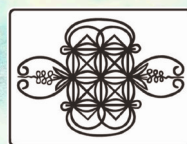


Level 5



Tarivuti's Christmas Adventure



By Gibson Tari

Illustrated by Viktoria Khmelnickaya

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Library For All Ltd.



My wife and I decided to take our little baby, Tarivuti, on his first Christmas holiday to his mother's village in Wusi, West Santo.

It was a long journey, starting with taking Air Vanuatu from Malekula to Santo, then driving four hours to Tasiriki, then finally catching a boat to Wusi Village.

But it was worth it.

As we landed in Santo, the plane's engine whined through its shut-down and woke up Tarivuti.

Bish! Bish! went the engine.

“Wah, wah!” went Tarivuti. But before long, he was too exhausted to keep crying and fell asleep again.





We exited the arrival gates and I saw our family were already waiting. They were waving and grinning, calling out to greet us. “Tarivuti! Tarivuti!”

They gathered us all into a hug, showering baby Tarivuti with kisses.

Our family picked us up and accompanied us for the rest of the journey. My wife's sister drove us all to Tasiriki in South Santo, and her uncle helped everyone get on the boat bound for Wusi Village.

We marvelled at the breathtaking views from the boat, watching the mountains, valleys, and rivers flow by as we drifted along. Tarivuti watched the scenery with wide eyes.





Before long, Wusi's black sand beach greeted us. I could see even more family waiting for us on the shore, calling out and waving.

We were surrounded by family. Their hugs made us feel at home.

Christmas Eve was full of people and love. Our family came together to play and eat delicious food, sharing laughter the whole time.

Our joy peaked on Christmas Day and carried on into the New Year.





We drank the wonderful moments like water. But before long, it was time for us to go home.

Everyone was teary. We all said our goodbyes and received gifts to remember this trip.

To mark Tarivuti's first visit to Wusi Village, his uncle planted a coconut tree near the coast.

The coconut tree would stand as a symbol of Tarivuti's connection to his mother's home.





It was three years before we could visit Wusi Village again. By then, Tarivuti had grown, and so had the tree.

It carried the happiness and love from his very first Christmas journey.

**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



Where is Tarivuti's mother's village?



**Why did the family's journey take
so long?**

**What things might the family have
done over Christmas?**



Have you ever travelled for holidays?

**Discuss any travelling you've had to do.
If you haven't done any before, think
about where you might want to go!**



About the author

Gibson was born in Luganville and now lives in the Peps area. He wanted to write a story to share his experience and knowledge of how modern life affects Vanuatu's cultures and traditions. As a child, he liked custom stories. Gibson likes to go fishing with family and friends.



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First published 2025

Published by Library For All Ltd

Email: info@libraryforall.org

URL: libraryforall.org



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This book was made possible by the generous support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Global Partnership for Education (GPE).



Save the Children



Original illustrations by Viktoria Khmelnickaya

Tarivuti's Christmas Adventure

Tari, Gibson

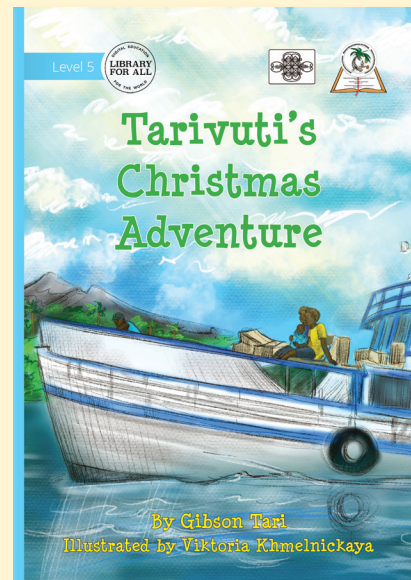
ISBN: 978-1-923554-63-4

SKU04977



Tarivuti's Christmas Adventure

I took my wife and son, Tarivuti, to the village my wife grew up in to visit her family and introduce them to our son. It was a wonderful trip we will never forget.



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