

Zoomy Rabs and the Pohutakawa People

One evening Kaia and her two teddies, Ned Kelly and Zoomy Rabs were in bed. They had a nice bedroom that they shared with their big sister Heidi.

Tonight, Mum'd read them a story about a mother goat, her kids, and a big bad wolf and Ned Kelly got scared.

"Hey Mum, are there any wolves in our country?" "No, we don't have wolves, tigers or bears!"

Hearing this Ned felt a little happier and snuggled in closer to Kaia and Zoomy Rabs.

Zoomy Rabs leant over and whispered slyly into Ned's ear!

"But Mum didn't tell you about the Pohutakawa people did she!"

"Who are the Pohutakawa people?" Cried out Ned Kelly!

Can you draw Ned Kelly?

Zoomy Rabs made his naughty eyes go as big as he could and stretched out both of his long ears as tall as they would go, although his left ear had a funny little fold in it!

And he said; "The Pohutakawa people steal children and take them high up into their branches and...eat them!"

"ZOOMY!" You'd better stop telling lies or I'll tell Mum and she'll be angry at you! Heidi said, as she'd been listening from the doorway.

Zoomy Rabs poked out his tongue at her, as he didn't like being told what to do! Then he whispered to his friends, "You were both scared! What a good trick I played!"

"Are there really such people Kaia asked?"

"No!" Laughed Zoomy Rabs! "I just made them up!"

The following day the three friends were playing in the back yard. But Zoomy Rabs wasn't his usual happy self because he was sure he was being watched!

Stinky Puss was watching him from his favourite branch high in the apple tree... but there were also other little eyes watching him too!

"What was that? Did you see that flash by Mums flowers?" Zoomy Rabs asked Kaia.

"No I didn't see anything!"

"Ned, did you take my toy car, as I just put it down and now it's gone!" Cried Zoomy who was beginning to get annoyed!

"No, I didn't take your car!" Said Ned Kelly.

"Kids!" Mum called, time for dinner!

"Tumeke! We're starving!"

Mum had made a roast and there were heaps of golden potatoes, kumara and pumpkin to go with the leg of lamb and best of all there was pudding!

Can you draw Zoomy Rabs, Kaia and Ned Kelly eating their dinner?

After bedtime stories, the three friends were soon asleep.

Zoomy Rabs was soon far away in dream-land.

He was dreaming that he was chasing after his friends.

"Come on Zoomy Rabs!" They kept on calling out to him! But as fast as Zoomy Rabs ran, he could not catch up with them!

"Rabs! Zoomy Rabs! Wake up!"

And Zoomy Rabs woke up from his dream with an enormous fright! Because when he opened his eyes - he saw the strangest face he had ever seen!

The fairy creature's skin looked like pale green velvet, and its hair was bright red and stuck out all over its head like a brush!

Each individual hair had a little golden bell attached at the end, which tinkled every time it moved! And its eyes were large and dark and sparkled merrily like a beetles!

Zoomy then saw that there were a whole lot of these strange looking fairies!

One of the fairy creatures, who must have been the King, because he was bigger and grander looking than the others, said to Zoomy Rabs;

"Do you know who we are little rabbit?"

"Are you the Pohutakawa People?"

"Yes!" Said the Pohutakawa King.

"And we heard what you told your friends about us and we aren't very happy with you for trying to scare them!"

"Please don't eat me! Screamed Zoomy Rabs! I'm sorry that I scared my friends and made them frightened!"

"Well!" Said the Pohutakawa King leaning forward and licking his lips..." You do look like a very tasty little rabbit to me!"

Just as all the Pohutakawa people came forward licking their lips, Stinky Puss leapt in and bowed low to the King, and then whispered in his ear.

The King nodded his regal head making his little golden bells tinkle!

Stinky Puss then bit hold of Zoomy's pyjama's and carried him down the tree.

But the motion of being carried swinging under Stinky Puss had caused the little rabbit to fall fast asleep!

The next morning Ned Kelly and Kaia were awake long before Zoomy Rabs, and so they shook him awake, calling his name... "Rabs, Zoomy Rabs wake up!"

And Rabs woke with a fright because he had thought that the Pohutakawa People still had him! And when he saw his friend's faces he burst into tears!

"Don't let the Pohutakawa People get me again!" He screamed!

"What are you talking about?" Asked Kaia.

"The Pohutakawa People stole me last night...and they were going to eat me!"

"Don't tell lies Zoomy! You are just trying to trick us again!"

"But it's true! They did take me, and they were licking their lips and Stinky Puss saved me! I promise I am not tricking!"

Kaia and Ned had had enough of listening to Zoomy tell lies and so they went down to the kitchen to have breakfast, leaving Zoomy all alone crying to himself under the blankets!

Stinky Puss, who'd been watching, burrowed his way under the blankets and licked Zoomy's wet face with his itchy scratchy tongue.

"Rabbit! The Pohutakawa people don't eat rabbits!

They just taught you a lesson for being mean and tricking your friends!"

"Really?" Said Zoomy wiping his tears away. "They won't steal me and eat me?"

"No!" Said Stinky Puss...

"But you must be careful not to mention the Pohutukawa people ever again as they will always be listening!"

Can you draw the Pohutakawa Fairy King?

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