This song features beautiful poetic language. The first verse is about daybreak and the star Tāwera (Venus), the second is about the sounds of morning, and the third is about the gleaming calmness of the sea.

Discuss in relation to other waiata, for example “E Rere, e Tī” (44), and the bird songs from 101 Kiwi Kidsongs, including “Cheeky Little Fantail”, “Karanga Weka”, “Kiwi”, and “Kākāpō”.

Identify the names of birds and make charts with pictures or drawings.

Focus on the descriptive phrase “whakapapa pounamu” and discuss how it describes the calmness of the sea.

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