**Spirit of the Land**

This land is my home

where the naked mountains caress

the sky

and the veins of hills run to the sea.

This land is my home

where I’ll live alone until

my hair grows white

and my bones grow old

then I’ll hang my spirit on tree tops

to provide a cushion of coolness

for children who gather round

evening fires.

*Makiutii Tonga*

Close Reading Questions

1. Which of these three adjectives best describes the poet’s feeling for his country? Give a reason for your choice.
   1. bitter
   2. proud
   3. sad
2. Answer all of the following questions:
   1. From the first stanza, write down the line that describes the rivers.

**Glossary**

adjective

stanza

repetition

metaphor

personification

* 1. Name the language technique used in that line by choosing from the words in the glossary box. (Click on Add-ons>keywords when viewing in google docs for definitions).
  2. Which line is repeated in the poem? Write it down.
  3. Repetition is one way a poet can draw our attention to an important word or idea. Why has Makiutii Tongia drawn our attention to this line?

1. Answer the following questions:
   1. Write down the lines from the second stanza that describe what the poet feels he will leave behind after he dies.
   2. How do these lines suggest that the poet feels there is a link between our ancestors and the next generation of children?
2. The first stanza describes the land as if it is like a human body: “the naked mountains caress the sky and the veins of hills run to the sea”. Explain why this is an important idea in the poem.
3. Does the spirit of the land dwell in the landscape or the people, or both? Explain your answer with reference to the poem.

Spirit of the Land - Responding to the text.

Task 1

1. Where do you feel most at ‘home’? Why?
2. Where is your favourite place? Why?
3. If you were a tree, where would you most like to be planted? Why?

Task 2

1. Copy and complete this diagram, using words in the box below that you associate with each main idea. You may use the words more than once. Add in any other relevant words that you think of.

The Land

The Spirit

Both

nature generations

bond geography

death landscape

life emotion

time

2. Copy and complete these statements, Use the diagram and your answers to the close reading questions to help you explain your ideas.

1. The title ‘Spirit of the Land’ is an appropriate choice for this poem because…
2. I think when he says that when he dies he will ‘hang my spirit on tree tops to provide a cushion of coolness for children’ he means…
3. From reading this poem we learn that…