Achievement Standard 90852: Explain significant connections across texts, using supporting evidence **4 Credits**

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The theme, "the importance of whanau", is about how valuable family is in this world. They are the people you love the most, the individuals you care for and can rely on. It is explored in the texts **'A Game Of Cards'**, a short story by Witi Ihimaera; **'Big Brother, Little Sister',** a short story by Witi Ihimaera; **'Dustbins',** a short story by Witi Ihimaera; and **'Tea Time',** a short story by Runa Mukherjee Parikh. All these texts show how truly important family relationships are, especially when faced with a difficult situation.

The first text **'A Game Of Cards',** is about a young man returning to his home to visit his grandmother, who loves playing card games. It is only when he arrives at his hometown does he discover that she is sick. This obviously upsets the main character, as he cares for his grandmother deeply, and that 'among all his kauai, Nani Miro was the one he loved most.' (pg 10). Miro also adores her grandchildren, and this is shown in the text when 'her family would send all their kids to her place when they were broke and she looked after them!' (pg 10). This proves that she loves her family greatly. This is connected to what we see in **'Big brother, Little Sister',** in which Hema takes his sister's hand and tells her he'll never leave her. In both these texts we see the importance of keeping your loved ones close to you and the loyalty that nothing but family could have. This teaches society that we never truly know when our loved ones will leave us and this story shows that it's important to spend time with them while we still can.

The second text, **'Big Brother, Little Sister',** is about two kids trying to escape their now unsafe home. Hema, the elder brother, doesn't intend to bring Janey with him at first but she refuses to leave his side. "You'll just be a nuisance," Hema growled' (pg 92), despite what he says, he makes sure to keep her safe. When Janey was struggling in the arms of an old man, Hema looked for a weapon, saw a loose paling and threw it at the predator. 'Janey ran to Hema. Heart pounding, he pulled her after him. Only when they had turned the corner did he stop and hug his sister, brushing her down and checking to see if she was okay' (pg 95). It's evident Hema cares for Janey and this is shown in the text when 'Hema took his sister's hand. "You'll never leave me, eh Hema?" "No," he answered. Not now. Not ever.' (pg 102).This is connected to what we see in **'Dustbins',** when the main character had free-loaded for too long. Instead of kicking him out, Crazy-Joe offered him a job. In both these texts we see the strength it takes to face the cruel world as a family. This teaches society that the world can be an incredibly vicious and unjust place, but you should always be there for the people who love and care for you.

The third text, **'Dustbins',** is about a man who gets kicked out of his house and finds work as a dustie. The job is offered to him by a cousin called Crazy-Joe. While he was still learning the basics, 'he wanted to impress so he watched Crazy-Joe a few times until he got the idea and

then told Crazy-Joe he wasn't a kid. Crazy-Joe and Bill winked and Bill laughed and said, Then we better let you off the leash.' (pg 117). This shows that everyone is incredibly close and can comfortably make light fun of each other, it is a family-like bond. This is shown in the text right after Crazy-Joe got the main character his job and he thinks 'that's the way with us cuzzies. Man, Crazy-Joe really looked after me. They didn't come more staunch than him.' (pg 117). This is connected to what we see in **'Tea Time'** when Roli's father tries his best to comfort her as she cries over her mother's death. In both these texts we see that your family are people you love and look up to, not necessarily who you're related to by blood. This teaches society that family are people you care for and that could be anyone; your friends, your pets, even your neighbours.

The fourth text, **'Tea Time',** is about Roli and her father dealing with the loss of Roli's mother. 'As they made their way back home, Roli and her father weren't in the mood to eat. The person who made it the wonderful concoction it was, wasn't around anymore. She would never have a taste of her mother's tea or any other dish ever again. The feeling gutted her as she came back to her reality. A reality filled with the absence of her mom.' It's clear they miss her mother greatly and are still trying to cope with her death. However, they have each other and Roli's father tries his best to comfort her when she cries. This is shown in the text when 'the father and daughter stooped over the stove, letting the water and two spoons of sugar heat up… A sense of happiness surged through them both as they were transported back to the time when she was around them, fussing and feeding them. Late into the night, the duo sat and sipped their cups of tea, feeling just a little bit at home.' This is connected to what we see in **A Game Of Cards',** in which the family members comfort each other in their own ways as Miro dies. Miro's best friend, Heta plays one last game of cards with her. In both these texts we see that families stick together through thick and thin, and are always there for one another. This teaches society that there will come a day when someone you love dearly will leave you, it is inevitable but your family will always help you through it.

In conclusion, in all these texts, **'A Game Of Cars', 'Big Brother, Little Sister', 'Dustbins'** and **'Tea Time',** we see the theme of the importance of whanau. These texts are connected in the way they all show that family are people you love and care for. From all these texts I have learnt that you never know when your loved ones will leave, so you should treasure every moment spent with them and they too will love you as you do them. This has helped me to understand that no matter how bad it seems, even if it seems like the entire world is against you, you'll always have your family.