

## Choosing a book for the class library

**Approach:** Team

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Resources:** Two sets of 6 books: YEAR 4: *Princess Jacinda*, Pauline Cartwright; *Samantha's Story*, Jenny Scown & Trish Gribben; *The Best Loved Bear*, Diana Noonan & Elizabeth Fuller; *The Pirates' Mixed-up Voyage*, Margaret Mahy; *The Fleas*, Jane Buxton; *Hinepau*, Gavin Bishop;



YEAR 8: *Fortunate Flats*, Gaelyn Gordon & J. Tartton; *Saved by Ryan Kane*, Pauline Cartwright; *The Tricksters*, Margaret Mahy; *Tanith*, Sheryl Jordan; *Skateboarders*, Gaelyn Gordon; *Hinepau*, Gavin Bishop.



### Questions/Instructions

Imagine your team has been given a special job to do. Your class has asked you to be the book committee, and you have the special job of choosing one new book for the form 2 class library. You are to make your choice from 6 books which have been written by New Zealand authors.

It is specially important that everyone on your committee has a say, and that your whole committee agrees on the book you will buy. You will need to have good reasons for choosing the book, so that you can explain your choice to the rest of the class. First I want each of you to look at each of the books on your own, and to think about which book you would choose. I also want you to think of the reasons why you would choose that book. You can have about 5 minutes to have a good look at the books, starting now.

**Set out the 6 books. It is important that each student work on their own and look at each of the books.**

**After no more than 5 minutes:**

Now I want each of you to tell the rest of the group the book you would choose, and your reasons for choosing that book.

**Each student tells and justifies their choice.**

Now I would like your group to work together to agree on one book you would choose for your class library. You need to think of the reasons for choosing that particular book. Do that now.

**After no more than 5 minutes:**

You've chosen a book for the form 2 class library. Now I want your committee to tell me what you would tell the class. Explain why you have chosen this particular book.

INDIVIDUAL CHOICES	% responses	
	y4	y8
Year 4 — book chosen		
The Fleas	27	
Princess Jacinda	25	
The Best Loved Bear	22	
The Pirates' Mixed-up Voyage	13	
Samantha's Story	7	
Hinepau	6	(11)
Year 8 — Book chosen		
The Tricksters	27	
Fortunate Flats	17	
Saved by Ryan Kane	16	
Tanith	16	
Skateboarders	13	
Hinepau	(6)	11
Justification of choice		
strong	2	8
moderate	34	47
weak	64	45
Strongest reason for choice		
author	2	5
topic or genre	30	36
visual features	40	31
other	28	28

GROUP CHOICES	% responses	
	y4	y8
Book chosen — year 4		
Princess Jacinda	34	
The Fleas	27	
The Best Loved Bear	14	
The Pirates' Mixed up Voyage	12	
Samantha's Story	3	
Hinepau	3	(9)
Book chosen — year 8		
The Tricksters		30
Tanith		17
Saved by Ryan Kane		16
Fortunate Flats		13
Skateboarders		12
Hinepau	(3)	9
Groups unable to agree on 1 preferred book	7	3
Quality of argument in support of the book chosen		
very high	4	14
quite high	21	36
moderate	45	36
low	30	14

### Commentary

The same procedures and instructions were given for the year 4 and year 8 versions of these matching tasks, but the selection of books differed. These tasks were primarily focused on how students select reading material and the arguments they use to support their decisions.