The Star that Didn’t Shine

1st = by Waiariki Rogers-Clement

Long ago, when the kiwi could fly and our tūpuna walked the earth, there lived a little sad star named Piata. As the teina of her whānau, she was sad because she did not shine like her tuakana, Reia.

Desperate for help, Piata visited her kuia in Whakapara. Her kuia instructed, “In the morning mist, find a pā harakeke where the korimako rests. Use the kōrari to craft a manu aute.”

Piata followed the advice. As soon as her kite was finished, a sudden gust of wind whipped her high into the air. Day turned to night and, frightened, Piata called to Hiwa-i-te-rangi: “Please take me back to my kāinga!”

Instead, Hiwa-i-te-rangi sent Reia, whose brilliant light guided her path. As Piata flew towards her sister, a warm, tingly feeling filled her chest. Piata looked at her hands and gasped—she was starting to glow! First a soft twinkle, then a dazzling burst.

With a huge *WHOOSH*, the wind launched Piata right alongside Reia. She was shining like a beautiful diamond.

"You did it!" Reia cheered. "Your time has come!"

Piata smiled. She finally understood—she didn't need to shine before because her journey was about finding her light through her own courage and the special kite she made.

Down below in Whakapara, her whānau looked up at the two sister stars lighting up the earth. Piata wasn't a sad little star anymore. She was right where she belonged, glittering happily beside her tuakana forever.