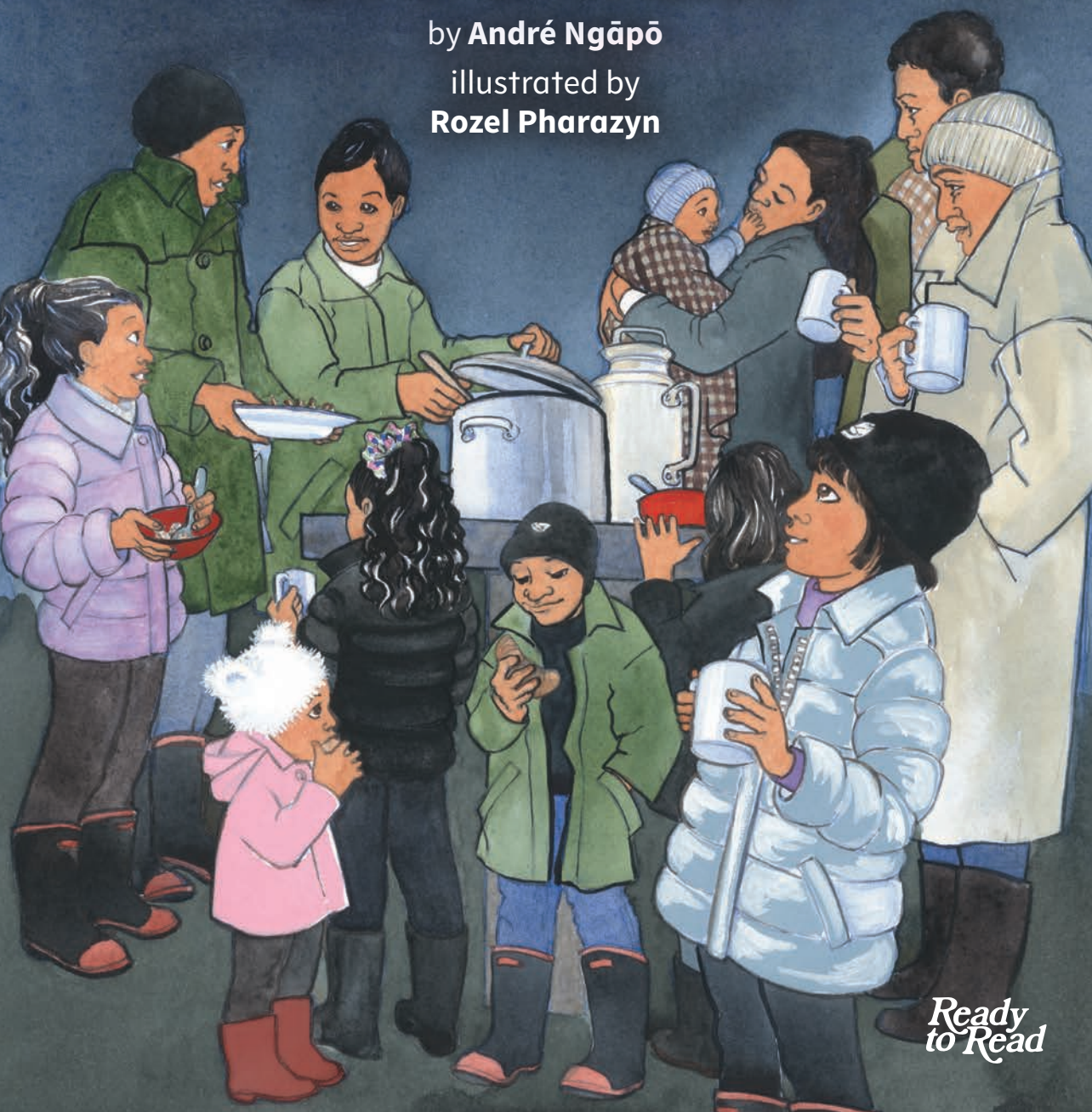


Matariki Breakfast

by André Ngāpō

illustrated by
Rozel Pharazyn



*Ready
to Read*

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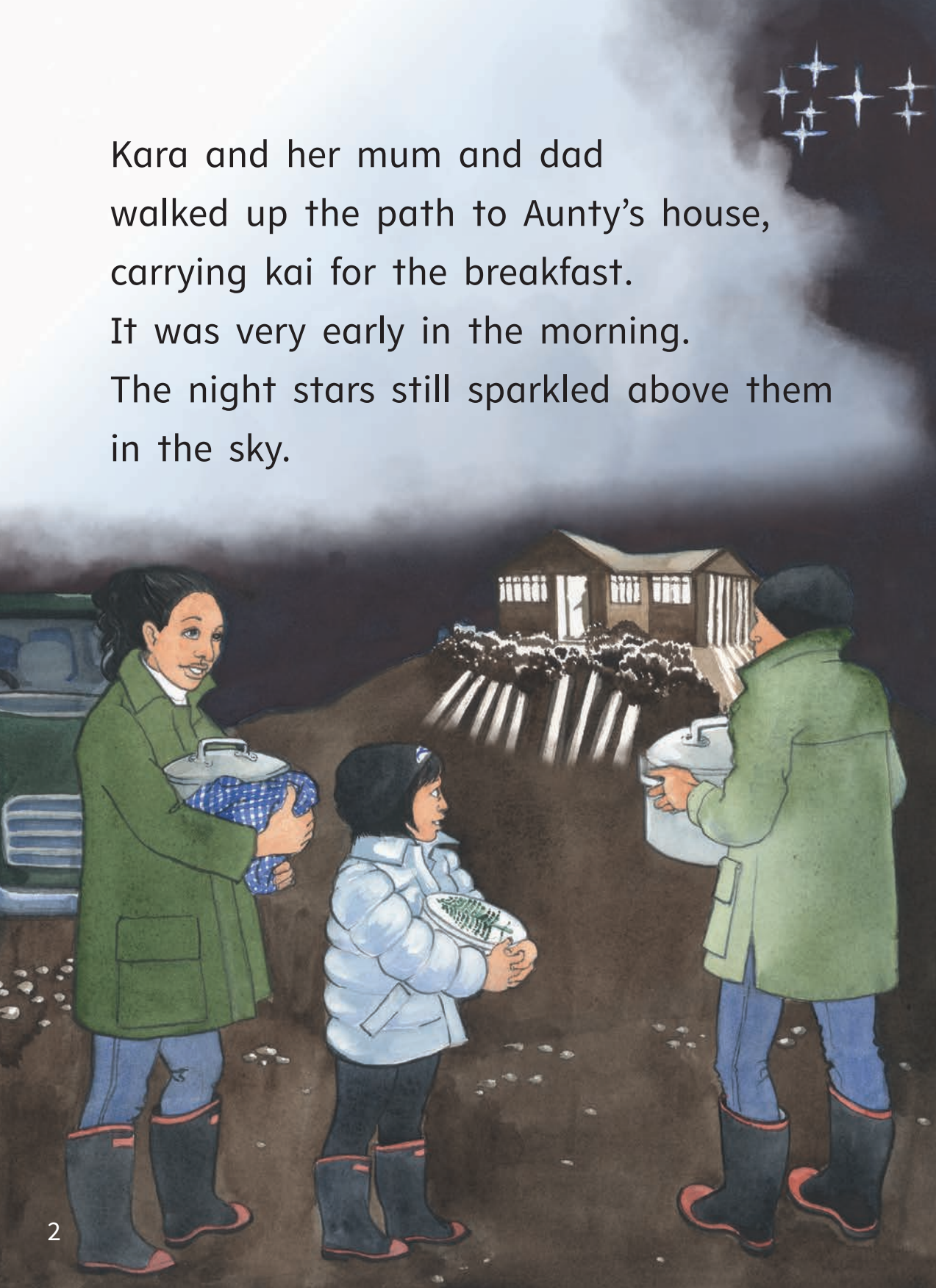
This book includes a traditional story about Matariki, a story that the author, André Ngāpō (Ngāti Tamaterā, Tainui/Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki), remembers from his childhood. Many iwi have their own versions of this story.

aroha (a-raw-ha) love
iwi (ee-we) extended group or tribe
kai (kye) food
Kara (Ka-rah)
kia ora (kee-a orah) a greeting
Koro (Kaw-raw) Grandad
Matariki (Mah-tah-rik-key)
the constellation of seven stars
that appears in late May/early June;
the brightest star in the group of
seven stars is also called Matariki

Māui (Mah-we) a hero who appears in
many traditional stories in Māori culture
and across the Pacific
Nau mai. Haere mai.
(No-mye. High-reh mye.) Welcome. Come
here.
Tama-nui-te-rā
(Tah-mah-noo-ee-teh-raa) the sun
Wai (Wye)
whānau (far-no) family

For more support with pronunciation, go to www.readytoread.tki.org.nz to hear an audio version of the text.

Kara and her mum and dad walked up the path to Aunty's house, carrying kai for the breakfast. It was very early in the morning. The night stars still sparkled above them in the sky.



“Nau mai! Haere mai!” cried Aunty.
“Come in, come in.”

Delicious smells filled the air.

The family put their kai in the kitchen and went into the living room.

“Happy Matariki!” the whānau called.

“Kia ora,” said Koro. “Everyone is here. Time for a story. Wai, come and tell us a Matariki story.”

“Yes!” said Kara. “Tell us the story of why we have a Matariki breakfast.”

“Well,” said Wai, “come and sit down, and I will tell you. The Matariki stars will be returning home this morning. And they will be hungry after their long journey.”



Some people in our iwi tell the story of how Māui and his brothers slowed Tama-nui-te-rā, the sun. Tama-nui-te-rā was so hurt by this that he hid away from everyone.



Without Tama-nui-te-rā in the sky,
the land grew colder and colder.
Winter was born, and the people
grew sadder and sadder.
They missed the sun.

Matariki, the star, was a cousin
of Tama-nui-te-rā. Matariki
and her six daughters decided
to go and find Tama-nui-te-rā
and try to bring him back.



The seven stars sang to Tama-nui-te-rā and sparkled their light onto him.

Tama-nui-te-rā felt the warmth of the music and light.

Slowly, he started to heal.

Slowly, he came out of hiding.”

“The seven stars went away and brought back the sun,” said Kara.

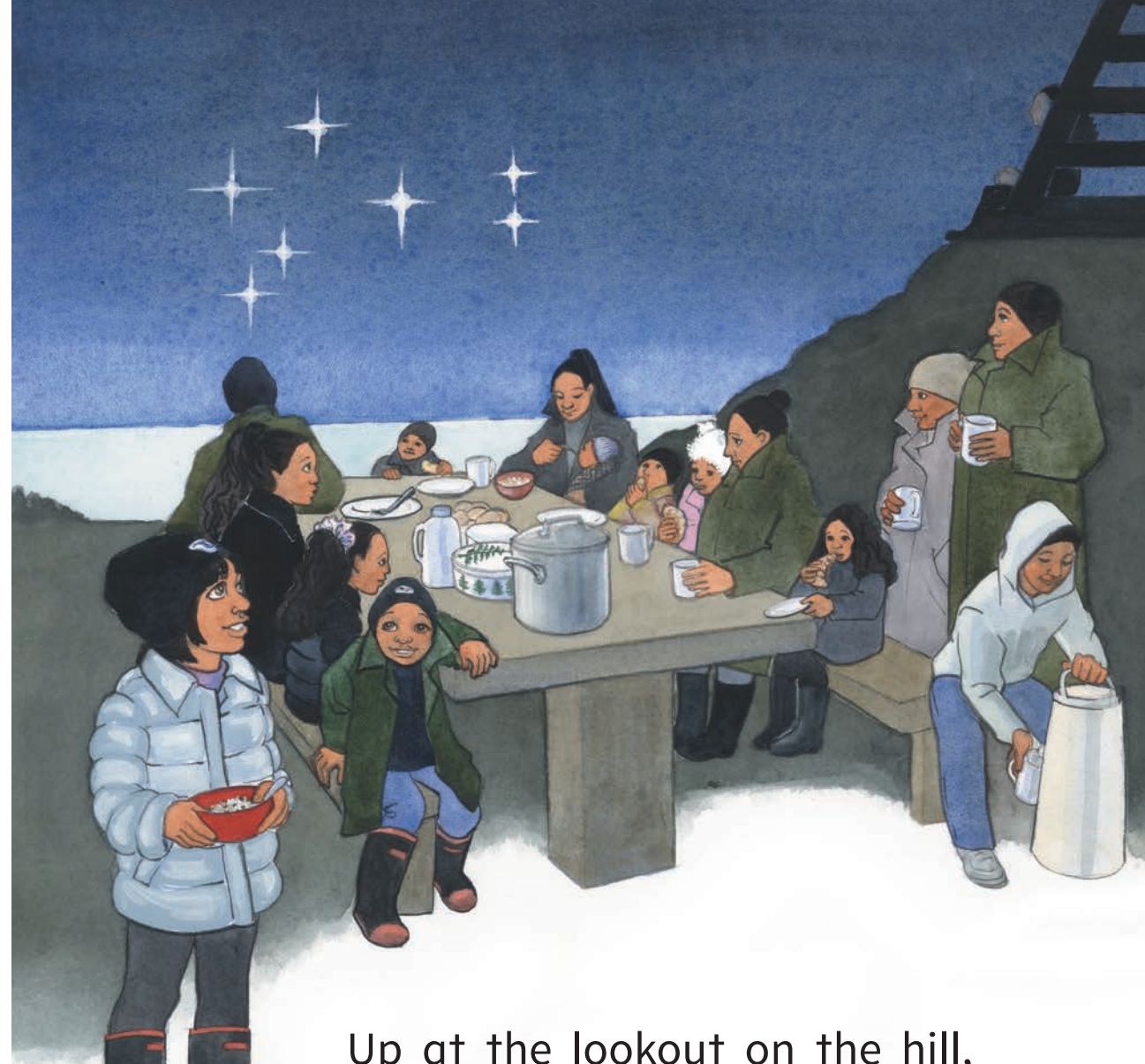
“Yes,” said Wai. “Every year, the Matariki stars disappear – and then they come back.

When they return, they show us that a new year is starting. The sun will return, and the days will grow longer. The plants will have sunshine to grow, and we will have food to eat. And that is why we have this breakfast together – to celebrate and remember.”

“And to show our aroha to each other,” said Koro.



“That’s right,” said Aunty.
“And to show our aroha to Matariki
and her daughters, we will go to
the lookout and eat our breakfast
with them. Come and put on your
warm clothes. It’s time to go.”



Up at the lookout on the hill,
the Matariki stars were shining.
The air was very cold,
but the Matariki breakfast
was warm and delicious.



The story that Wai tells in this book is one that André Ngāpō remembers his grandmother telling him when he was young.

Kara looked up at the starry sky.
“Happy Matariki,” she whispered.

This book is for students to read and enjoy after they have become very familiar with the big book during many shared reading sessions.

Scan the QR code or use the short URL to go directly to an audio recording of this book.



Matariki Breakfast

bit.ly/2CrtakW

