

STORY: MAKING A CANOE FOR RACE DAY

The Constitution Canoe Race is a big event that happens every year. Puna decided that he was going to enter, but before he could, he needed a canoe. So, Puna asked Papa Milo if he would help him. Papa replied, "Son I want you to let Natela help you build the canoe. It will be a great experience for him".

When Natela heard this he jumped up quickly, "Please dad I promise I won't get in the way... please!" They drove the truck to find a suitable tree for the canoe. They stopped on the side of the road and walked into the forest. Papa pointed to a Moota tree. "That's the one" said Papa, and they started walking towards the giant Moota. They cut down the tree using a chainsaw and then slowly dragged the tree trunk through the forest. They reached home at dusk. Puna and Papa Milo were very tired and said that they would start working on it the next day.

Before it was light outside Natela had awoken. He could not wait to start. Papa Milo showed Natela how to use a chisel to chip away at the hull of the canoe. Natela was so excited that he hit the chisel hard, and he heard a crack. His heart sank but Papa said, "It's okay Natela, your dad can show you how to patch up that little crack".

Natela continued to help Papa Milo and Puna with the canoe. After several months of hard work, the canoe was finished. Now it was time to test the new canoe. They put the canoe on top of some old tyres. They tied the canoe down with some rope. During the drive it was very bumpy, and they hit some potholes.

They kept on driving and singing to the music on the radio. Natela looked back to check on the canoe from time to time. Suddenly he yelled "Oh, NO the wheel just rolled past us Papa". Papa slammed on the breaks. They had to try and fix it quickly.

By the time they got the wheel back on, it was too dark to test the new canoe. Natela was disappointed but excited the big race was the next day. Papa, Puna and Natela waited for the Minister to bless the canoe before it touched the water for the first time. Then they launched it into the water. It glided in the water beautifully just in time to start the race. Natela and Papa waited in anticipation. They saw three canoes battling it out. They jumped up and down cheering and clapping when they saw that Puna had crossed the finishing line in 1st place.

CREATING YOUR BIG BOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- 8 A4 sheets of paper
- Crayons or pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the story
2. Follow the guidance below to create your big book
3. You can use pictures only OR words and pictures
4. Read the big book to your child
5. Ask questions before, during and after the story is read.



QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER READING

- a. What can you see in this picture? What do you think the story is about?
- b. Why did Papa Milo ask his son to let Natela help build the canoe?
- c. What is the name of the tree used to make the canoe?
- d. How did they transport the finished canoe to the sea?
- e. Why did the Minister need to bless the canoe?
- f. Why do you think Puna's canoe won the race?

COVER PAGE TITLE AND AUTHOR

Making a canoe for
race day

PAGE 1

Drawing of Moota tree
in the forest, a father
pointing to the tree,
with his two children
watching.

PAGE 2

Drawing of cut Moota
tree in the family truck.

PAGE 3

Drawing of a son
demonstrating to his
son how to use a chisel
to chip away at the
Moota tree.

PAGE 4

Drawing of 4 stages of
the canoe being built.
Each drawing shows the
canoe more developed
than the previous
picture. In the
background the name of
the month written to
show time passing.

PAGE 5

Drawing of the finished
canoe, with the son
and father placing the
outrigger on the
canoe.

PAGE 6

Drawing of a canoe
tied to the top of the
family truck with rope
and resting on old
tyres.

PAGE 7

Picture of the son and
his father in the family
truck, one wheel has
come off and rolling
down the road.

PAGE 8

Picture of a Minister
blessing the canoe.

BACK PAGE

Drawing of the canoe
race, many canoes
racing in the river.

