This waiata uses the imagery of birds to explain the importance of whakapapa or ancestors. It finishes with a haka and is an uplifting waiata celebrating ancestry. Develop actions that reinforce understanding of the words.

Use the first two lines to extend vocabulary, replacing the word “manu” with other nouns, such as “pere” (bell), “pēpi” (baby), “motokā” (car), “kau” (cow), and “ngeru” (cat).

Use the lines “Nō hea tō mana?” and “Nō aku tūpuna” to focus on the language pattern “Nō hea …?” and “Nō …”. Have students practise the question and response in small groups or pairs.

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