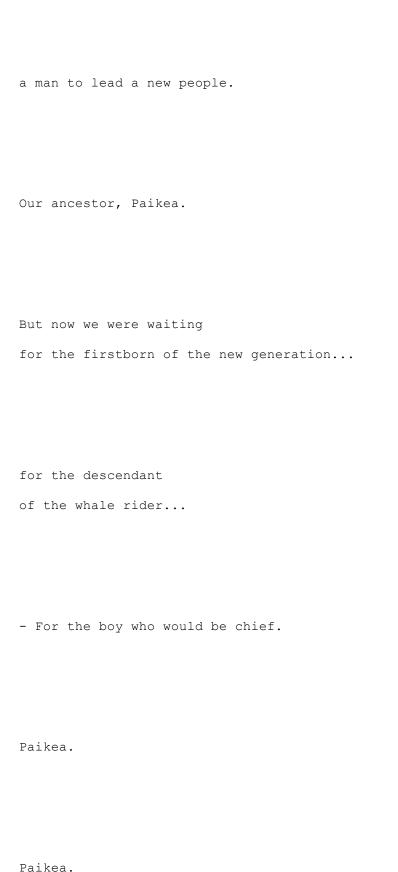
## **Whale Rider Script - Dialogue Transcript**

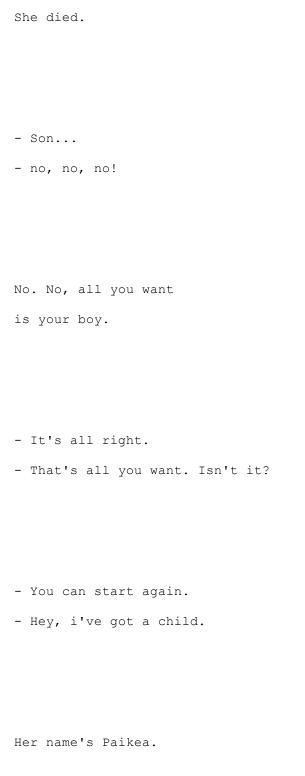




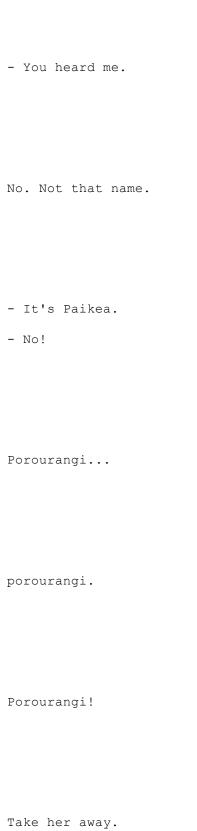
There was no gladness when i was born. My twin brother died and took our mother with him. Rawiri. Everyone was waiting for the firstborn boy to lead us... but he died... and i didn't.

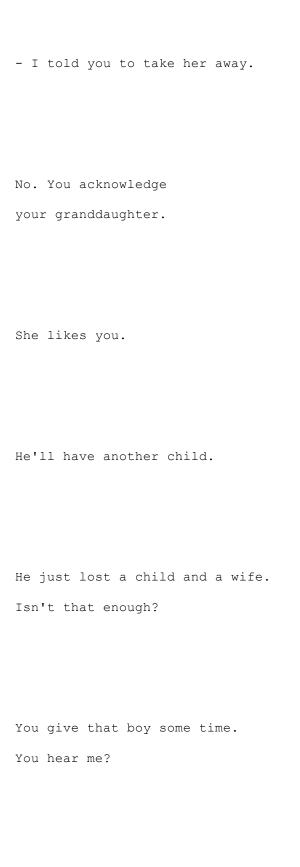
```
Son.
- What's done is done. Come home.
Come home.
Start again.
You mean just pretend
it didn't happen.
- That's not what i'm saying.
- You didn't even look at her, dad!
```

Where is the boy?



- What?





He'll be back

```
Stupid old paka.
You say the word,
and i'll get a divorce, bub.
Just say the word.
- What'd he say to her?
- Same old story.
Not good enough
for him, is she?
He start that early
```

when he's ready.

with me?

You're a man.

You can handle it.

Here. Better get used to it.

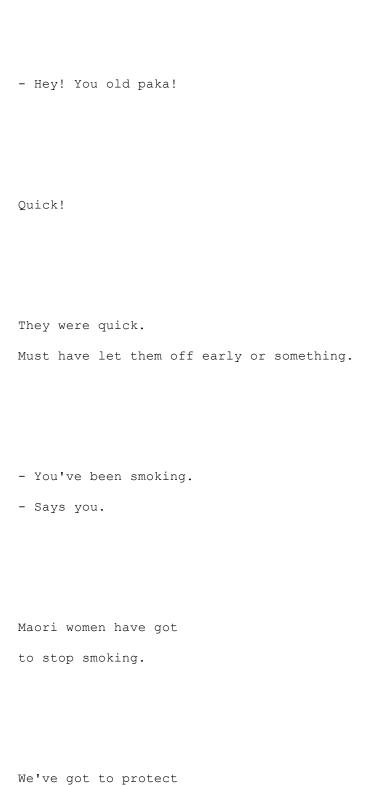
This one's gonna need someone to look out for her.

Yeah. All right.

My koro wished

in his heart that i'd never been born...

but he changed his mind.



our childbearing properties.

```
You coming
to the concert?
- Might.
- Bet she's got her best gears
all laid out on the bed.
- My dad's coming.
- Nay? Better get my flash dress out then.
How long's he staying this time?
Five minutes?
Longer than that.
```

That's good, 'cause i blinked and missed him last time.

What time's the concert, bub? : and don't be late. Gee, she's bossy, that one. And you'd have to be smoking in a pretty funny place to wreck your childbearing properties. If you ask me the name of this house, i will tell you.

It is whitireia.

And the carved figurehead at the top?

It is Paikea. It is Paikea.

- No good to you, you reckon?

- Shh!

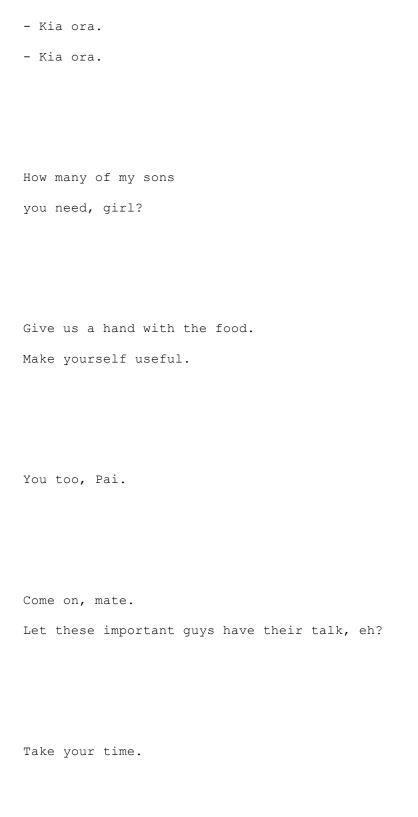
- What are they feeding you?
- You look different.

- Hmm. You do too. Must be growing up.
- Am not.

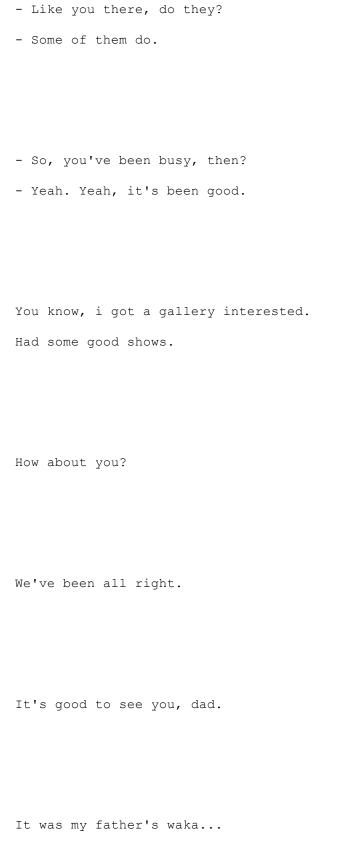
- Sorry i was late.
- It doesn't matter. It was stink anyway.

Oh. Gotta look my best for your brother. - Hey, bro. - Rawiri? - Good to see you, man. - Yeah, put on a bit of weight since i saw you last time. - Yeah.

Hey, this is my new lady.



```
They've been
waiting for you.
Been a while
this time, son.
Been away.
Didn't you get any of my postcards?
Your mother put something on the fridge.
I don't know what it was. A bridge or something.
France, probably.
I've been spending
a bit of time in germany too.
```



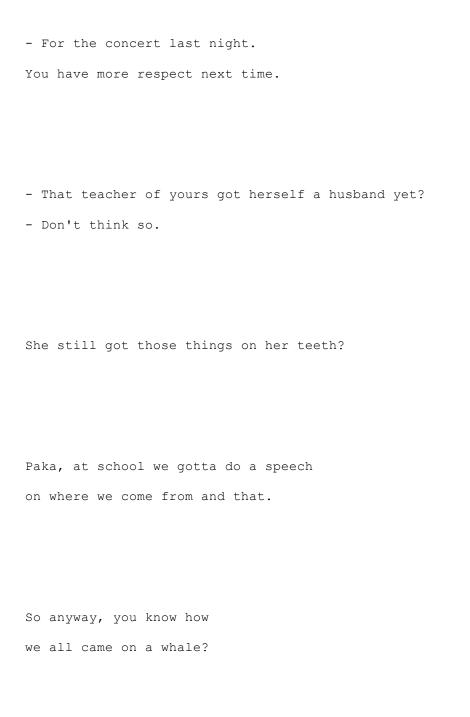
want to carve it anymore. He went away. Everybody did. - Sorry, mum. - You've come a long way. I think you can have a sleep in. - Isn't he having any breakfast? - Septic tank's blocked down at the marae.

Can't somebody else do it?

but after i was born he didn't



- Ah! What was that for?



That's right.

the whale come from?
- From hawaiiki.
- Where's that?
It's where we lived before we came here,
where the ancestors are.
- So, Paikea came from there.
- Ae.
- How long ago?
- Long time.

But where does

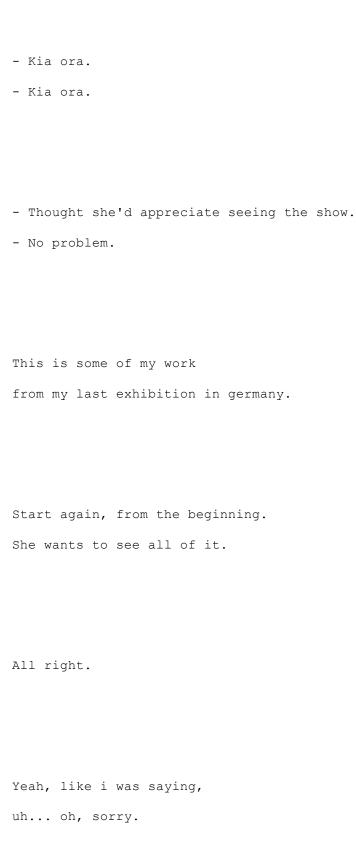
But how long?

```
See that there?
Look at it closely.
What do you see?
- Lots of little bits of rope all twisted together.
- That's right.
Weave together the threads of Paikea
so that our line remains strong.
Each one of those threads
is one of your ancestors...
all joined together and strong...
```

```
all the way back
to that whale of yours.
Useless bloody rope.
I'll get another one.
Paka! Paka!
It's working!
It's working.
- I don't want you to do that again.
It's dangerous.
```

```
Come in.
- A seat for you over there.
- Kia ora.
- Hi.
- Hi. Kia ora.
Have you met Pai's father?
Porourangi...
this is miss parata
from the school.
```

That's a good one.





Why don't you bring her?

Uh, she lives in germany, mum. You know.
She wanted to have the child at home.

- But you'll bring her back here.
- Yeah, of course.

Well, um, bit of a visit when baby gets big.

Rawiri, take miss Parata back to town.

Come with me, Pai.

When were you gonna tell me?
The day you left?

I've been trying to tell you since i got here.

Look, dad. It's not forever.

It's just it's anna's first child, you know?

Her work's there, her family.

Family?

Yeah, i can't expect her to move to the other side of the world.

Don't you use that girl as an excuse.

You can't wait to get away. I see it in you.

You never stay, because it hurts you to see what's happening to us.

Yeah, it does.

You still walk away from it.

Leave that waka of yours out there to rot.

I'm not here shoveling shit,
but, dad, i'm doing my share.

Did you even see my work?

Did you... did you even look at it?

You call it work.

It's not work. It's souvenirs. Those young men you turn your back on... they've got something to learn from you. You've got something to offer. Don't you turn away! Yeah, you've got the privileges... but you forget you've also got the obligations! Look at me, dad, for once in your life.

Go on.

Ah, you don't even know who i am.

I know who you're meant to be, who you were born to be.

Oh, yeah, right.

But i failed ya, eh, dad?

Yeah, because why?

I had a daughter?

Well, i'm probably gonna have another daughter.

And you know what?

I'm not gonna let you treat another child of mine like that.

```
Then take her with you! You don't like the job
i'm doing, take her! Go on! Take her!

- Stop it!
- She's no use to me.

Pai?

No, leave her.
I'll get her. Pai!
```

Gotta watch that koro sometimes.

You all right?

Big mouth of his gets away on him, eh?

```
He didn't mean it...
about me.
Well...
you know, maybe
we should think about it.
Think about what?
You coming to live with me
for a while.
```

What do ya think?

```
Why doesn't he want me?

Oh, Pai, it's not you.

It's not even about you, in a way.

Koro is just... he's just looking for something
```

A new leader?

that doesn't exist anymore.

They exist.

Yeah, they do, except i think...

it's become

even more than that.

In his head, your koro,
he needs a prophet.

What's that?

Well, somebody who's gonna lead our people outta the darkness...

and who'll make everything all right again.

Only problem is, you can't just decide who those people are just because you want them to be, eh?

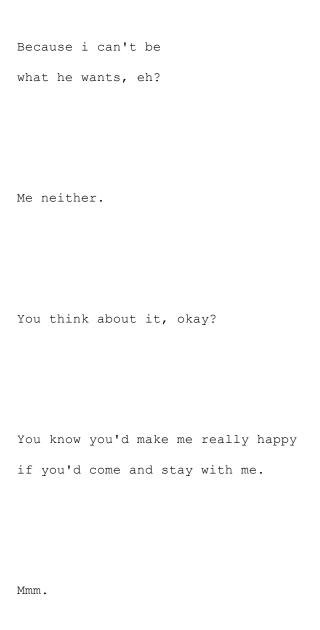
Like my brother?

```
Yeah.
Your koro made himself believe so strongly
that he was gonna be the one.
But what if he was?
And what if he wasn't?
You know, your koro,
```

Is that why he's
so hard on you?

he did the same thing with me.

Yep. Pretty much.



Just think about it.

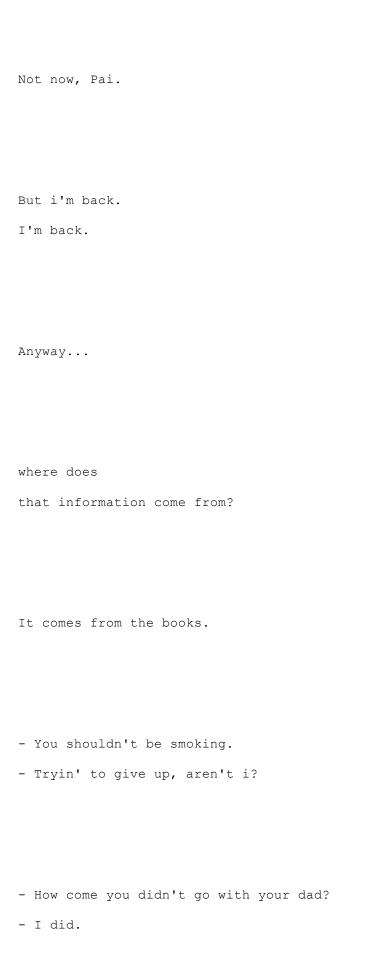
```
- Ready, Pai?
- One more go.
You be good
to that girl.
That's right.
```

You look. I'm gonna need all the firstborn boys. - It's time they learnt. - Learnt what? When she was born, that's when things went wrong for us.

That's where we'll find the answer. You all right? Stop the car. Pai? What is it, Pai? Can we go home now? But why? What is it?

What's wrong?

<ul><li>I have to go home.</li><li>Why?</li></ul>
I just have to.
I know.
It's okay.
There are some discussions about the
Paka!
I'm back.



Hmm. For one day.

I would have gone.

When my dad gets out, i'm gonna go with him.

- Where?
- Wherever. Get outta this dump.

Koro's gonna be pissed off when he sees you smoking.

No, he won't,
'cause he's not coming.

```
- No, he's getting the school ready.
What school?
For us fellas, to teach us
the old ways and that.
Probably gonna be stink.
- You can come on the bus if you want.
- I'm waiting for koro.
- But he's not coming.
- I said, "i'm waiting."
```

- When you're ready.

- Is so.

- When everyone's here, i'll be ready.

They are here.

Those boys have waited half an hour.

She could have come on the bus.

You tell her you weren't

going to pick her up?

You pick her up every day for years and she's just supposed to guess?

Good. Let's go.



```
Go on!
```

Then leave.

For you boys, this will be a sacred school of learning.

You'll be taught in the old ways...

in all the qualities of a chief.

You will be tested for your strength...

```
your courage,
your intelligence...
and your leadership.
Paikea's canoe sank...
and he called on the ancient ones for strength.
You're going to learn that chant.
All of you. Learn it exactly.
And if you break the chant,
you will suffer the utu...
```

the consequences.





```
Now, take a break.

Get a drink of water.

The rest of you in pairs.

- Koro know you're doing that?

- I'm not doing anything.

How come you're hiding
```

Koro's cool, eh?
He's teaching us to be warriors, man.

Gonna be chiefs.

around here then?

```
We're gonna smack

all those other ones.
```

You shouldn't have hit koro like that.

He was all right.

He was real patient, eh?

- How come he won't let you do it?
- Girls aren't allowed.

You could sit up the back.

Long as you were quiet. I wouldn't mind.

You're not even

holding it right.



```
You gone deaf now?
Somebody just
apologized to you.
You don't mess around
with sacred things!
She was
just watching!
She was using
a taiaha.
```

I'm sorry, paka.

Let the girl do it.

You might be the boss out there...

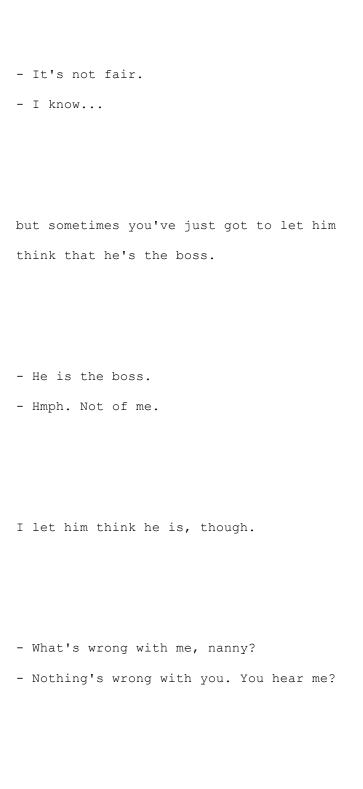
but i'm the boss
in this kitchen.

I'll do it.

You forgot something.

Hey, it's not too bad
up here.

He's got a lot of rules



You got the blood of muriwai

he has to live by.

in your veins, girl.

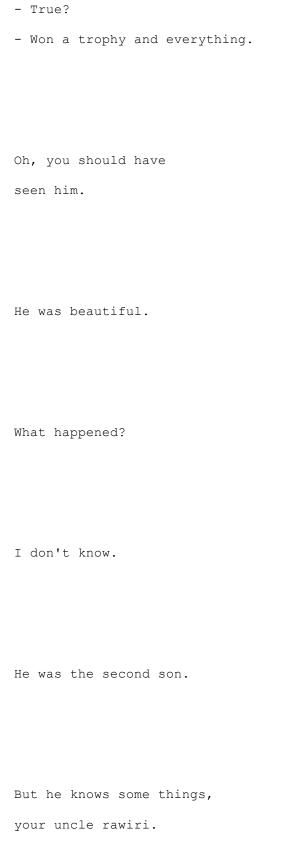
Think she'd be proud of you saying things like that?

Anyway, that old paka's not the only one who knows some tricks.

Eh?

Well, you wouldn't know it now, but before he got fat and ugly...

your uncle rawiri was a bit of a hotshot with the taiaha.



```
Don't you worry
about that.
- Is uncle here?
- Out the back.
Hi.
Damn, girl.
What did i tell you about sneaking up on us?
I found this.
Didn't know
you played golf.
```

```
Not golf.
Taiaha.
Yeah, well,
this guy's playing golf.
They cut the end off
the golf stick...
swing it around,
and push it through there.
Hey, shut up!
I was good.
That's why
```

you're sitting here...

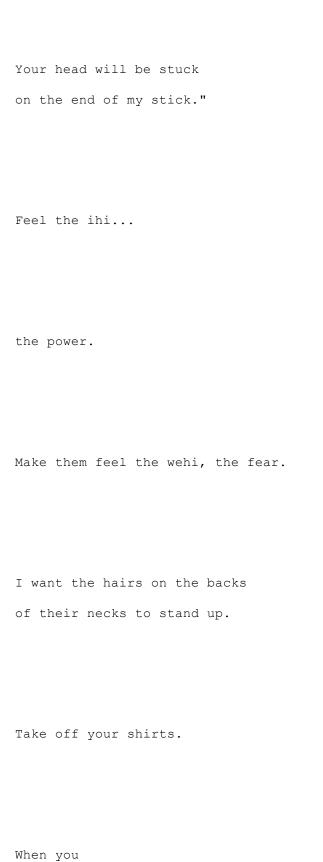
uhila usuu fakhan kalla a buush
while your father tells a bunch
of snotty-nosed kids how to be chief.
Poor little bastards, huh?
Could you teach me?
700 2000 me.
- Hold up. This was a long time ago.
- So?
Please?
- Does koro know about this?

- No.

```
- Yes!
You mean this?
It's a broom,
isn't it?
- Yee-hee!
- Woo-hoo!
Morning, dad.
- Hey! There goes that little girl, Pai!
- Move, girl! Move!
```

- Well, let's get it on then, eh?





slap your chests...

i want you
to slap them hard.
Bleh! Bleh!
Scratch them.
Make them bleed.
Timata.
Bleh!

Bleh!

```
This is my dad.
Come to see
your boy?
- Yeah.
- Good.
Hemi, you first.
Hah!
```

Good, hemi. Good.

All these ancestors

are watching too.

## Hah!

- Girl! Where's that school?
- Over there.

Thought you were gonna stay for the whole thing.

Seen your bit, didn't i?

Come meet my mates.

- Hey.
- Hey.

This is my boy.





Answer me, Pai. - Do you know what you've done? - No. You have broken the tapu of this school... on this marae, the one place where our old ways are upheld. The knowledge that's been passed down from your ancestors... from my grandfather to me, to those boys...

```
It's broken!
I'm sorry, paka.
You're not sorry.
Right from the beginning,
you knew this wasn't for you...
but you keep coming back.
- Do you want me to fail?
- No.
```

You want these boys

What have you got to say to them?

I'm sorry.

- Say it again.
- I'm sorry.

Say it

till you mean it!

Say it!

I'm sorry.

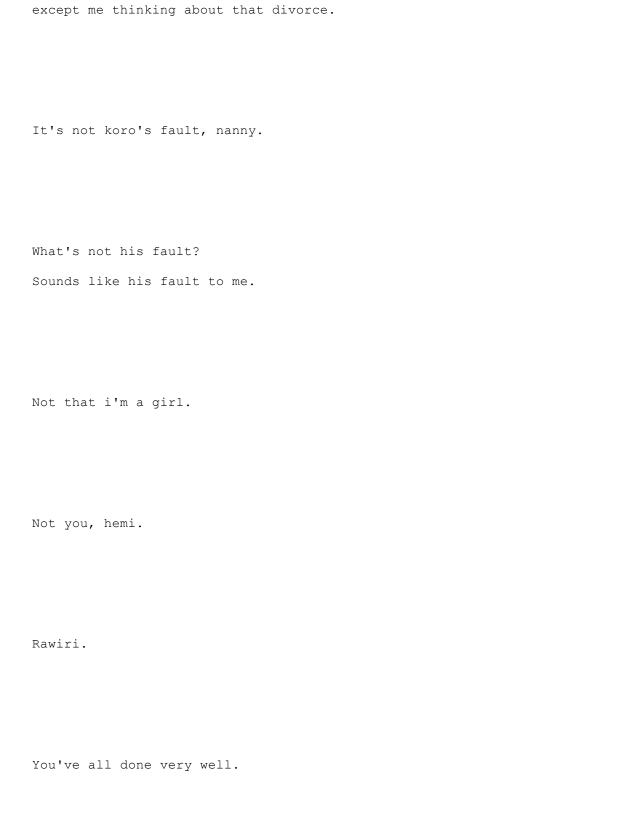
Want me to put some more hot in?

- No.

No.

You can get sick sitting in a cold bath.

- What if he fails, nanny?
- Then he fails.
- What will happen to him?
- Nothing will happen...



```
You've shown me
that you've got courage, that you're strong...
and that you can learn.
But there can only be one...
so there's one final test...
a test of your spirit.
If you have
the tooth of a whale...
```

bring that back to me.	
Dubbala not a sald	
Bubba's got a cold,	
and i can't swim.	
It's all right, man.	
Hey.	
- Give it to me.	
- I almost had it.	
Nanny?	

you must have the whale's jaw to wield it.

One of you will

Come here.

It's not for long.

You can put your clothes in there.

And, uh, there's a lamp if you wanna read.

Rawiri reckons you're pretty brainy, eh?

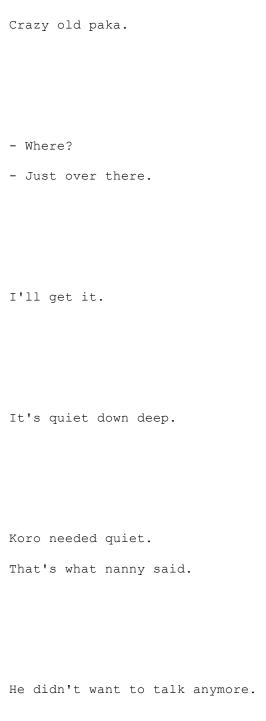
Anyway, it's just for a little while.

```
He was calling to the ancient ones,
asking them to help him...
but they weren't listening.
- So i tried...
and they heard me.
Uncle, is this where
paka lost his reiputa?
```

That thing he wore around his neck.

He threw it overboard.

His what?



He just wanted to go down and down.

She's been gone quite a while, eh?

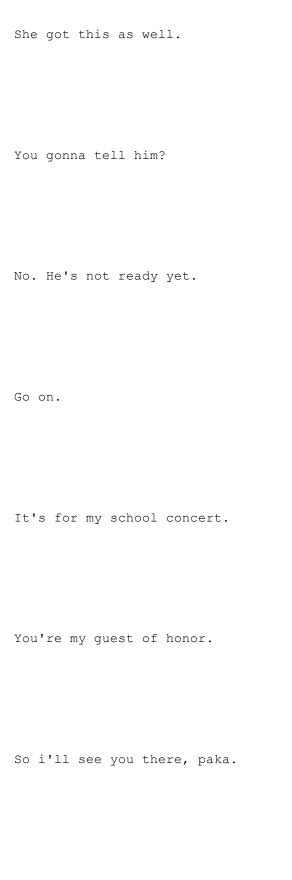
Nah, she's sweet.

For paka's tea.

And i found this.

- Got this for dad's tea.
- Lovely. Pop it in the sink.

Pai got it.





Put mine there.

not only our own school speech contest...

but the east coast

area schools', as well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

please welcome miss Paikea Apirana.

Did you know about this?

She said she had a surprise... for him.

This speech is a token of my deep love and respect...

```
for Koro Apirana,
my grandfather.
My name is Paikea Apirana...
Go on, bub.
And i come from a long line of chiefs,
stretching all the way back to hawaiiki...
where our ancient ones are...
the ones that first heard
the land crying and sent a man.
```

His name was also Paikea...

```
But i was not the leader
my grandfather was expecting...
and by being born...
i broke the line back to the ancient ones.
It wasn't anybody's fault.
It just happened.
Who is to blame?
But we can learn. And if the knowledge is given
```

to everyone, we can have lots of leaders.

and i am his mo...

most recent descendant.

```
And soon,
everyone will be strong...
notjust the ones
that've been chosen.
Because sometimes, even if you're the leader
and you need to be strong...
you can get tired.
Like our ancestor, Paikea,
when he was lost at sea...
```

and he couldn't find the land,

and he probably wanted to die.

But he knew the ancient ones were there for him...

so he called out to them to lift him up and give him strength.

This is his chant.

I dedicate it to my grandfather.

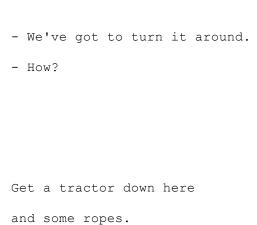
- She all right?
- She's asleep.

That old man know she's staying the night?

```
If he doesn't like it,
he can sleep in the road.
Might be time for us to leave, eh, dear?
What is it?
You'd better come
have a look.
Who is to blame?
I called them and they came...
```

but it wasn't right.

```
They were dying.
Hey, keep it away from the blowhole, bro.
That's it. Just around the edges.
You okay?
He died.
Koro knew what it meant.
It was Paikea's whale,
sent to us because we were in trouble.
```



We'll wait for the tide.

If... if we can move it, the others will follow.

- Get the men.
- They're stuffed.

Half of them have been up all night.

They'll do it for you.
It was a test
but for koro this time.
Leave it.
You've done enough.
Now!
E pana e!

```
E pana e!
He wanted to die.
There wasn't a reason
to live anymore.
It's no use. They're too tired.
We'll try again later.
```

Let them rest.

- Come on, dear. We'll come back.

Come on.
It's gone!
Where is she?
Where's my moko?
Where is she?
Pai!
It's okay, paka.



```
I've been praying to god
about it.
If that little one wakes up,
\ensuremath{\text{i'm}} gonna give up the smokes.
She'd like that.
Wise leader,
forgive me.
I am just a fledgling new to flight.
My name is Paikea Apirana,
and I come from a long line of chiefs...
```

```
stretching all the way back to the whale rider.

I'm not a prophet...

but i know that our people will keep going forward...

all together,

with all of our strength.
```

Special help by **SergeiK**