

Medauea and Tinakula

a kastom story from
the villages of Nanggu and Temotu Noi
on the south-east corner of Nendo, Santa Cruz



retold by
Hellen Marau
illustrations by
Brian Feni

Published in 2018 by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development,
P. O. Box G28, Honiara,
Solomon Islands
www.mehrd.gov.sb

Published with the assistance of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
through the Pacific Literacy and School Leadership Programme.

Text and illustrations copyright © Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development 2018

All rights reserved. Any parts of the book may be copied, reproduced, or adapted to meet local needs,
without permission from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, provided that the parts
reproduced are distributed free for educational purposes only. This book may not be reproduced for profit.

Educational services: Auckland UniServices Limited
www.uniservices.co.nz
Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū
www.lifteducation.com

Editors: Don Long and Emilie Sila'ila'i
Designer: Liz Tui Morris

ISBN 978 982 371 176 8
Item number 71176

Medauea and Tinakula

a kastom story from
the villages of Nanggu and Temotu Noi
on the south-east corner of Nendo, Santa Cruz



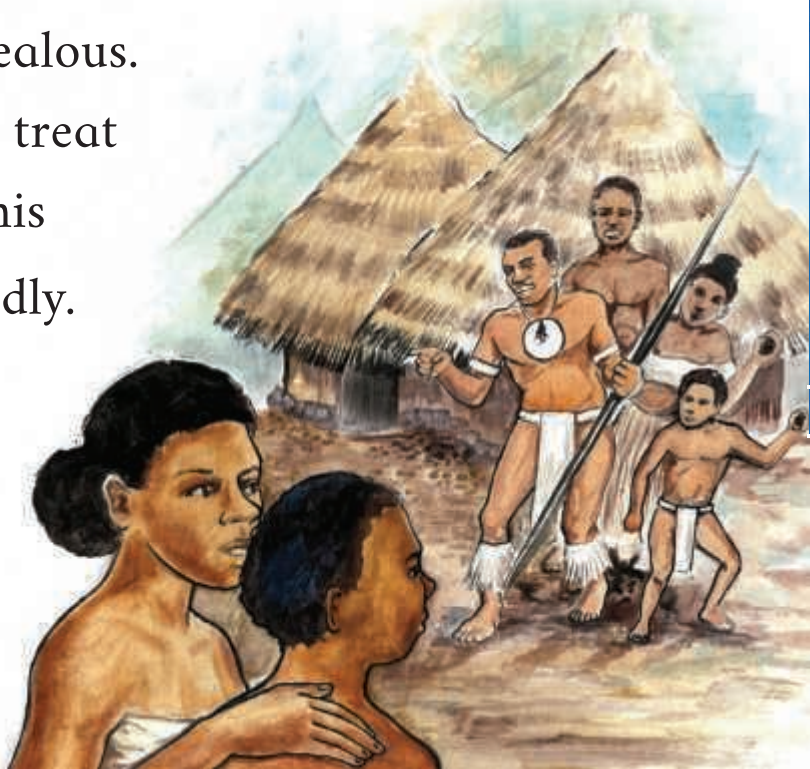
retold by
Hellen Marau

illustrations by
Brian Feni

A long time ago, a young couple lived in the village of Nanggu. When they had a son, they named him Medauea, which means “tidal wave”.

Not long after Medauea was born, his father had to leave and Medauea and his mother were left to look after themselves.

Medauea’s mother was a very capable woman and Medauea was a strong handsome boy. The people of Nanggu were jealous. They started to treat Medauea and his mother very badly.



So, without telling anyone what they were doing, Medauea's mother took them across the narrow channel to live in the village of Temotu Noi.



Sadly, things weren't much better there.

What the villagers didn't know was that Medauea was a draka' – a demi-god.

As Medauea grew older, he became friends with an old woman he called "Grandmother". Medauea talked to her about how badly the villagers treated his mother. He asked Grandmother what he should do.

Grandmother took him to a place where a particular type of large tree grew.






She told him to cut down one of the trees, hollow it out, and fill the inside with dry coconut fronds.

“Then wait for a crowd of villagers to gather and see what they do,” she told him.

Then, looking around to see if anyone was listening, she told Medauea what he would need to do next.



Medauea did exactly what Grandmother had told him to do.

When Medauea began to fill the tree with the coconut fronds, the villagers shouted insults, just as Grandmother had said they would.

This was the moment Medauea had been waiting for. He set fire to the dry fronds and started singing a special song that Grandmother had taught him:

Many times you have tried to hurt us.

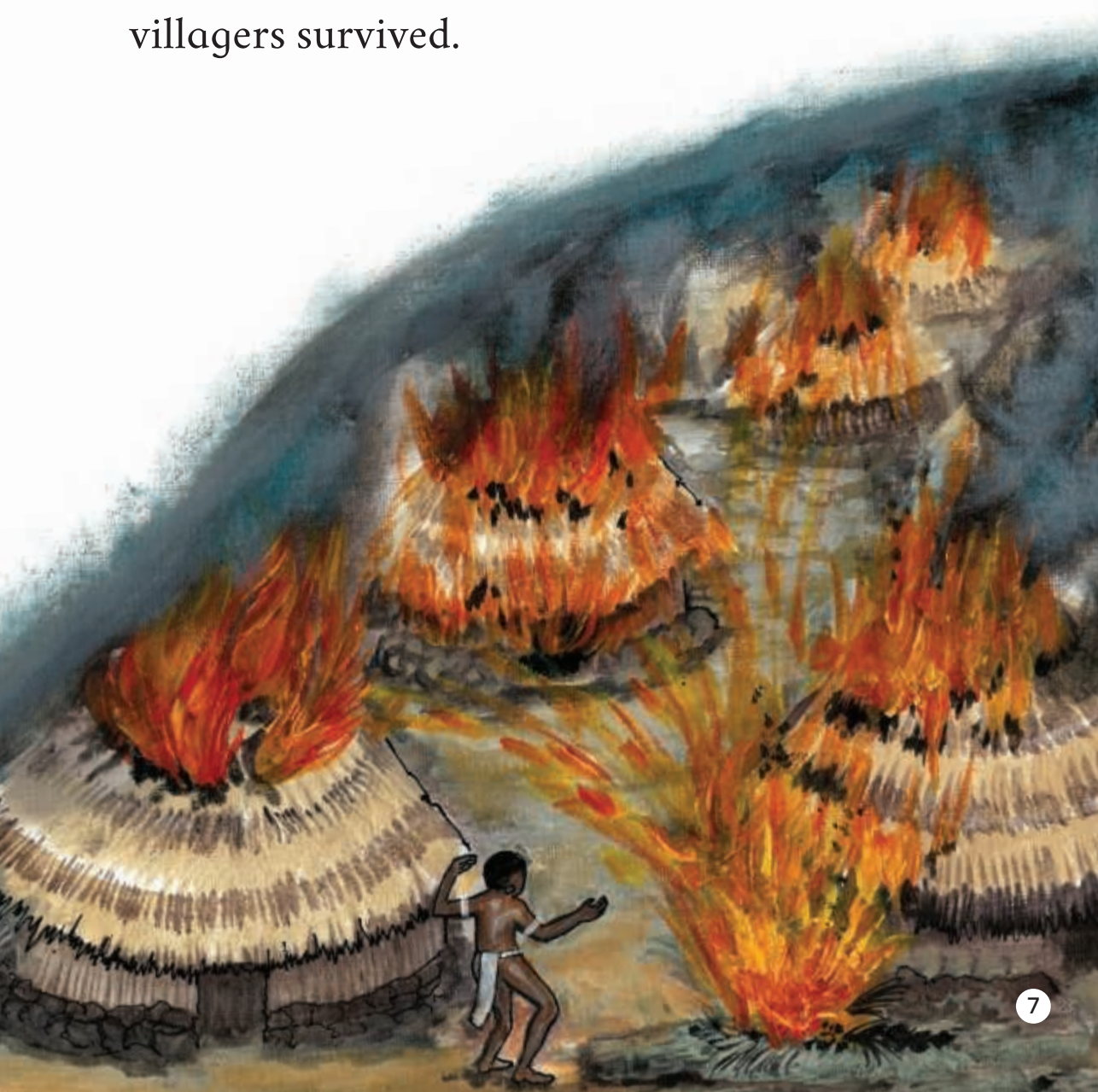
Now it is my turn.

Many times you have tried to hurt us.

Now it is my turn.



As Medauea sang this over and over,
the flames began to spread. Before long,
the village of Temotu Noi burned
to the ground. Only two of the
villagers survived.



The two villagers who survived now revealed themselves to also be draka'. They told Medauea to leave Temotu Noi and paddle out to sea.

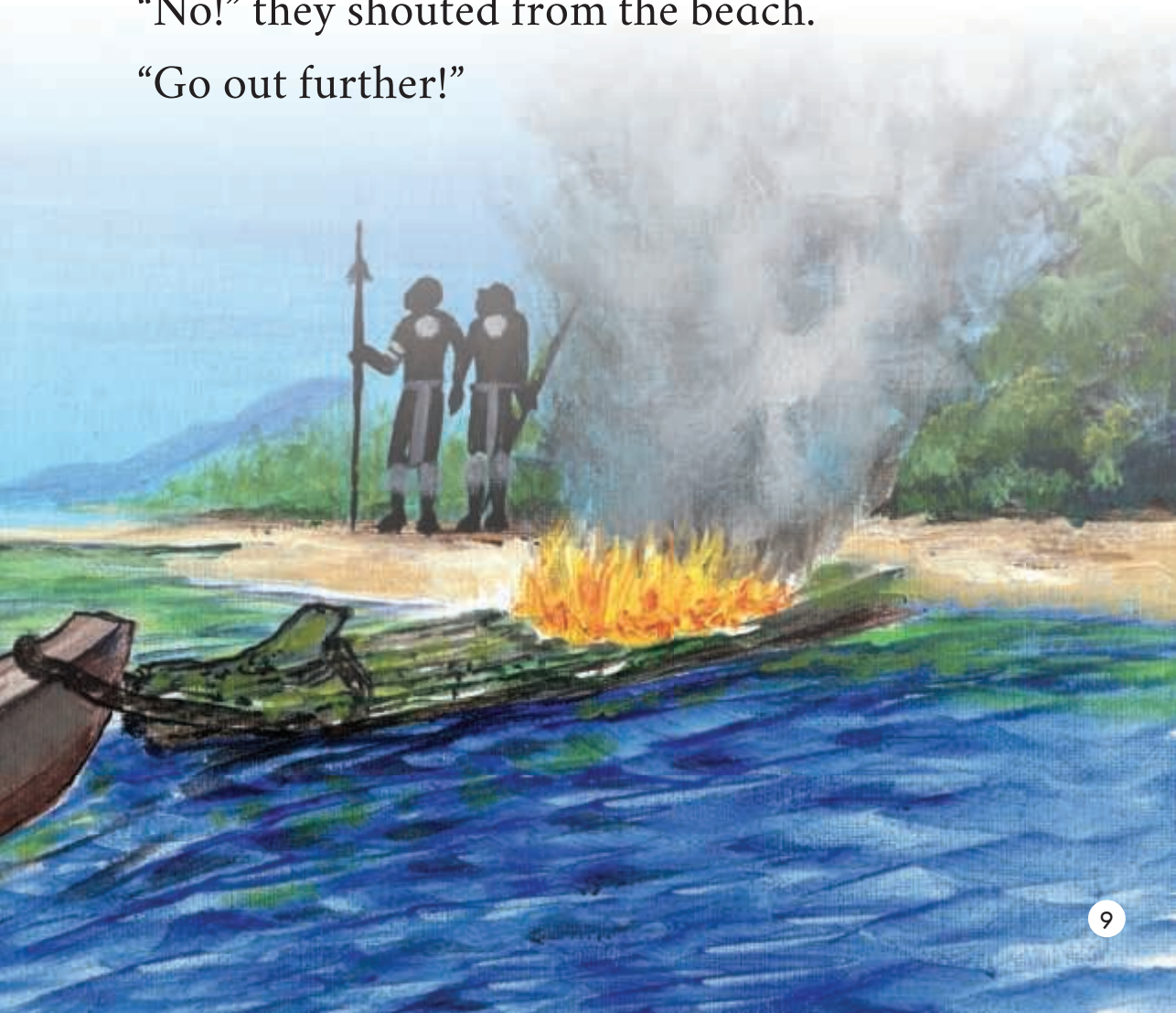
Medauea did as they said.



He tied his torch – the hollowed-out tree –
behind a canoe and towed it out to sea.

After he had paddled out a little way,
he stopped and called out to the two draka',
“Is this far enough?”

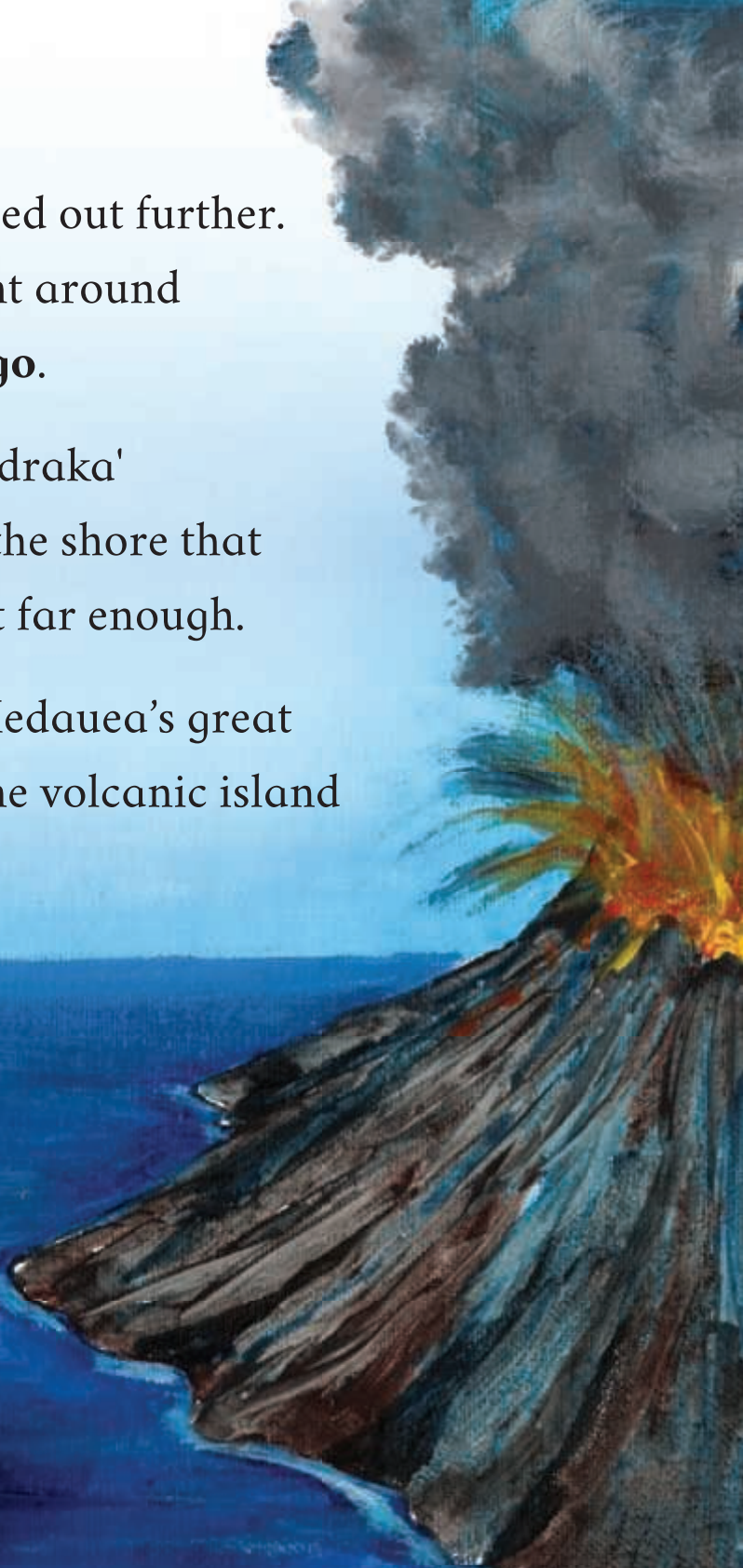
“No!” they shouted from the beach.
“Go out further!”

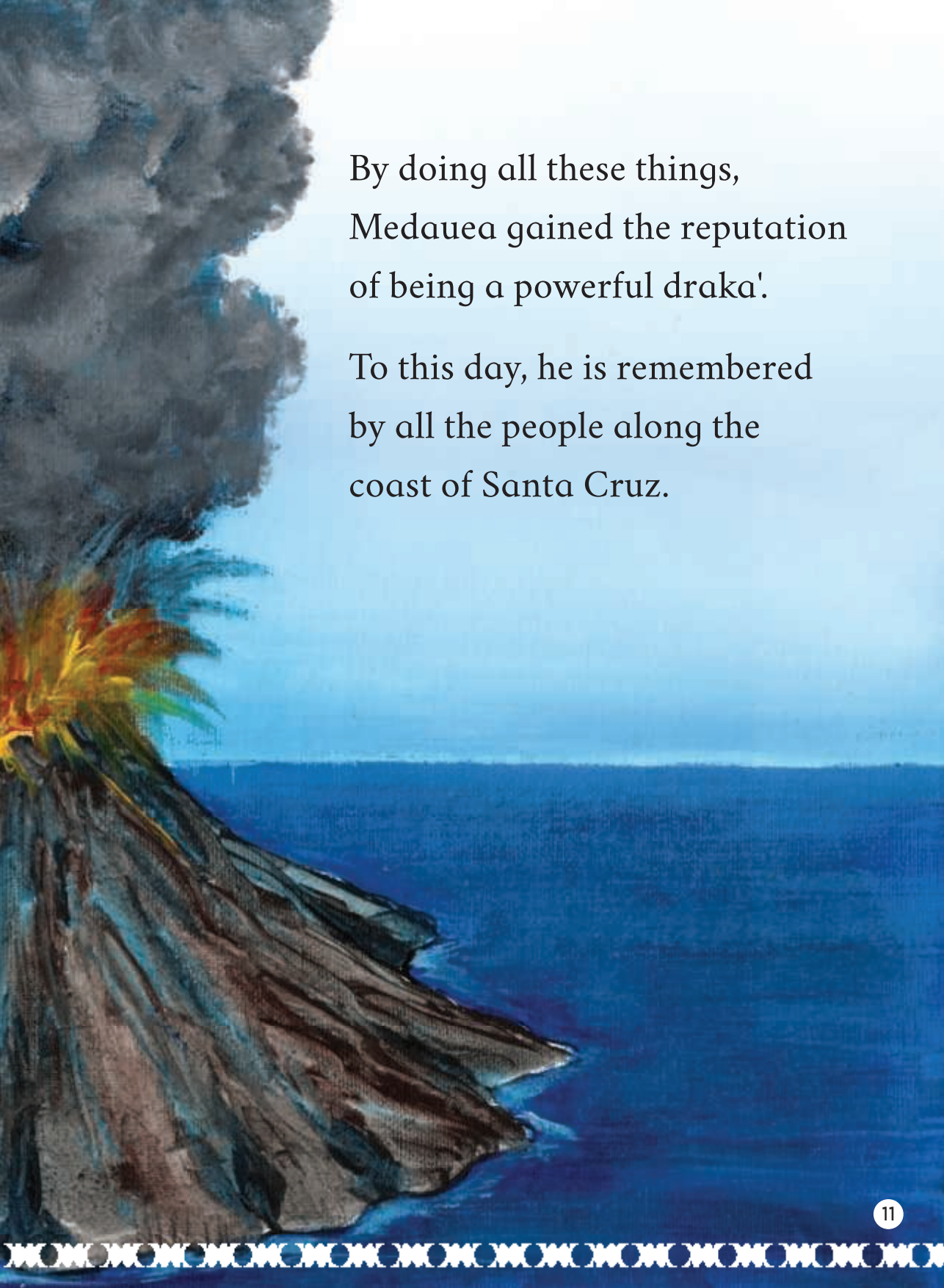


Medauea paddled out further.
He paddled right around
Ncte-kz-Nenggo.

At last, the two draka'
signalled from the shore that
he had gone out far enough.

In that place, Medauea's great
torch became the volcanic island
of Tinakula.



A painting of a volcano erupting on a coastline. The volcano is on the left, with a large plume of dark grey smoke rising from its crater. The lava flow is depicted with vibrant orange and yellow colors. The coastline is rugged and rocky, meeting the deep blue sea. The sky is a pale blue, and the overall scene is dramatic and powerful.

By doing all these things,
Medauea gained the reputation
of being a powerful draka'.

To this day, he is remembered
by all the people along the
coast of Santa Cruz.

Science in the story

When our elders tell us kastom stories, sometimes they are helping us to think about science.

They know about volcanoes and tidal waves. They know how powerful natural forces can be. For example, the forces under the earth can melt rock. We can see this when melted rock escapes from the earth through a volcano.

Even though it looks different, this melted rock is still rock, it is just in a different **state**.



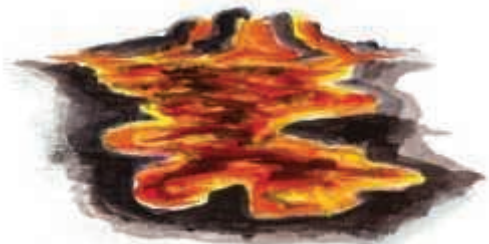
Rock is made up of matter. When scientists talk about **matter**, they mean the **physical things** that make up our world.

Matter can be in one of three states: solid, liquid or gas.

In a volcano, we can see solid and liquid forms of rock.



a **solid**
volcanic rock



flowing **liquid**
lava

Changing rock

When a volcano erupts, liquid rock (lava) rushes out of it. As the lava flows over the earth and cools, it becomes solid rock.





Changing water

Water is a matter, too.

Did you know that water can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas?

We use different names for water, depending on which state it is in.

You probably already know what water in the different states looks like, but do you know how it changes?

Here is an experiment where you can see water in all three states, and watch it change from one state to another.

1. Start with water in its solid state
– ice.



2. Put some ice out in the sun and watch what happens.



Left in the heat of the sun, ice changes into a liquid – water.



3. Now put the water into a pot and carefully heat it. Watch what happens. As the water changes into steam, you are watching a liquid change into a gas.



Did you notice that it takes a change in temperature to change water from one state to another?

Glossary



matter – a physical substance

Ncte-kz-Nenggo – the western tip of Nendo

physical things – things we can see, smell, taste, and touch (unlike ideas)

state – the way something looks and feels at a particular time



MEHRD

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

YEAR THREE

Pacific Literacy and
School Leadership Programme

ISBN 978-982-371-176-8



9 789823 711768