This is another song using a familiar tune. The lyrics develop the idea of the birds singing together as a metaphor for unity. The phrase “Tui, tui, tuia” indicates this.

Compare this song with other bird songs, for example “Kiwi” on 101 Kiwi Kidsongs and the bellbird in “Hutia” on Kiwi Kidsongs Waiata 15. The sound of birds here is like their actual sounds and is a good example of onomatopoeia.

The spoken form of the lyrics is often used by a kaikōrero (speaker) when addressing an audience in a whaikōrero situation. This song would also work well with poi.

Use the question “Kei hea te …?” (Where is the …?) and the response “Kei raro te … i te …” to reinforce learning of the directional words, “runga”, “raro”, “roto”, and “waho”, as well as reinforcing vocabulary. For example:

Kei hea te kapu? Where is the cup?
Kei runga te kapu i te tēpu. The cup is on the table.

Add new words to the ngā kupu hou chart.

The song sheets for all waiata and haka are at the back of this book.