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BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE BOOK

KIA KAHA is a collection of true stories about amazing Māori who have achieved incredible things. Each of them blazed a trail in their own way, and this pukapuka was written to show that with your kura huna, your special gifts, YOU can make a difference too.

Featuring people and groups both historic and contemporary, who have achieved great things from land marches and language revival to hip hop and contemporary Māori fashion design, this pukapuka will fill readers of all ages, and from all walks of life, with aroha, whanaungatanga and hope for our future.

Featuring fabulous illustrations by Akoni Pakinga, Haylee Ngaroma, Isobel Joy Te Aho-White, Jess Thompson aka Maori Mermaid, Josh Morgan, Kurawaka Productions, Miriama Grace-Smith, Ngaumutane Jones aka Ms Meemo, Reweti Arapete, Taupuruariki Whakataka-Brightwell, Xoe Hall and Zak Waipara, KIA KAHA is a very special book for the young people of Aotearoa.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Stacey Morrison (Te Arawa, Ngai Tahu) is a radio and TV broadcaster whose projects have spanned 25 years. She is also a mama to three young tamariki who have been brought up with te reo Māori as their mother tongue. Stacey herself didn't learn to speak Māori until she was an adult. It required a lot of research, determination, wonderful mentors and the support of a community to achieve her goal of becoming fluent by the time her children were born. Stacey and her husband Scotty co-wrote Māori at Home to help other families use te reo in everyday settings, and Stacey's first children's book, My First Words in Māori, became a number-one bestseller. Both Stacey and Scotty work with many groups and families to build Māori -language friendships and community for whanau. Stacey loves encouraging the learning and use of our country's beautiful native language.

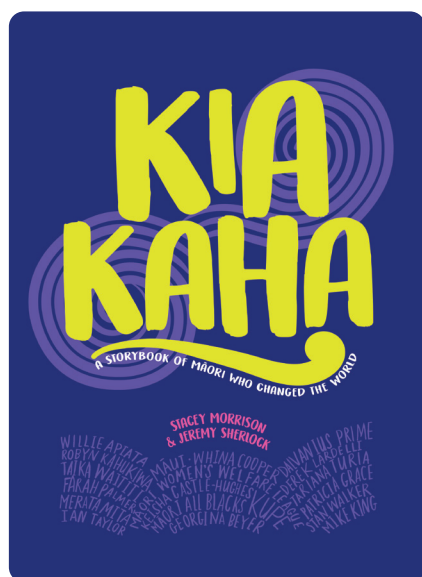
Jeremy Sherlock (Tainui, Ngati Awa) was born and raised in the small town of Coromandel. Growing up, he loved sport, music and drawing and was always a bit of a bookworm. At the time, there wasn't much of a selection of books written about and for Māori, but his grandfather's tall stories, family histories, and Peter Gossage's picture books about the myths of Aotearoa made a big and lasting impression. A couple of decades later, he joined the publishing industry as an editor of non-fiction. Over the years, Jeremy has worked in New Zealand and Australia for Reed, Penguin and Penguin Random House, specialising in biography and memoir, sports, history, pop culture and all things Māoritanga.



BEFORE READING

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the cover. Take in the design, font choices, words and colours used. What do you think the book is about?
2. What type of book – or genre – do you think this book is? How do you know this?
3. In pairs, talk about what you know about the phrase 'kia kaha'.
4. Open the book to the first pages (in yellow). What is written under the authors' names in italics? What is the significance of this?
5. On the opposite (yellow) page is a familiar Māori symbol or motif starting with the letter 'k'. What is it? What does it usually symbolise?
6. Join your pair with another pair and in your group of four, make a list of as many famous Māori people as you can. Give as much detail as you can.
7. Share your lists and details with the whole class.



DURING READING

THEMES

INSPIRATION AND ASPIRATION: AKE, AKE, KIA KAHA E!
UPWARDS, UPWARDS, BE STRONG! (page 9)

This book is intended to inspire you and others with the lives of Māori who have made a difference to Aotearoa New Zealand and the world. In her preface, Stacey Morrison says 'you can make a difference, with your own unique skills and traits, and your kura huna – your special gifts' (page 7).

1. Look at the table of contents, which is set up like a timeline at the beginning of the book. How many names do you recognise? How many names have you not heard of before? Which achievements, professions and backgrounds are celebrated?

INDIGENOUS POWER: KIA MAU RĀ, KIA MAU RĀ, KI TE MANA MOTUHAKE ME TE AROHA

HOLD STEADFAST TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND COMPASSION (page 53)

Kia Kaha is a celebration of Indigenous power and the achievement of the original people of Aotearoa New Zealand. As Stacey Morrison states in the preface, when the authors were growing up, 'the people we read about were hardly ever Māori, even though Māori have achieved incredible things' (page 6). This book aims to change that for your generation.

1. Read the biography of the 28th Māori Battalion from page 8 onwards. Did you know that, at first, Māori were not able to join the New Zealand Army to fight in World War Two? How did Māori at this time change this inequality? Who was the politician who helped change this?

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD: WAIHO RĀ KIA TŪ TAKITAHĪ ANA NGĀ WHETŪ O TE RANGI

LET IT BE ONE ALONE THAT STANDS AMONG OTHER STARS IN THE SKY (page 93)

The people profiled in Kia Kaha have all made a difference in Aotearoa and/or the world.

1. What is some good advice you gained from reading this book? Which person most resonated with you? What difference has this person made in Aotearoa and/or the world?
2. What difference do you want to make in Aotearoa and/or the world? How can you start to make this difference now? Make a list of achievable goals for the upcoming school year that can help you achieve this.



WRITING STYLE AND LANGUAGE

Kia Kaha is a non-fiction compendium that collects the stories of Māori who have achieved incredible things. Each of the short biographies gives a vibrant account of a person's life. In addition, each begins with a significant whakataukī and ends with a bespoke portrait of the person profiled.

ALLITERATION

1. Kia Kaha, the title of the book, is an example of alliteration. This is when the same letter or sound appears at the beginning of closely connected words. What other examples of alliteration can you find as you read the book? In pairs, aim to find five examples.

WHAKATAUKĪ

1. As mentioned above, each person's profile begins with a whakataukī. For kōhanga reo advocate Dame Iritana Te Rangi Tāwhiwhirangi (page 64), the whakataukī is 'Mai i te kōpae ki te urupā, tātou ako tonu ai'. This translates to 'From the cradle to the grave, we are always learning'.
 - a) What is a whakataukī?
 - b) Why are they generally used?
 - c) Why are they specifically used in this book?
 - d) In pairs, select five profiles and discuss the whakataukī chosen for them. What do they mean to you? Can you find other whakataukī that you think could fit the person profiled?

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

1. Synonyms are words that mean exactly or nearly the same as other words. Find synonyms for the following words that appear between pages 20 and 30:
 - a) Powerful
 - b) Composed
 - c) Embraced
 - d) Identity
 - e) Dazzling
 - f) Magical
 - g) Rallied
 - h) Chipped
 - i) Invited
 - j) Cool

2. Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning to another. For example, sad is the antonym for happy. Find antonyms for the following words that appear between pages 80 and 90:

k) Famous	p) Living
l) Cried	q) Strange
m) Worked	r) Deep
n) Kinder	s) Hungry
o) Build	t) Paradise

DEFINITIONS

1. Find the definitions of the following words that appear between pages 100 and 150 and write them in a new sentence:

u) Racism (page 101)	x) Hurling (page 110)
v) Values (page 106)	y) Ambitions (page 121)
w) Premature (page 109)	z) Beloved (page 133)

DEFINITIONS

1. Find the definitions of the following words that appear between pages 100 and 150 and write them in a new sentence:



ILLUSTRATIONS

The portraits in Kia Kaha have been created by many different Māori artists and the illustrations are rich with both colour and context. Turn to the back of the book and read about the authors and illustrators.

1. How many illustrators worked on this book?
2. After reading the book, choose your favourite illustration/illustrator. Why do you like this illustration or style?
3. What are some of the differences between illustration styles you can spot? What effect do these differences have on the overall effect of the book?
4. There are two pictures for each person profiled in Kia Kaha. In small groups, pick one portrait and talk about what you think the artist was trying to convey with their illustration. You might think about colours, patterns or symbols chosen by the illustrator. You could also think about composition, which is how all aspects are arranged on the page. How does this artist convey the essence of the person being profiled?
5. Now pick a different illustrator and research their other work. What else can you find out about their illustration careers? How is their other work similar or different from their illustrations in this book?



RESEARCH AND CREATIVE RESPONSES



1. Choose your favourite three profiles. Imagine that you are a journalist conducting an interview with them. Write down five questions you'd like to ask each person, and then research the answers.
2. From these interview questions, choose one of the profiles and write a short question-and-answer text that can be performed in a pair. Film your 'interview' and present it to the class.
3. In the preface, Stacey Morrison says that it was 'very hard to choose who would be in this book'. In small groups of three or four, research the story of a Māori achiever who was not profiled here. Look at their background, how they achieved what they did, and any obstacles that they had to overcome. Present this information as a speech to the class.
4. This book is both inspirational and aspirational – to believe we are capable of things, it helps to know that others have gone before us. Choose one of the people profiled who inspires you. Research how you might go about having a similar career. Imagine you are a librarian or a career guidance counsellor and prepare a webpage or blog that helps others understand what the career is.
5. In groups of four, turn one of the book's profiles into a play. You will need a main character to play the person profiled; who else can you include? Make sure you choose a profile that mentions other people! Or you can think laterally and give personality to inanimate objects that are described in the biography. Practise and perform it for your class.
6. Merata Mita (page 112) made a film about the 1981 Springbok Tour to Aotearoa New Zealand. This is referenced in the illustration on page 115 with the words 'STOP THE TOUR!'. Research this important time in our history. What happened? Why was it important? What was Merata Mita's film about exactly? Present your thoughts to your class as a PowerPoint or animation.