

Play name: Beware the Taniwha!

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Players: 4/5

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Yr Level: 3

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Length: 5 mins

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Genre: drama/comedy

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Yr Published: 2020

### Character List

Levi – boy aged 7/9

Lucy– girl aged 7/9

Sarah – girl aged 7/9

Jia – boy aged 7/9

Narrator

**Notes:** The narrator can be played one of the characters or a volunteer/teacher.

## SCENE 1

*The scene is set for a forest.*

Narrator            It had been a lovely hot summer. All over New Zealand families have been camping. From the Bay of Islands to Stewart Island, it was slip slop slap with sunscreen and bug spray! We are here at the edge of a Kauri forest, by a campground with a lake, where four children have become friends on their holiday. This morning, they had set off for a bush walk with their families, but it seems they may have wandered off from the big group! (*The narrator hides somewhere on stage*).

*The four children enter with backpacks, excitedly.*

Lucy                    Come on this way.

Levi                    Wow, look how big the ferns are!

Lucy                    I like them when they are curled up into a koru, like this one.

Sarah                   Move, let me see! (Accidentally pushes Levi over)

Levi                    Thanks a bunch, now I'm covered in mud!

Jia                      Yeah, you are the mud monster. Come to eat us!

Levi                    (*Rolls more in the mud and pretends to be the monster.*) I am the monster of mud. I am hungry for the taste of little children!

*The four enjoy playing monster catch and they all end up in the mud.*

Sarah                   Now we are all mud monsters.

Jia                      Look, up there! I think it's a morepork

Sarah                   Nah, they only come out at night. Just like kiwis.

Levi                    And just like mud monsters!

Lucy                    What time do you think it is? It seems like it is getting a little darker!

Jia                      I think so too. It must be night-time soon. Maybe we should go back to our families.

Levi                    But mud monsters don't have families!

Sarah                   Levi, be serious for a minute. Jia is right. We should go before it gets too dark.

Levi                      Ok. You are right. We better go before it gets dark enough for the taniwha to come.

All three                A taniwha! What's a taniwha?

Levi                      Oh it's nothing really. Nothing too scary anyway. I don't think?

All three                Tell us, tell us. What is a taniwha?

Levi                      Ok, ok. Well, it's a beast of a thing! With sharp sharp claws and drooling jaws, with teeth as pointy as scissors! But, I'm sure we will be ok, if we hurry!

Jai                        A beast!

Sarah                    Sharp claws!

Lucy                     Pointy teeth!

All three                Lets get out of here!

*All three hurriedly try to collect their belongings and clean off the mud. Then run around in circles trying to find the path. Levi gets his bag calmly and relaxes.*

Jia                        It's no use. I cannot find our way back.

Sarah                    There is no path.

Lucy                     We must have walked further away from the group than we thought.

Levi                      Looks like we will have to camp here then and wait till they come looking for us in the morning.

Sarah                    We can't do that, what about the taniwha?

Levi                      We should be ok, if you know the magic spell that sends it away, like I do.

Jia                        The magic spell? You must share it with us quick.

Lucy                     Yes, hurry, it is getting dark now!

Sarah                    Let's get out our torches!

*They all get out torches and huddle round.*

Levi                      Very well. But be careful this spell is very powerful.

Jia                        Hurry, I think I can hear it coming!

All three                *scream.*

Levi                      Ok. Ok. Now first you stand on one leg. Then you put your hands in your mouth like this and say the magic words.

*They all stand on one leg with hands in their mouths.*

Llshejfjkt jskjdkj (*Levi makes nonsense noises as he can not talk properly with his hands in his mouth*).

All three              They try to copy the noise Levi said.

Levi                      No, no. I said js eioioe oier

All three              They try to copy the new noises.

Levi                      Getting better. lef eiti ort

Sarah                    Hey, that noise was different. I think you are just joking around with us.

Levi                      Of course I am. (*He laughs a lot.*) There is no magic spell. That is so silly. There is no taniwha! Ha ha ha.

Lucy                      That was not funny.

Sarah                    I was scared.

*Levi continues to laugh and make impressions of them acting out the spell. Jia signals to the others to leave quietly and one by one they leave the stage, leaving Levi alone. He finally realises and stops laughing.*

Levi                      Hey, where did you go? Ok, ok I'm sorry. Now let's go home. Where was that path? Hey Jai, Lucy, Sarah wait up! Where are you? It's almost dark. Come on, stop hiding.

*Levi starts to look around for them in a panic. He finds their torches.*

Oh no! What has happened, they would not leave without their torches!

*(A noise in the bushes, a rustle then a loud screech)*

Help! The taniwha!!! (*Levi screams and hugs himself covering his eyes.*)

*Jai, Lucy and Sarah jump out and scare Levi. When he does open his eyes, the children are laughing.*

Jai                        You should have seen your face!

Levi                      Ok. So, you got me. Good joke guys.

Sarah                    Yeah, that was fun.

Lucy                    But, we should really try to find the group now. It is dark.

Jia                      You are right. Come on let's go together.

Levi                    Yes, let's go. But sshhh. What's that noise?

Sarah                    Levi, we are not falling for your tricks again!

Levi                    No, its not a trick. Listen!

Sarah                    Stop, or you will make me cross!

Jia                      Ssshh! No, he is right! I hear it too!

Lucy                    And me. It's getting closer, louder!

Sarah                    What is it? It sounds like a like a...

All                      Taniwha! *Scream*

*They all huddle together and close their eyes. Levi brakes off.*

Levi                    Hang on a minute! No, it's not. Look Jia, it's just your dad!

Jia                      What?

Lucy                    Oh yes, and Sarah, that's your mum I see.

All                      Woo hoo, we're saved. Are we glad to see you!

*They all Freeze in a running pose, looking towards their families.*