READING

A folk tale

1 **Read the folk tale and match the names (1–3) with the people (a–c).**

1 Manata ☐
2 Matakauri ☐
3 Matau ☐

a the young man
b the terrible giant
c the beautiful girl

The story of Lake Wakatipu

The Māori people of New Zealand have different stories about their country and how it began. One popular Māori story is about Lake Wakatipu. This lake is in the shape of the letter 'S' and there are high mountains all around it.



The story is about the beautiful daughter of a Māori chief. Her name was Manata, and she loved a young man called Matakauri. They wanted to get married, but Manata's father said no because Matakauri was not important. One day, a terrible giant called Matau came down from the mountains and took Manata. Her father was very upset and worried. 'The man who rescues Manata can ask her to marry him,' he said. Many men were afraid of the giant because he was very strong and dangerous. But Matakauri's love for Manata was strong too, so he rescued her and she became his wife.

However, Matakauri was unhappy because the giant was still alive. One winter day, he went back to the giant's home. Matau was sleeping on a bed of dry leaves, when Matakauri started a fire under him. Soon Matau's body was burning, although his heart was still beating. The giant's dead body made a big hole in the ground, in the shape of the letter 'S'. The snow on the mountains melted because of the fire and ran into the hole. This created Lake Wakatipu.



Today, people still tell this story. The water in the lake goes up and down, and people say it is the beating heart of the dead giant!

2 **Read the folk tale again and check the meaning of the words in the box in a dictionary. Then complete the sentences.**

beat	~~burn~~	chief
giant	melt	rescue

1 Cook the vegetables on a low heat. Don't _burn_ them!
2 The _____ was the most important person in the village.
3 Ice creams _____ in the hot sun.
4 Heroes _____ people from dangerous situations.
5 Does your heart _____ faster when you're excited or nervous?
6 The _____ in the folk tale was ten metres tall!

3 **Are the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false)?**

1 Manata's father wasn't an important person. F
2 Matakauri wasn't a chief. ___
3 Matakauri and Manata got married after the giant died. ___
4 Matau died in the water when the snow melted. ___
5 Matau's body made a big hole that looked like a letter. ___
6 People tell the story to explain why the water in Lake Wakatipu moves. ___

4 **Choose from the options and complete the sentences in your notebook so they are true for you.**

1 I *think* / *don't think* Matakauri was an important person because ....
2 I *like* / *don't like* the ending of this story because ....
3 I *believe* / *don't believe* folk tales are just for little children because ....

LIVEWORKSHEETS