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

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au
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

This journal article is available in Law Text Culture: https://ro.uow.edu.au/ltc/vol15/iss1/6
the measure of a man’s worth  
(after MLK and the content of his character)

Alice Te Punga Somerville

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

2. Smaller

our poi make the sound of the horses which were met by children
our poi make
the sound of
the horses
which were met
by children
our poi make
the sound of
the horses
which were met
by children
whenever we remember the day the Crown morally defeated itself
we play a trick on time,
become our own ancestors and our own descendants:
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