

2011

### The measure of a man's worth (after MLK and the content of his character) [poem]

Alice Te Punga Somerville

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/ltc>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Te Punga Somerville, Alice, The measure of a man's worth (after MLK and the content of his character) [poem], *Law Text Culture*, 15, 2011, 100-101.

Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/ltc/vol15/iss1/6>

---

## The measure of a man's worth (after MLK and the content of his character) [poem]

### Abstract

1. Small seeds tucked away, water stored, some dogs, a few rats look into the faces of relatives you will not see again for several hundred years sit quietly at night surrounded by constellations and a dizzying stretch of liquid the most humbling metaphor and word trick of them all: ocean-going vessels, blood vessels; genealogy and water mix in our part of the world



## Poem: The measure of a man's worth

whenever we remember the day the Crown morally defeated itself  
we play a trick on time,  
become our own ancestors and our own descendents:  
we are those little kids,  
we hold their poi.

### 3. Smallest

who consented to our belittlement?  
we're shrink-wrapped, vacuum-packed, disassembled, sold for parts  
you forget to measure, don't think to check, underestimate:

our ocean-going navigating vessels  
will not fit  
the whare you've built to house them