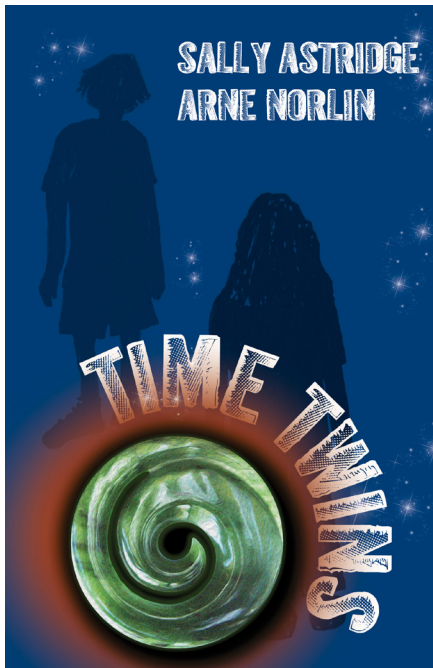


## Time Twins by Sally Astridge and Arne Norlin

For 9–12 year-olds



**Eleven-year-old Astrid thinks she is imagining the quiet boy who appears in her room in the middle of the night and then vanishes as if by magic.**

**Astrid lives in Sweden. She discovers the boy's name is Tamati and he lives in New Zealand on the other side of the world.**

**How did he get into her bedroom?**

**And why does he keep coming back?**

**ISBN 978-0-473-40632-5**

As well as being a page-turner, *Time Twins* addresses several issues such as bullying, family pressures, reconstituted families, shoplifting and cultural diversity – issues that are common to schools and students all around the world.

### The Story

#### Bullies and Other Burdens

Astrid witnesses several episodes of extreme bullying in Sweden.

- Why did she not do anything to stop the bullies?
- What might she have done to support Henrietta?
- How does this compare to bullying at your school?
- What is the school policy on bullying?
- What would you do if you were in Astrid's shoes? Henrietta's shoes?
- What do you think motivates Olivia? Are her motives justified?  
What about Clara?

Tamati's problems seem smaller than Astrid's, but they are still real to him.

- Are Koro's aspirations for Tamati justified? Can Tam achieve them?
- Do you think it is fair of Tam's koro to put this pressure on his grandson?
- Do you know anyone who has been burdened by other people's expectations?
- What about little Prince George? Would you like to change places with him?

Tamati shies away from anything that feeds his koro's aspirations for him, so when he does tackle a problem (like his confrontation with Jayden Kirschner), he quickly comes to regret it.

- Can you identify with Tam?
- Have you thought twice about taking action, even if you know it's the right thing to do?
- What about Tam's imaginary heroes? Why do you think they're there?

Astrid deeply resents her father's girlfriends.

- Why? List as many reasons as you can.
- How does Tamati help her to accept Jenny?

We know that Clara shoplifts.

- What do you think of shoplifting?
- Is it a crime and should she be punished for it?

### **Sweden vs New Zealand**

Discuss the differences between Astrid's and Tam's schools. Think about how the children address teachers, the subjects they study and the homework they do. Would this be the same for all Swedish and New Zealand schools?

For thousands of years, people worldwide have celebrated the middle of winter and the shortest day of the year.

- What is the purpose of this celebration?
- How did such ceremonies develop?
- Make a list of other public festivals you know about and what they celebrate. What do they have in common?

*Time Twins* ends with the Swedish people seeing in the New Year in style.

- Compare their festivities with the way New Zealanders welcome the New Year.

Every country has different names for family members, although there are some similarities. An English reader would recognise 'Pappa' and 'Mamma', the names Astrid calls her parents.

- What are some of the other names for mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers in *Time Twins*?
- Find out other names for mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers in different languages around the world. Which ones are similar and which ones are different? Do you know why?

## How the Story is Written

### Te Reo Māori

How is te reo Māori used in the book? Did the context help you understand the language?

Find four Māori words or phrases in the book and write what you think they mean, then check them on <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/>

Make sure you click the  icon to hear how the word or phrase is pronounced.

### Writing with Two Authors

*Time Twins* has two authors. Arne Norlin wrote Astrid's story and Sally Astridge wrote Tamati's story. The novel was published first in Swedish.

Try writing a story with two authors.

- Sit with a classmate and think up an action scenario involving two children.
- Write a quick synopsis or summary of what will happen, about one paragraph long.
- Split the characters between you. Write the scene from your character's point of view.
- Give your writing to your partner and read each other's work out loud.
- Discuss changes that need to be made to the text so your stories have the same details.
- What have you learnt about writing a story with two characters with *two different points of view*? What have you learnt about writing a story with someone else?