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***Tangaroa's Gift – Te Koha a Tangaroa* by Mere Whaanga, translated by Ngawini Kereru | Whakamaori**

Publisher: Scholastic

RRP \$19.00

2016 edition.

Beautifully presented, this winner of the Gaelyn Gordon Award in 2011 for a much-loved book, is a redesigned edition of the 1990 publication. Mere Whaanga has woven her three skills of writer, illustrator and water colour artist to construct this modern myth of how the paua got its beautiful shell.

The sad tale of Paua, lonely and bullied by other sea creatures, is told in In English and te reo on facing pages, with soft water colour illustrations of the beach, coast and underwater that flow across the bottom half of each double page.

Mere Whaanga has skillfully used the palette of the paua shell:

“Tangaroa took ...

- *the coolest blues of the ocean,*
- *the freshest green of the forest,*
- *a tinge of violet from the dawn,*
- *a blush of pink from the sunset,*
- *and, over all, a shimmer of mother-of-pearl ...”*

Her illustrations reflect the swirls of the sea, its creatures, and the swirls of Maori motifs.

Recommended for children aged 3 – 7, this book could easily be used in any classroom study of myths – or of art – to an older age group.

Reviewed by Chris Wright

