

# IT USED TO BE GREEN ONCE

PATRICIA GRACE

ROSE MARYDAS. B

- **Patricia Frances Grace** (born 1937) is a New Zealand Māori writer of novels, short stories, and children's books.
- Her first published work, *Waiariki* (1975), was the first collection of short stories by a Māori woman writer. She has been described as "a key figure in contemporary world literature and in Maori literature in English."<sup>[1]</sup> She was awarded the 2008 Neustadt International Prize for Literature.

- Grace received an honorary Doctorate of Letters (DLit) by the World Indigenous Nations University in 2016, conferred at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Ōtaki, for her literary accomplishments and her writing around Māori themes

- **Short story collections**

- *Waiariki*, (Longman Paul, 1975; Penguin Books [NZ] Ltd, 1986); first collection of short stories by a Maori woman writer. *The Dream Sleepers*, (Longman Paul, 1980; Penguin Books [NZ] Ltd., 1986). *Electric City and Other Stories* (Penguin Books [NZ] Ltd., 1987) ; French translation [Au vent des îles](#), 2006. [Électrique cité](#) *Selected Stories* (Penguin [NZ] Ltd., 1991). *The Sky People* (Penguin Books [NZ] Ltd., 1994; Women's Press Ltd. Great Britain).



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QUESTION AND ANSWERS

- 1. Why did Peti hate swimming at school?  
Mum made togs from old swimming togs. The togs Mum made were thirty eight chest and Peti was only ten.
- 2. Why did Uncle Raz give Dad his car?  
Uncle Raz couldn't fix the car anymore, and he had been fined.

- 3. Why did Mum toot the horns of the car on Wednesday mornings, when she was out on the road?

She wanted to tell all her mates and relations along the way so that if they wanted anything they'd have to run out and call it aloud to Mum.

- 4. Which was the only accident that Mum ever had in her car?

One day when she threw a side of mutton out to Uncle Peta, it knocked him over and broke his leg.

- 5. How is Mr.Hadley, the Pakeha teacher, presented in the story.

Mr.Hadley looks neat and the children loved to walk with him. Unlike the children Mr.Hadley got into Mum's moving car whenever she offered a lift.



- 6. How could Dad buy a new car?  
Dad won a lottery of fifty thousand dollars.
- 7. List a few things that Mum did to shame her children.  
Mum did red darns on their clothes, made togs for children from old togs, dug out the rotten bit from apples and pears and made them carry it to school. They were more shamed by the old car which had no brakes and top.