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## Why I Write

Patricia Grace

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## Why I Write

### Abstract

Sometimes when I am asked why I write I say it was because my father was a stationery manufacturer and I always had plenty of paper to write on. However, reading and writing was always something that interested me. As a child I was not an extrovert so that writing was one means of self-expression.

## NEW ZEALAND

Patricia Grace was born in Wellington in 1937. She is of Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tāwhiri and Te Ahi Kāi descent. Patricia lives on an ancestral land in the coastal suburb of Hāwera, near Wellington. She is married with seven children. Her first novel, *Mt. Inangahua* (1977) was short listed for the New Zealand Book Awards and was followed by a collection of short stories, *The Farm* (1980). *Te Kaitiaki* (1982) her second novel won the New Zealand Fiction Award in 1987. Since then she has published two more collections of stories and a novel. Her new collection of short stories, *The Day People Forget*, from which *Patricia Grace* is taken, was published in 1994. Patricia has written three books for young children - *The Kaitiaki and the Spirit* (1981) which in 1982 was awarded Picture Book of the Year, *Waiwera Tūmaki* and the *Children of Otago* (1984) and *The Tōhōki* (1985). These three books are accompanied by Maori language editions, *Waiwera* (1984) is a book of paintings by Robin Kaitiaki depicting women in Maori mythology, for which Patricia wrote the text. In 1983 Patricia Grace received an Honorary Doctorate in Literature from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

Patricia Grace  
 writes of  
 her life in  
 New Zealand

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## PATRICIA GRACE

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Patricia Grace was born in Wellington in 1937. She is of Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Toa and Te Ati Awa descent. Patricia lives on ancestral land in the coastal suburb of Plimmerton, near Wellington. She is married with seven children. Her first novel, *Mutuwhenua: The Moon Sleeps* (1975) was short-listed for the New Zealand Book Awards and was followed by a collection of short stories, *The Dream Sleepers* (1980). *Potiki* (1986) her second novel won the New Zealand Fiction Award in 1987. Since then she has published two more collections of stories and a novel. Her new collection of short stories, *The Sky People*, Penguin, from which 'Flower Girls' is taken, was published in 1994. Patricia has written three books for young children – *The Kuia and the Spider* (1981), which in 1982 was awarded Picture Book of the Year, *Watercress Tuna and the Children of Champion Street* (1988) and *The Trolley* (1993). These three books are accompanied by Maori language editions. *Wahine Toa* (1984) is a book of paintings by Robyn Kahukiwa, depicting women in Maori mythology, for which Patricia wrote the text. In 1989 Patricia Grace received an Honorary Doctorate in Literature from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

PATRICIA GRACE

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