



Ben

Ben just turned 11 this summer. His dad is from Samoa and his mum from Hong Kong and they all live together with Ben's grandpa and baby sister. Ben just loves water and wants to be a life guard when he grows up. His mum often jokes, that he was born with webbed feet... He loves his dad's chop suey, and could listen to stories his grandpa tells for hours. Ben likes to act cool but sometimes has to admit that he likes playing with his baby sister, even though she dribbles and is noisy. He can change her nappy if he really has to. Ben thinks school's ok, and likes it best when it involves being outdoors or in the swimming pool. Summer is his favourite time of year.

Rua

Rua is Jess's twin and goes to Te Kohanga Reo as well. He wants to be a famous All Black when he grows up. When he's not running after a ball, Rua climbs trees and doing anything that is exciting and just a little bit risky. His favourite time is when his dad takes him fishing even though he doesn't like sticking the bait on the hook. If it was up to Rua he would have his own room, complete with a climbing wall! For his next birthday he asked his mum and dad to bring his whanau together for a barbeque.



Kate

Kate's ancestors moved here from Scotland and Ireland, a long, long time ago. Kate's favourite thing is a good book (or two) and a beanbag in a quiet corner. She also likes exploring with Ben, down by the old river bed. He is a bit like a brother to her and they can hang out for ages. Ben's twin cousins and Patch, the dog often come along too. Kate's a year 4 student. But when she grows up she wants to be like Hermione in Harry Potter, or maybe study science. She'll decide later. About the only thing Kate is scared of is bugs (although she would never admit to that).



Jess

Jess is 4, goes to Te Kohanga Reo and was born with a paintbrush in her hand. She wants to be an artist when she grows up. She always gets into trouble with her twin brother Rua – he's always finding new mischief. Jess shares a room with Rua. Their mum is Pakeha and their dad links to several different Maori Iwi from Northland. Jess and Rua have an older sister Aroha. Jess loves mat-time at school (if there is singing involved) and pudding is her favourite part of Sunday family dinners. When Jess is sad, she likes having her Aunt Nga read stories to her.



Patch

Patch is a brave and alert little dog best described as bouncy and over-curious. Patch was adopted from the SPCA by Kate and her family. No one knows what breed he is – he seems to be a bit of this and a bit of that. Patch loves kumara and sausages and of course his daily juicy bone! He doesn't like wrestling or rough games, but loves playing ball and exploring with Kate and her friends when he can. Patch is quite a proud dog, but loves being praised nonetheless, which he welcomes with loud barking.

