

**91517 (3.6) Extract from student supporting evidence****Role: Louise from *Waiora* by Hone Kouka**

My character is a young Pākehā woman in the 1960's in NZ who has left her family to "get away" and start a new life where she meets a Māori family who has also left their old life for a new one. She does not understand Māori ways yet she doesn't have a closed mind about trying things differently and frequently asks questions when she is confused.

My intention is to show what it was like to be a young Pākehā woman in NZ in 1965. They were brought up to speak properly, more upper class and to be a lot cleaner and act politely when in the company of others. She does not know much of the Māori culture therefore does not understand when Rongo starts taking about missing her whanau back home in the East coast. Louise thinks that Rongo and her family will soon make friends and feel at home with the other Māoris of the South Island. She does not understand the importance of land and whanau to Māori people. I would like to portray this by not pronouncing Māori words correctly to show I'm different and by my body language being more sophisticated than the Māori characters. I will carry myself with upright posture and sit with a straight back, chin up and standing tall. I will speak properly with a slight British accent. Louise feels awkward in all the situations as she does not understand the Māori culture. I intend to also show that Louise is below Sue/Wai and her family and has to have respect in their home. ① When Sue tells me, "Well, you're getting out of line. I want you to show him that respect", I sink into my shoulders and lean away from Sue. I think Hone Kouka put Louise in the play to show how Pākehā were in NZ at this time and to show how they couldn't understand Māori and their traditions. Louise is, however, also different from Steve. Whereas Steve tries to say that John is just like himself (Pākehā), Louise tries to understand and tries to see the family as Māori. She also respects them as her equal. In playing this role I have got to understand connections with the land, whanau and ancestors for Māori.