



MANU AO
Academy

Seminar Series 4 May 2011



Patricia Grace

Living our stories

Patricia's presentation will be based around examining the notion that people need to be part of their own stories. She will look at the role that stories play in our lives and what the consequences may be if these are not available to us, and the marginalisation which may occur where children (in particular) never find themselves represented in a positive way in their country's literature, on screen and in media. Also, the implications for Māori children will be outlined. Patricia will also talk about her writing and influences.

Patricia Grace is a major New Zealand novelist, short story writer and children's writer, of Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa and Te Ati Awa descent, and is affiliated to Ngāti Porou by marriage. Grace began writing early, while teaching and raising her family of seven children, and has since won many national and international awards, including the Kiriama Pacific Rim Book Prize for fiction, the Deutz Medal for Fiction, and the Neustadt International Prize for Literature, widely considered the most prestigious literary prize after the Nobel. A deeply subtle, moving and subversive writer, in 2007 Grace received a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to literature.