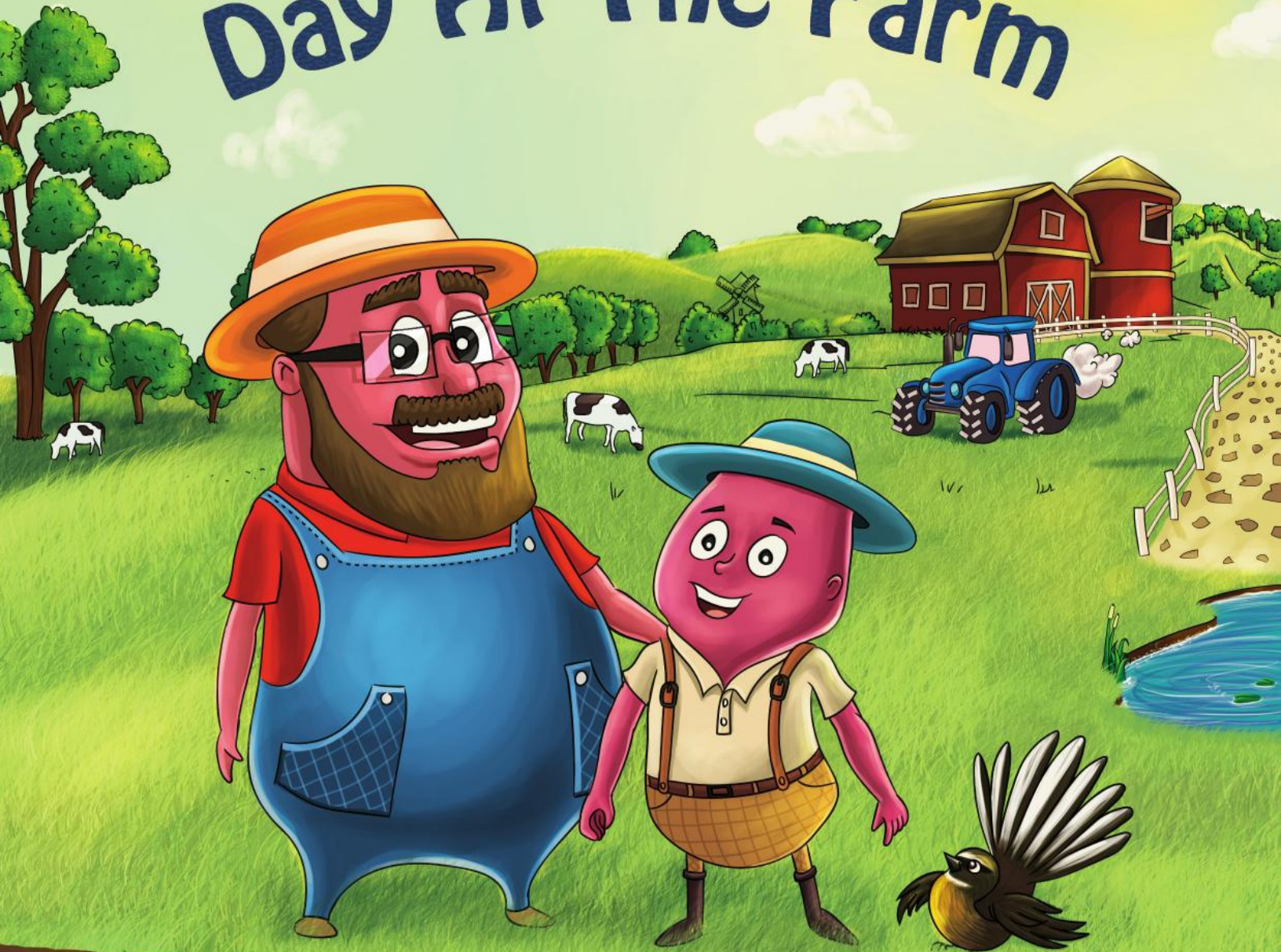


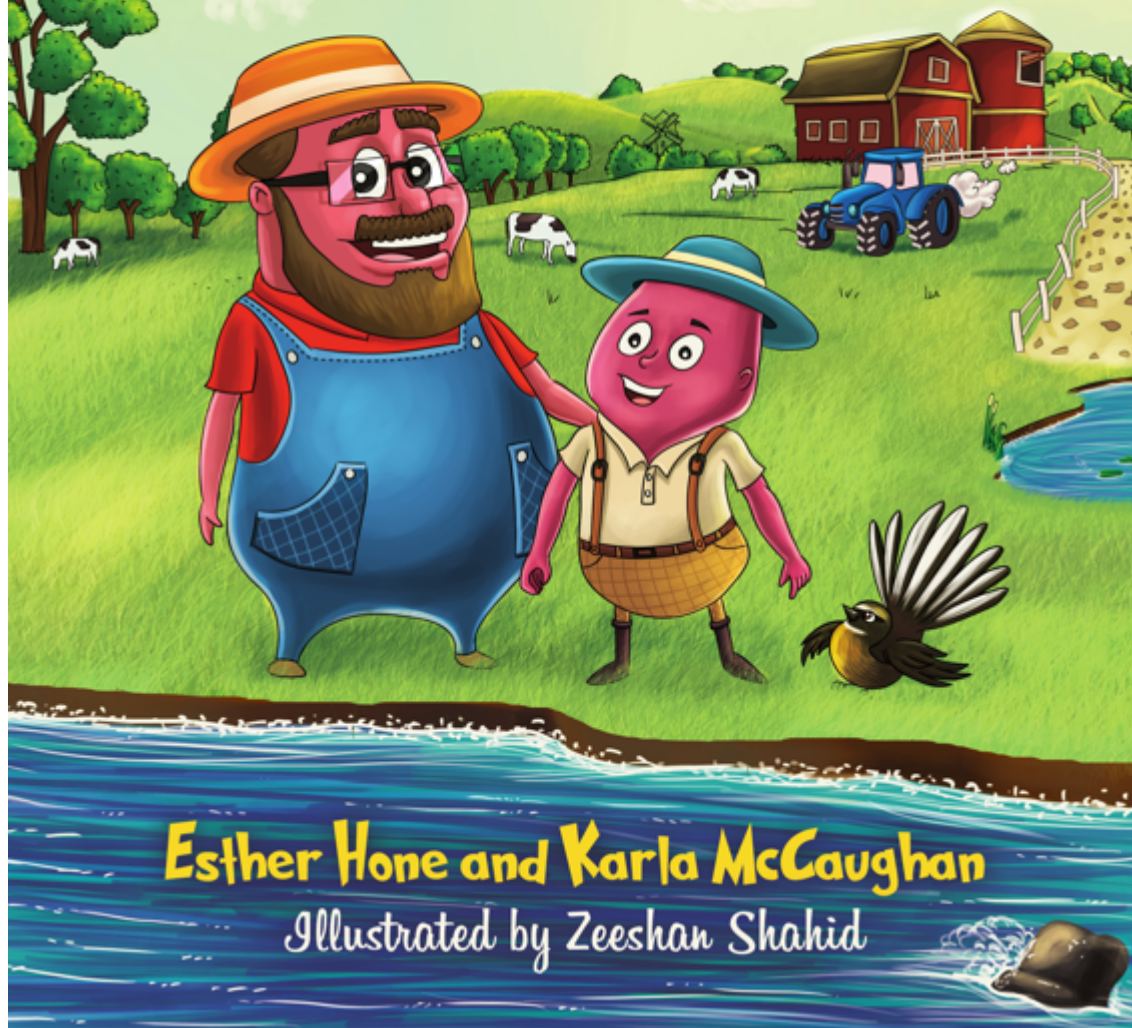
Kurious Kumara's Day At The Farm



Esther Hone and Karla McCaughan

Illustrated by Zeeshan Shahid

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This book is created as part of a resource for Water Skills for Life education programme, targeting students in Year 1 – 8 at primary school.

Research suggests that aquatic skills are developed faster and retained for longer, when they are experienced and learnt in natural environments.

Water Safety New Zealand is making water safety and Water Skills for Life an integral part of a child's learning through the Health & PE Curriculum. Furthermore, to ensure a generational improvement in children's knowledge, attitudes and behaviour around water, we will embed Water Skills for Life into authentic environmental education to make water safety skills training reflective of real-life experiences.

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Kurious Kumara got up one day, looked out past the paddocks and far, far away. Far in the distance, way over there, he could hear the cow's mooing and smell the farm air.





So, he ran to the kitchen, looking for Mum, calling for Dad.
"We're off to Grandpa's farm today; there's fun to be had".

So, they jumped in the truck and headed on their way,
to his grandpa's farm, on that warm, sunny day.

Then down flew Piwi, his piwakawaka friend,
swooping by the truck as it came round the bend.





Kurious Kumara climbed out by Grandpa's big, red shed.
They had arrived just in time for the cows to be fed.

Grandpa said, "jump on the tractor Kurious Kumara.
We will head out on the farm".

Mum said, "listen to Grandpa's rules Kurious Kumara;
they'll keep you from harm".

So, the tractor started up, and with a jolt, they were away.
Rolling across the paddocks to feed the cows their hay.



The ground was very muddy, as there had recently been heavy rain.
The water had built up, As there was nowhere for it to drain.

The farm's irrigation channels were filled to the brim.
"Let's play in the water, grandpa", Kurious Kumara said with a grin.

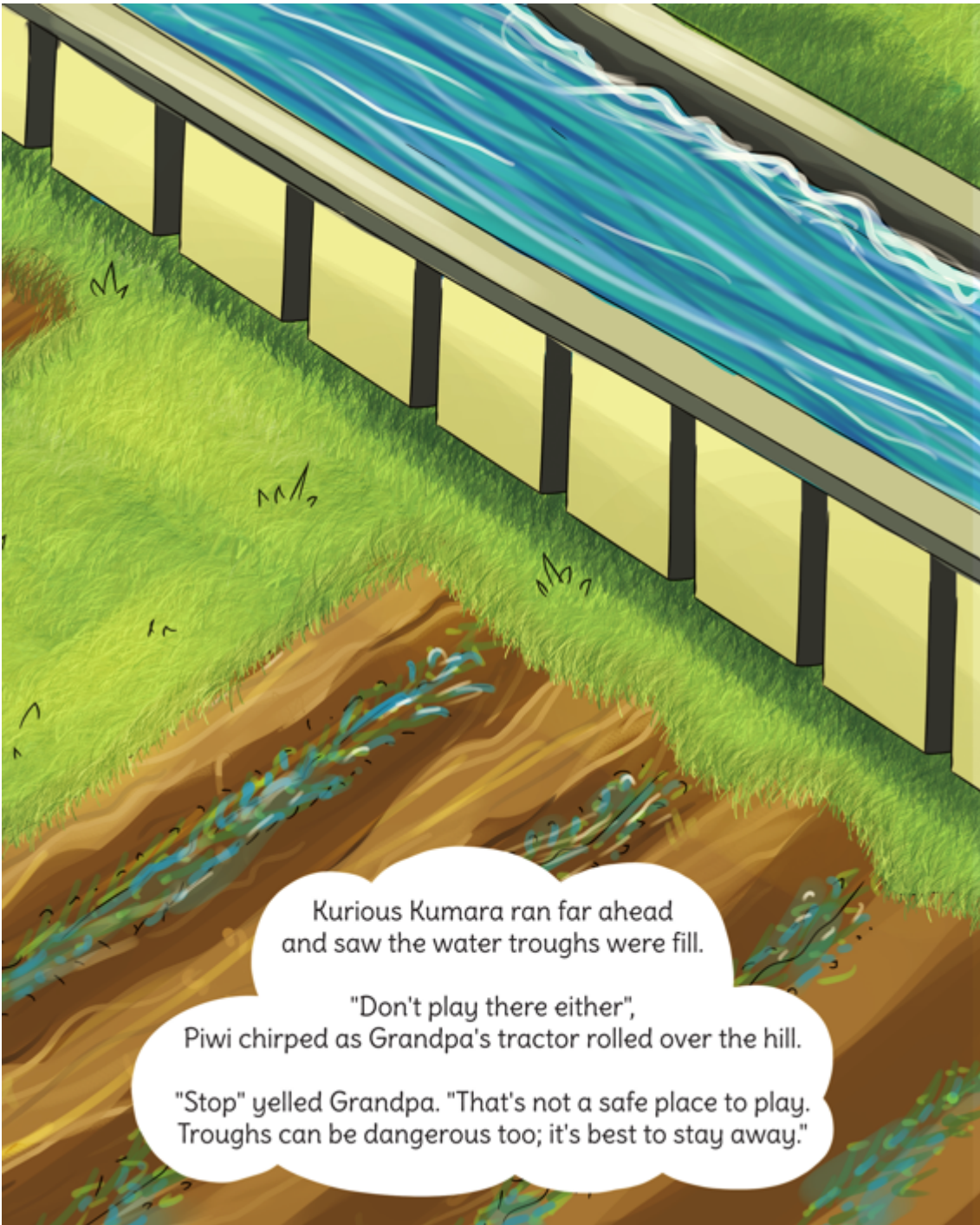




"Stop", chirped Piwi, his piwakawaka friend.
"You're forgetting the safety rules from beginning to end."

"Get out of the channel Kurious Kumara, come back over here.
That's a dangerous place to play; the water is not clear."





Kurious Kumara ran far ahead
and saw the water troughs were full.

"Don't play there either",
Piwi chirped as Grandpa's tractor rolled over the hill.

"Stop" yelled Grandpa. "That's not a safe place to play.
Troughs can be dangerous too; it's best to stay away."





"Get back on the tractor, son; we'll go check the water tanks. They might be overflowing too, causing wet and slippery banks."

So, Grandpa drove across the fields, and they saw water pouring out. "This is very dangerous, Kurious Kumara", Grandpa said, without a doubt.

"Can you see how slippery the ground is? and look at all the water pooling."

"But it's so hot today, Grandpa. Wouldn't a swim be cooling?"

"Not here", said grandpa. "This is not a safe swimming spot."
"Where we choose to swim matters; it matters a lot."

Kurious Kumara saw a ladder, and up he started to climb.
He wanted to look inside the tanks to see what he could find.

"Hop down, son," said Grandpa sternly, "You might fall in.
The water is very deep in there, and the light is very dim."



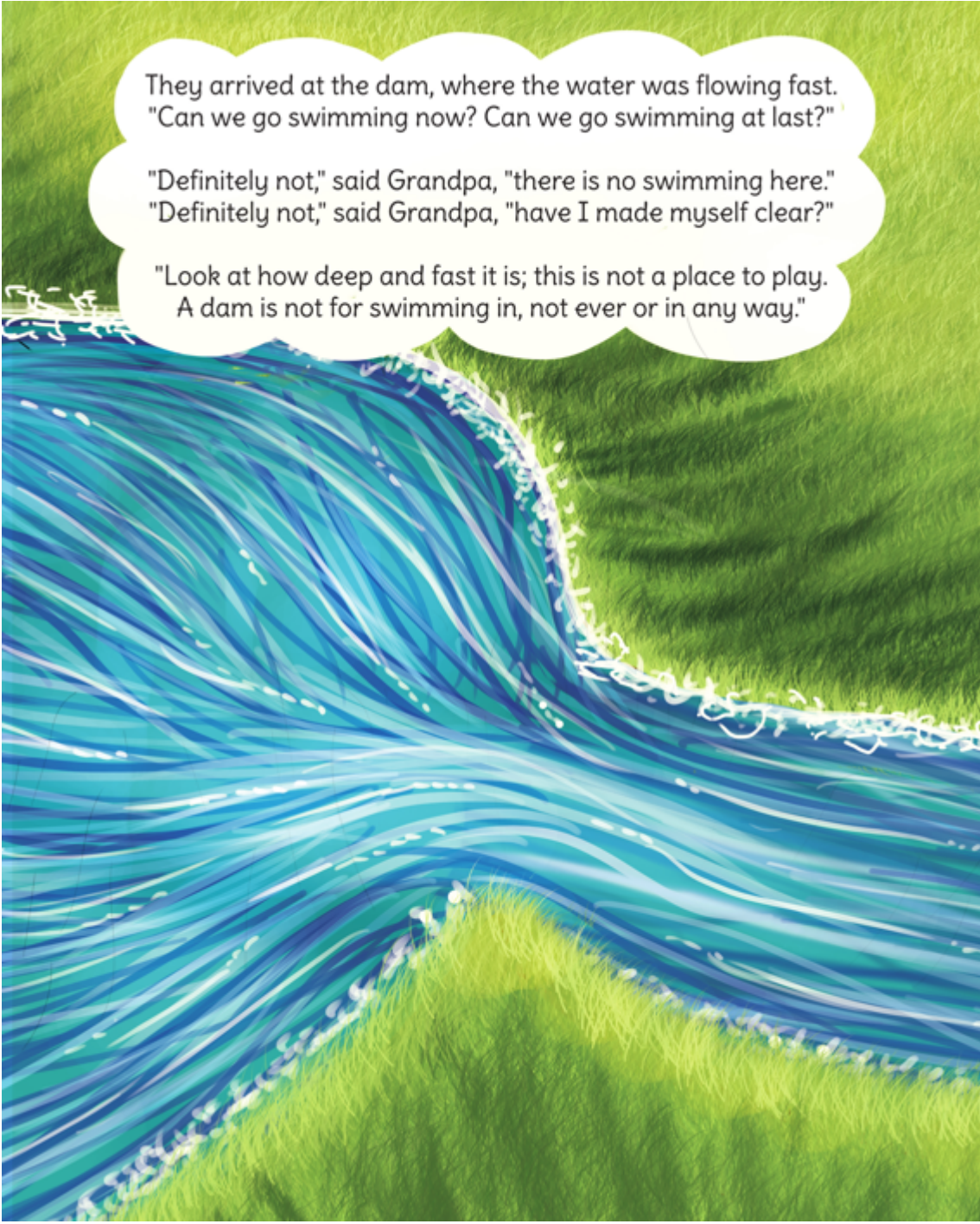


"We need to go check on the dam,
the one that supplies the farm.

Hop back on the tractor Kurious Kumara,
and we will drive past the big red barn."

"What are those, grandpa? Those deep holes in the ground.
Are they for the fence posts? Is that why they are round?"

"Good spotting, son," said Grandpa. "That's exactly what they are."
But they too are filled with water, so just look at them from a far."



They arrived at the dam, where the water was flowing fast.
"Can we go swimming now? Can we go swimming at last?"

"Definitely not," said Grandpa, "there is no swimming here."
"Definitely not," said Grandpa, "have I made myself clear?"

"Look at how deep and fast it is; this is not a place to play.
A dam is not for swimming in, not ever or in any way."

"There are many hazards on this farm, there is water everywhere,
and for that very reason, we must take extra care."

"We will head home for lunch now, some sandwiches and cake.
And then when we are finished, we will go swimming at the lake."



They got back to the house for a picnic in the sun.
"Tell us all about it," said Dad. "I bet you had loads of fun?"

"So much fun," said Kurious Kumara, "we really had a blast.
But can we have some lunch now, so we can finally swim at last?"



"We saw many water hazards, places we weren't allowed to swim.
But Grandpa said we can, after lunch, and I can't wait to go in."



Kurious Kumara was impatient, he was tired, and he was hot.
He wanted to go swimming, whether the adults were ready or not.

So, he slipped out the back door and ran to the water's edge.
He took off his clothes, and he perched on the ledge.





He kicked off his shoes and pulled his sunhat from his head.
"Stop and remember", chirped Piwi ", What Mum and Dad said."

"You must always swim with an adult Kurious Kumara no matter what you do.
You must always swim with an adult; they must be watching you."



Piwi chirped louder, "Kurious Kumara, you've made a big mistake;
if you go swimming an adult, you must take."

"Listen", chirped Piwi; that's Mum calling your name.
"Kurious Kumara, where are you?" Your Dad's calling the same.



So, Kurious Kumara ran up from the pond in that warm summer sun.
And he was thankful and happy to see his Dad and his Mum.

"Kurious Kumara", Mum said with a sigh of relief. "Kurious Kumara",
Dad smiled a smile that showed his teeth.



"Kurious Kumara, we were worried," said his Mum and his Dad.
"If something had happened, our hearts would be sad."

"I'm sorry," said Kurious Kumara, "I forgot the rule."
"I must always have an adult, At the pond or at the pool."

"I remember now," said Kurious Kumara. "It doesn't matter where I am."
"I can only go swimming when an adult says I can. "

Mum said, "We love you, Kurious Kumara, you curious little guy."
Dad said, "Now let's swim safely while the adults watch by."

"But first, let's look at the water," said Mum before we go diving in.
Sometimes there are things hidden beneath, So we should check
before we swim."

So, Mum checked the water depth, And Dad looked for rocks and logs.
"Kurious Kumara, it's safe," they said. "It's time to put on your togs."



Finally, in Kurious Kumara dived to swim and have some fun.
Supervised by his Grandpa, his Dad and his Mum.

"I'm happy now", chirped Piwi, His piwakawaka friend.
"You're following the water safety rules From beginning to end."





Find out more about

Kurious Kumara's Adventurous Days

