



3055 BA SANGAM COLLEGE

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LESSON NOTES

School: Ba Sangam College

Year/Level: 11

Name: _____

Subject: English

Worksheet 22

Year: _____

Strand	Reading and Viewing
Sub Strand	Text Types: media, everyday communication, literary text.
Content Learning Outcome	Read and demonstrate understanding of a variety of complex texts.

Drama: Title: The Pohutukawa Tree

Playwright: Bruce Mason

Setting (physical and time setting)

Act 1 Scene 1

Physical: The porch of the Mataira house. It is situated in Te Parenga. A large Pohutukawa is in bloom beside the porch.

Time: Soon after World War II (1945-1946)

Act 1 Scene 2

Physical: Wedding reception marquee, with speeches being made.

Time: The following day/ next day.

Act 2 Scene 1

Physical: the living room of the Mataira house.

Time: Three months after the wedding. 6 pm

Act 2 Scene 2

Physical: The Mataira's living room.

Time: The following day.

Act Three

Physical: The Mataira's living room.

Time: nearly three months later.

The Importance of the Title and what it represents

The title of the play is important and its symbolism in relation to the play is most important to understand. The Pohutukawa tree stands in front of the Mataira household, having been planted there by Whetumarama, the great Maori warrior and chief who defeated the Pakeha in a battle which ended in bloodshed.

It was planted as a symbol of blood shed between Maori and Pakeha, and as a sign that this land would never be alienated from the Maori.

Aroha extended the symbolic importance of the tree by indicating that it was also a symbol of peace made between Whetumarama, herself and Christ.

The fact that the tree dies at the end of the play goes to prove the following:

- the land is no longer under a covenant, either to remain Maori OR as a symbol of Christian influence (in fact the land is sold)
- it is the symbol of the passing away of Aroha and all who think like her (in fact she does die, and the last members of the tribe, Queenie and Johnny go to live at Tamatea with the rest of the tribe- happily.
- With the passing of the tree, the land is no longer important- it is “the last slice of the whale”, and now can be sold off.

Activity	Solution	(3 marks)
1. What is the physical setting of act 1, scene 1?	<hr/> <hr/>	
2. What is the time setting of act 1, scene 1?	<hr/> <hr/>	
3. What does the planting of The Pohutukawa Tree symbolises?		
