

Zoomy Rabs and the Puriri Moth

Kaia and her teddies, Ned Kelly and Zoomy Rabs were walking home with Mum after a visit to the shops.

"Hey! What's that on the footpath?"

"Is that a big butterfly?" Zoomy asked.

"No! It is a Puriri moth" said Mum.



A Puriri Moth

Can you draw a Puriri Moth?

"It doesn't look very well" said Ned as Kaia gently picked up the large moth and carefully put it in her tri-cycle tray to take home with them.

When they got home the three friends put the moth into a warm box so that it could rest. "What can we do to help make the moth feel better?" Kaia asked Mum. "Well...I was once told that to heal a sick Puriri moth you have to sing them a 'special song from your heart'.

Kaia, Zoomy and Ned Kelly all looked confused as they had no idea what Mum was talking about!

With the Puriri moth safely in its warm box, the three friends gathered around and sang all of their favourite songs to it.

They had sung as loudly as they could, and they had sung all of their favourites! Even Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, even though it wasn't Christmas! But nothing seemed to make any difference to the sick moth. After a while they went outside and sat beneath the lemon tree

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to discuss what else they could sing and to give their voices a rest as they were beginning to sound all croaky!

That night, Zoomy Rabs was fast asleep but something had woken him up. It was a sad chirruping sound coming from under the bed!

He carefully slid off the bed and then wriggled quietly along on his belly until he was able to look into the box. He could see that the Puriri moth was crying!

"Why are you crying? Zoomy whispered to the Puriri moth.

"I want to fly" said the Puriri moth. "And I can't because my wings won't work!"

"Oh!" Said Zoomy Rabs, and to comfort the moth he stroked his back and hummed to him. His humming didn't have words, but the sound must have comforted the little moth, as he started humming along in tune with Zoomy.

As the night passed the Puriri moth and Zoomy hummed and sang to one another.

Without even realising it Zoomy Rabs had begun to sing ancient rabbit songs that must have come from somewhere deep in his memory as he had never sung them before.

And as the moon shadows moved around the room, the Puriri moth stretched out his wings and started to flex them.

"I feel so much better! Sang the moth, would you like to come and fly with me?"

"That would be so cool!" And so, they quietly tip-toed out of the bed-room and down the hallway and out through Stinky Puss's cat door.

"Climb on my back and hold on tight!" instructed the Puriri moth.

Zoomy climbed on, and away they went! "Whoopee!" Zoomy cried out! And even though he was only wearing his pyjamas he still felt nice and warm.

Can you draw Zoomy Rabs in his Pajama's flying on the Puriri Moth?

The Puriri moth flew over the Pohutakawa tree and Zoomy poked out his tongue at the Pohutakawa people! And then they swooped up Nae Nae Road and did a 'loop de loop!'

Mum hadn't been able to sleep very well, and so she was standing at the kitchen sink drinking a glass of water when she saw something flash past in the sky.

"Huh? That looked like Zoomy Rabs! Mum chuckled, I must be dreaming!"

In no time at all the orange tint of the sun could be seen on the horizon and the Puriri moth swooped down to land by the apple tree.

"That was awesome!" Zoomy told the moth.

"Thank you for singing me your special song" replied the Puriri moth.

"I did?" Zoomy asked.

"Yes" said the Puriri moth. "It was a special because you could see I was sad, and you wanted to help me and that was what made it special". The Puriri moth made one last happy sounding chirrup and flew off into the sky with a whoosh!

"Come on Zoomy, bed time" Stinky Puss instructed. Zoomy did the biggest yawn and followed Stinky quietly inside and hopped into bed and soon was fast asleep!

Later that morning Kaia and Ned had gotten up early to check on the Puriri moth.

"Mum! They yelled, the Puriri moth has gone!

"It's ok!" Said Zoomy Rabs who had just woken! And he took a big gulp of air and said without any pauses; "the moth is okay, because I saved him with a special song, and we flew around the street and I saw the Pohutakawa people and..."

"**ZOOMY**, stop!" Cried out Kaia and Ned! "You're telling lies again!"

"But it's true!" Shouted back Zoomy Rabs! "It really happened!

Mum had heard everything that Zoomy had said, and she remembered what she thought she had seen in the night! "So, it was real!" Said Mum to herself.

"That's enough Kaia and Ned! Stop being mean to Zoomy. If he said he flew on the moths back, then that is what he did!"

"Mum" said Ned Kelly "I really don't think rabbits can fly on Puriri moths."

"Well replied Mum, I can assure you they do!"

Zoomy felt triumphant and poked out his little pink tongue at Kaia and Ned. He also wiggled his long ears at them, although one ear, his left one, had a funny little bend in it!

"Ha Ha!" Zoomy Rabs said gloatingly! But straight away he felt guilty for being so rude to his best friends.

"I'm sorry" he said. "I'm sure that next time the Puriri moth will take us all on an adventure with him!"

"Do you reckon he'll be back then?" Kaia asked hopefully.

"Definitely!" Zoomy told her. "He's got plenty of room on his back for all of us! Even Stinky Puss can come!"

And so, the three friends spent the rest of the day discussing all of the amazing places that they'd like to visit!

One day they would all have a Puriri moth adventure!

Can you draw Zoomy Rabs, Kaia, Ned Kelly & Stinky Puss flying on the Puriri Moth?