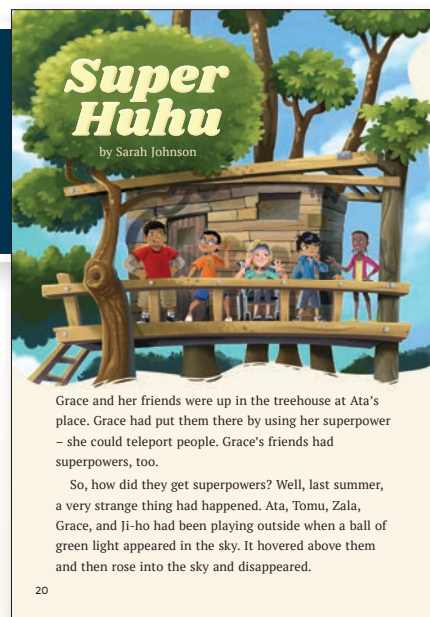
For copyright information about how you can use this material, go to:  
<http://www.tki.org.nz/Copyright-in-Schools/Terms-of-use>

Published 2023 by the Ministry of Education,  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)

All rights reserved.  
Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

ISBN 978 1 77690 946 9 (online)  
ISSN 2463 4174 (online)

Publishing Services: Lift Education E Tū  
Editor: David Chadwick  
Designer: Simon Waterfield  
Literacy Consultant: Dr Kay Hancock  
Consulting Editors: Helen Pearse-Otene, Emeli Sione, and Lisa Fuemana



Grace and her friends were up in the treehouse at Ata's place. Grace had put them there by using her superpower – she could teleport people. Grace's friends had superpowers, too.

So, how did they get superpowers? Well, last summer, a very strange thing had happened. Ata, Tomu, Zala, Grace, and Ji-ho had been playing outside when a ball of green light appeared in the sky. It hovered above them and then rose into the sky and disappeared.

20



## JUNIOR JOURNAL 65

**Curriculum learning area**

English

**Reading year level**

Year 3

**Keywords**

fantasy, hero, humour, huhu, movement, narrative, superhero, superpowers