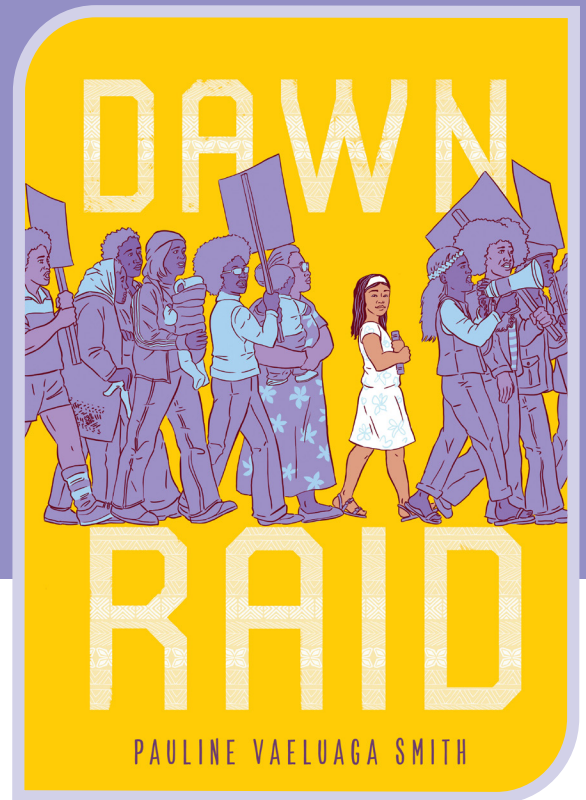


Teaching Guide

Dawn Raid

by Pauline Vaeluaga Smith
Illustrated by Mat Hunkin



Synopsis

“Imagine this: You’re having an amazing family holiday, one where everyone is there and all 18 of you are squeezed into one house. All of a sudden it’s 4 o’clock in the morning and there’s banging and yelling and screaming. The police are in the house pulling people out of bed. . .”

Sofia is like most 12-year-old girls in New Zealand. How is she going to earn enough money for those boots? WHY does she have to give that speech at school? Who is she going to be friends with this year?

It comes as a surprise to Sofia and her family when her big brother, Lenny, starts talking about protests, “overstayers”, and injustices against Pacific Islanders by the government. Inspired by the Black Panthers in America, a group has formed called the Polynesian Panthers, who encourage immigrant and Indigenous families across New Zealand to stand up for their rights. Soon the whole family becomes involved in the movement.

Told through Sofia’s diary entries, with illustrations throughout, *Dawn Raid* is the story of one ordinary girl living in extraordinary times, learning how to stand up and fight.

About the Book's Creators



Dawn Raid is the first book by Pauline Vaeluaga Smith, for which she received Best New Author at the New Zealand Book Awards and a NZ Storylines Notable Book Award. Pauline's heritage is Samoan, Tuvaluan, Scottish and Irish. Her work is heavily influenced by her experiences growing up in the 1970s, her roles as a teacher and university educator, her passion for civil rights and justice, and her deep interest in uplifting NZ Maori culture. She lives in a small seaside town at the bottom of the South Island of Aotearoa-New Zealand.



Mat Hunkin is an illustrator and comics artist from New Zealand. His day job is in the film industry.

Themes

- Friendships
- Finding your voice
- Social activism
- Racism
- Bias in the media

Shared Learning and Discussion Points

- Look at the cover. What can you tell about the story from the picture?
- Why couldn't the main character, Sofia, afford to go to McDonalds or do some of the other things she wanted to do? And how does she solve that problem? (pp. 4-5, 68-69)
- What did Sofia really want for her birthday? What did she receive instead, and how did she feel about it? (pp. 4-5, 7-8)
- How is Sofia getting bullied at school? (pp. 10-11)
- What did Sofia do with her father and what did she think of it? (pp. 11-12)
- Draw a family tree of Sofia's family. (pp. 12-14)
- Who did Sofia find inspiring and why? (pp. 15-16)
- Draw a timeline of Sofia's life. (pp. 17-18)
- What word had Sofia misspelt in her diary? (pp. 17-18) What was the spelling rule her teacher told her that would help her to remember how to spell it correctly? (pp. 20)
- What is the Māori land march and how did Lenny describe it to his father so he would understand it was important to them? (pp. 21-24)
- What is a "dawn raid" and an "overstayer"? (pp. 32-35)
- What is stereotyping? Give an example from the book. (p. 34-35)

- What were the three important foods in Sofia's family? What are three important foods in your family? (p. 37)
- How did Sofia's family react when she told them she had been in a fight? (pp. 39-40)
- Who led the Hikoi and how did she travel from the top of New Zealand to Wellington? (pp. 50-52)
- What was 'Operation Pot Black'? (pp. 58-59)
- What do the Polynesian Panthers do in the community? (pp. 61-62)
- How did the Polynesian Panthers carry out their protest to politicians? (pp. 82-83)
- What did Tigi mean when he said it didn't have as much effect as he'd hoped, because of the bias in the media? (pp. 83-84)
- What were Sofia's short- and long-term goals for her money? (pp. 85-86)
- What were Mr. Carter's tips for writing a good speech? (p. 90)
- In what ways are an 'umu' and a 'hangi' the same and different? (p. 95)
- What was the kind act that Sofia and her siblings did that made their parents cry? (p. 112)
- What happened to Lenny, and how did that result in their father getting a better understanding of the protest? (pp. 118-122)
- What is the name of the Panthers' lawyer and what did he later become? (pp. 125, 201)
How did he help Lenny avoid getting expelled? (pp. 126-127)
- What happened to Charlotte's dad? (p. 132)
- What is a 'rite of passage'? What was the rite of passage Lenny had to do for his 18th birthday? (pp. 146-147)
- Why were the men taken to jail in the dawn raid? (pp.153-156)
- What were some of the key points in Sofia's speech? (pp. 181-185)
- Write down five Samoan words you've learned during the story.
- Review the book's back matter and consider the social movements within the U.S. that are mentioned. In what ways are they similar to the social movement of the Polynesian Panthers?

Activities

ACTIVITY 1: FAMILY TREE

Get the students to draw a family tree of their own family members including great-grandparents, right down to themselves. They can put the names in a traditional family tree design or design it themselves.

ACTIVITY 2: INTERVIEW A CHARACTER

Choose a character from the book and write a list of questions for them. Then have a class member pretend to be the character and use your questions to interview them.

ACTIVITY 3: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ask the students if there has ever been a time when they believed strongly in something or had to make a stand. Get them to work in groups and come up with a list of words or phrases that helped them to get their point across. Have them create placards with messages about social justice.

Teaching notes by Maria Gill

PRAISE FOR *DAWN RAID*:

- ★ “Well-crafted and wonderfully fresh.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)
- ★ “Smith’s timely novel encourages empathy and understanding while spotlighting underrepresented history, and providing an example of how young people can take action. Highly recommended.” —*School Library Journal* (starred review)
- “An illuminating look at racism down under; Kiwi expressions and history are explained in the generous back matter.” —*Booklist*
- “Smith realistically traces Sofia’s growing political awareness and her development from reluctant to stirring public speaker in a straightforward voice that rings true.” —*Publishers Weekly*