

Matariki

About the Author



Sharon Holt worked as a teacher and a journalist before suddenly remembering that she was meant to be a children's author. Her light bulb moment came when she was reading a bedtime story to her toddlers. The next day, she started writing for Learning Media, publisher of School Journals and Ready to Read books. Have you seen her Ready to Read books, No Skipper! and Skipper's Happy Tail? Sharon's trade books include a joke book that was a finalist in the NZ Post Children's Book Awards in 2007. She is also the author of two books in Scholastic's My Story series and a Walker picture book called Did my mother do that?



Selected Bibliography

Learning Media's Ready to Read series

No, Skipper!	Early reader published 2002
Skipper's Happy Tail	Early reader published 2003
Inside the Maize Maze	Early reader published 2004

Learning Media School Journals

Short cut to School	Fiction story published 2001
Katie's Birthday	Fiction story published 2005
Superglue	Play published 2003
Remembering Summer	Poem published 2003

Allen and Unwin

You can make your own Jokes	It's True... series published 2006
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Walker Books

Did My Mother Do That?	Published 2010
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Scholastic – My Story series

Sabotage (Rainbow Warrior)	Published 2008
No Survivors (Erebus)	Published 2009

Te Reo Singalong series

Maranga Mai	Published 2011
Kei te Peke Ahau	Published 2011
Anei Kē	Published 2012
Me Haere	Published 2013
E Hia Ngā Moe?	Published 2013
Matariki	Due April 2014
He Aha Tēnei?	Due July 2014

About the Illustrator

Deborah has illustrated many books since she signed her first children's book contract with Scholastic in 2002 for *A Kiwi Night Before Christmas*. Shortly after moving to the Waikato in 2004 Deborah met Sharon and offered to provide her with some roughs to show to publishers. Many years later Sharon approached Deborah to see if she would be interested in illustrating the Te Reo Singalong Series. "I'm glad I'm illustrating them now rather than back then, my skills as an illustrator have improved so much in the last few years!"

Classroom Activities

Language:

1. What animals do you know the names for in te reo?
2. Can you count to 10 in te reo?
3. Can you name the colours in te reo?
4. What other languages do you speak?
5. How many languages are represented in your classroom?

Reading:

1. What differences can you see between the original book prototypes and the books that are now available in Sharon Holt's Te Reo Singalong series?
2. What are the names of the musicians who help to create these books?
3. What is the name of the company that markets and sells Te Reo Singalong books?
4. What is the name of the Te Reo Singalong book that will be published this month?
5. Which company publishes the My Story series?

Health:

1. Choose a country and have a special class lunch featuring food from that country.
2. Create an obstacle course inspired by one of the books at this exhibition.
3. Choose a Māori song from a children's CD you have in your classroom and create some actions for the song.

4. In groups, make up the words and tune for a hand washing song in te reo. Share your new song with the rest of the class.
5. Make up your own karakia kai to say before morning tea.

Social Studies:

1. Write a list of the pros and cons of learning te reo at school.
2. Organise a class debate with the topic "Te Reo should be compulsory in schools."
3. Find 3 people in your school who speak other languages than English and learn how to say hello and goodbye in those three languages.
4. Learn how to count to 10 in a language spoken by one of the teachers at your school.
5. Choose a country of the world and find out what languages are spoken there. Using one of the languages that you don't know, learn how to say "My name is..."

Visual Arts:

1. Create your own picture book, using a farm animal theme.
2. If you were creating a logo for The Writing Bug, what bug would you use? Sketch your logo.
3. Use magazine pictures to create a collage to represent your thoughts after visiting this exhibition.
4. Create a mind map about your hopes and dreams and use a photo or sketch of yourself in the middle of the mind map.
5. Make a puppet that could be used with one of the books in this series.