20. TORO MAI TŌ RINGA  
SIR KINGI M. IHAKA

Toro mai tō ringa  
Reach out your hand
Kia harirūtia  
And clasp mine
Tō ringa i awhi pono  
In truth and
I awhi taku tinana  
Friendship
Auē, auē te aroha  
Oh, the love
Kī a rātou mā  
For those who’ve gone
Auē, auē te aroha  
Oh, the compassion
Ngau whakaroto nei  
That bites deep within me

Hikitia e ngā iwi  
Hold up people
Kia rewa ki runga  
Up on high
Ngā taonga, ngā mātua  
The treasures of the generations
Kua ngaro ki te pō  
Now departed
Auē, auē te aroha  
Oh, the compassion
Ngau whakaroto nei  
That bites deep within me

This is a waiata ā-ringa that iwi from the far north use to identify themselves, and it is used for greeting. This waiata is about love and remembers those who have passed away.

There are traditional actions for this waiata. Consult with the school community, whānau, and the local marae/iwi about the actions. The actions illustrate the words and phrases, for example, “Toro mai tō ringa, kia harirūtia”. Use the actions to focus on the meanings of words and phrases.

Explain the chorus and the concept of uplifting iwi Māori through the phrase “Hikitia e ngā iwi”.

Discuss the symbolism of the departed as taonga (treasures).

Add words to the ngā kupu hou chart and refer to the tikanga/uara chart to review any values already listed and those that can be added.

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