Kua tata ki te wā  
It is nigh on time

Mō ngā tikanga Māori  
For tikanga Māori to arise

Kia kaha, kia mau  
Be strong and hold on

Ki ngā tikanga Māori e  
To tikanga Māori

Hei āwhina i te reo  
To help the language

Kua tapepetia nei  
That’s been mistreated

Kia kaha rā e  
Be strong

Awhitia kia mau  
Embrace it, learn it

Ararā, ararī  
Ararā, ararī

Kua tangihia tō tangi e  
Now your voice is heard

Ki te hī, ki te hā  
Say a hī, say a hā

Pai ake rā i te kore rawa  
That’s better than nothing at all

Ararā, ararī  
Ararā, ararī

Kua tangihia tō tangi e  
Now your voice is heard

Ki te hī, ki te hā  
Say a hī, say a hā

Pai ake rā i te kore rawa  
That’s better than nothing at all

Ringaringa kei waho  
Hands reach out

Kapukaputia  
And grasp

Ko ngā pitopito  
With these little bits

Māoritanga kia mau (repeat)  
Take hold of Māoritanga

This is a good classroom waiata and can be used for celebrations. This waiata urges people to search out, to learn, and to hold on to te reo Māori for one’s identity.

Identify familiar words, discuss them in the context of this waiata, and add them to the ngā kupu hou chart. Review the tikanga/uara chart.

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