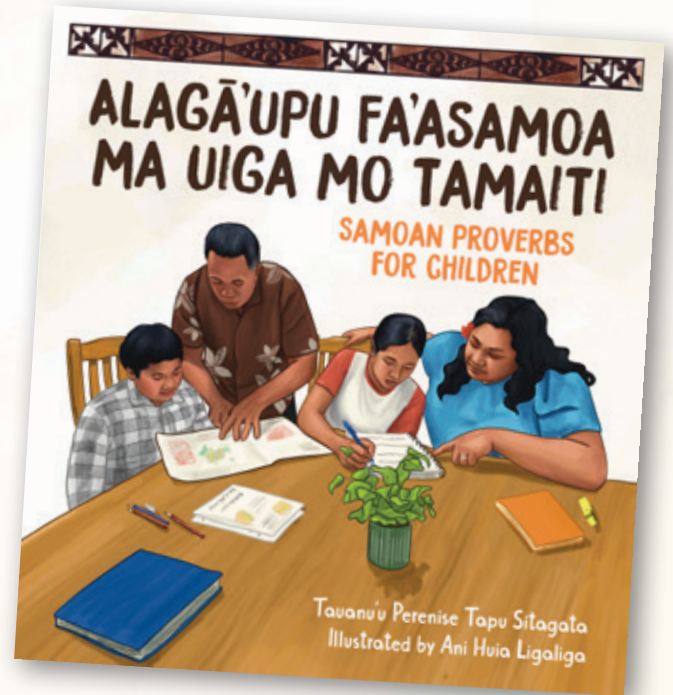


ALAGĀ'UPU FA'ASAMOA MA UIGA MO TAMAITI

SAMOAN PROVERBS FOR CHILDREN

Tavanu'u Perenise Tapu Sitagata
Illustrated by Ani Huia Ligaliga



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TEACHER RESOURCE

In this book of Samoan proverbs for children, traditional sayings related to family, nature, education, religion and other topics are shared. Each proverb is written in Samoan and English and is accompanied by an explanation of its meaning.

INTRODUCTION

What is a proverb? A proverb is a short saying stating the truth about something, or piece of advice. In Samoan, it is called 'alagā'upu'. For example, 'O le ala i le pule o le tautua'; 'The way to authority is to serve'. Through service we get experience, the know-how, the knowledge of how to do things effectively and how to access help. At school, working hard will help you achieve your goals and aspirations and will lead to success. In families, serving your parents and elders makes you an important part of the aiga (family). Serving parents during meals, or by doing everyday chores, establishes and defines your role and responsibility in the family. In the church or community, young people serve their elders in different ways, for example, in a to'ona'i (Sunday lunch) or in youth and Sunday school activities. In sport, you achieve fitness and success if you train hard.



ACTIVITIES

1 WRITE A LAUGA OR TAUTALAGA (SPEECH)

A **lauga** is a formal speech, often delivered by maitais (chiefs) in a village meeting or by church ministers during a Sunday service. The speech has formal and prescribed parts, for example, a lauga for an ava ceremony has to cover pa'ia or salutations of those present, 'ava which is acknowledgement of 'ava brought by the hosts, fa'afetai i le Atua is the acknowledgement of the presence of God, taeao is reference to events in the history of Sāmoa, and fa'amatafi is the conclusion. A **tautalaga** is an informal speech. Its structure depends on the speaker's aim. Delivery, language, and use of vocabulary is informal, using everyday language.

Write a lauga on a topic of your choice and share it with a small group of classmates. Suggested topics are:

- my family
- my school
- my grandparents
- my favourite festival
- climate change
- my culture.

2 RESEARCH: ABOUT SĀMOA

Find the answers to these questions to learn more about Sāmoa.

- 1 When did Sāmoa first become an independent country?
- 2 What are the main islands of Sāmoa?
- 3 What is the capital of Sāmoa?
- 4 What is the name of the public library in Apia Central?
- 5 What is the local greeting in Sāmoa?
- 6 What is the type of language commonly used in Samoan funerals?
- 7 Name the prime minister of Sāmoa in 2025?
- 8 What is the name of the main university in Sāmoa?
- 9 What is the traditional name of the Samoan tattoo for men?
- 10 What is the traditional name of the Samoan tattoo for women?
- 11 What is the traditional dance of Sāmoa called?
- 12 Name one of the festivals that takes place in Sāmoa every year.
- 13 What ingredients are in palusami?
- 14 What is the English and Samoan name of the mat used in a fa'alavelave/ceremony like a funeral?
- 15 What is the name of the system used to organise villages and parliament in Sāmoa?
- 16 What is the name of the mountain Robert Louis Stevenson is buried on?



3 WORD SEARCH

Search the grid and find the Samoan and English words in the lists below.

F A A S I N O M A G A G C R E H T A E F
A U W M Q U P B L E S S I N G S D S U A
M E L T F R G Q E R S T V V X E Y G Z F
I B A U C T Q R L D K A A M I N A P Q O
L U A A A U L I U L I I C M P N L V S T
Y O U G F R A M O I L E N R W X G Y A Z
Z Q A A M E F O N U L K N M I F A B I T
C T U N P D V U P W E M X C Y F Z N G P
A I M E R N Q N R A D Q A P E I I O A R
A U T H O R I T Y C R B I M V S U C T E
C U L T U R E A U T L E T N O H A C E V
A D T A D E F I G A H I N J K E L M N E
O N P A M Q R N S T F U V T W R S T A N
M W O H U I J S L L J A N B C M Q O K T
O F F F U L K M O N I Q F R S A A T U I
D V W X A Y A W Z K U P A I C N B N M O
S L R T F L E G M N P Q U R N T B C U N
I A V W M R E O A T H J H P O E N F G G
W P P E S Q V E W X Y D N I K N A M U H



SAMOAN

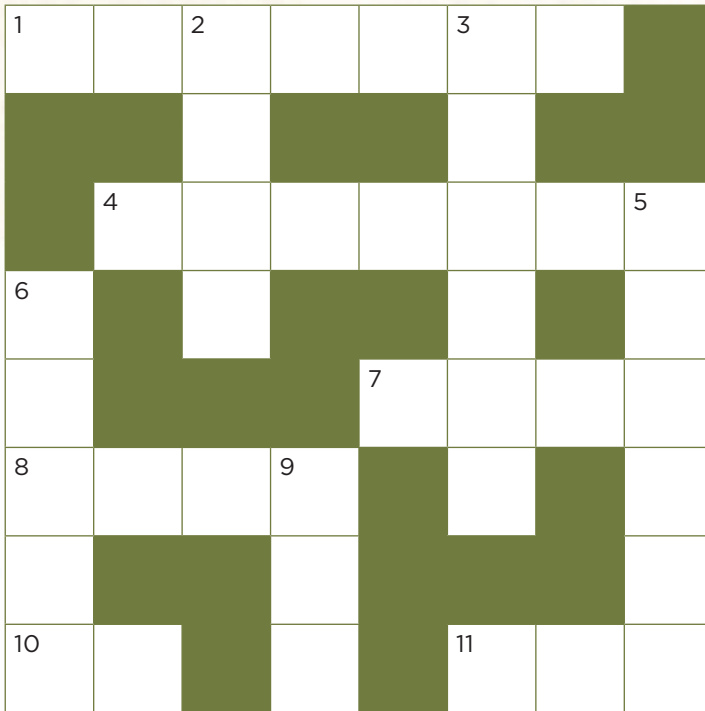
aiga
anofale
faasinomaga
fafo
fuga
fulu
kupa
laau
lua
malu
mamoe
manu
tagata
tama
taulaga
tavae
tuafafine
tuagane
uliuli
vai

ENGLISH

authority
blessings
culture
family
feather
fisherman
flowers
giving
humankind
mountains
nurtured
obedience
parent
prevention
proud
pupil
ram oil
sacrifice
skilled
wisdom

4 CROSSWORDS

Using the book *Alagā'upu Fa'asamoa ma Uiga mo Tamaiti*, find the answers to the crossword clues in these puzzles.



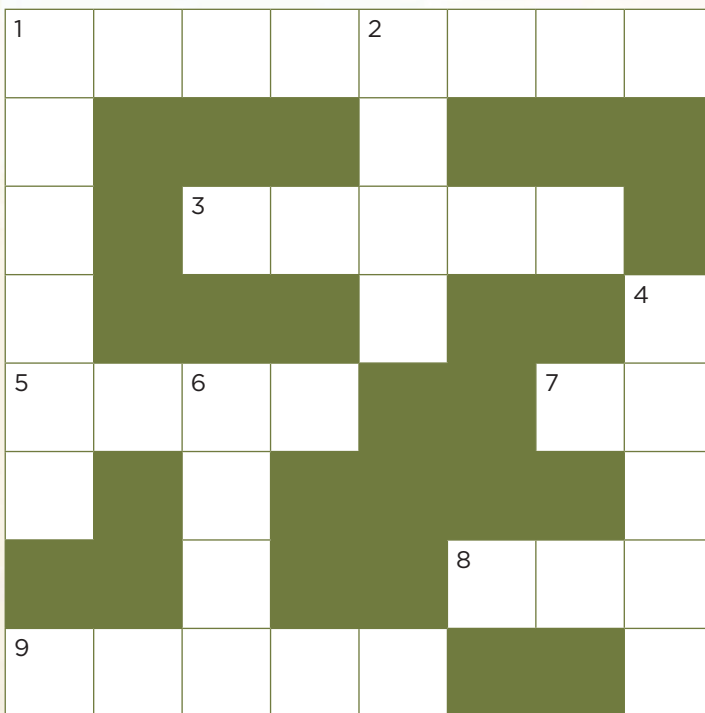
SAMOAN

FAALAVA

- 1 E fesili _____. (Alagā'upu #27)
- 4 E le tauilo tama a _____. (25)
- 7 E taa le _____. (9)
- 8 Ae o _____. (12)
- 10 Ou te nofo atu fua o a'u o _____. (18)
- 11 E poto le tautai ae sese _____. (30)

LALO

- 2 O tama a manu e fafaga i fuga o _____. (11)
- 3 O le _____. (21)
- 5 Fili i le tai se _____. (22)
- 6 O le au o _____. (7)
- 9 E poto le tautai ae sese lana _____. (30)



ENGLISH

ACROSS

- 1 The tavāe (bird) takes pride in its _____. (Proverb #10)
- 3 The way to authority is to _____. (23)
- 5 Every person has a family as a guide in _____. (1)
- 7 The blessings _____. (5)
- 8 We are _____. (17)
- 9 The _____ flies. (8)

DOWN

- 1 Every person has _____. (1)
- 2 May one _____. (29)
- 4 It is better to listen than to _____. (13)
- 6 May one hero _____. (29)



5 MATCH-UP AND ILLUSTRATE

Write the number of the ending for each of the proverbs in the 'Alu Faatasi #/Goes with #' columns. Choose one of the proverbs and create your own illustration to show its meaning.



SĀMOAN

AMATAGA	
1	O le tagata ma lona aiga
2	E lē o le fale
3	A malu a i fale
4	E lelei lava le
5	E to mai lagī
6	O le mea uliuli i le mata
7	O au o
8	E lele le toloa
9	E ta'a le kupa
10	E auau
11	O tama a manu
12	Ae o tama a tagata,
13	E sili le fa'alogo
14	E sili le usita'i
15	E sili le puipuia
16	O lo'o i le fale
17	O ta'ua o le
18	Ou te nofo
19	O le sa'i a le
20	E afua mai mauga tetele
21	O le aganu'u a Samoa,
22	Fili i le tai
23	O le ala i le
24	O fanau tausea
25	E le tauilo tama
26	Ua ta fia
27	E fesili Mulimai
28	O oe o le tautai
29	Ia pa'ū se toa
30	E poto le tautai

[illegible]

FA'AIUGA	
1	e fafaga i upu ma tala.
2	lava le matega.
3	a tausala.
4	matua alofa.
5	manuia o le nu'u.
6	ae sese le atu i ama.
7	uso tu'ofe.
8	ae ma'au lava i le vai.
9	matapalapala.
10	atu fua o a'u o 'Ae.
11	e pono'i.
12	e fa'avae i le alofa ma le fa'atau alofa.
13	ia Muamai.
14	e fafaga i fuga o la'au ...
15	ae toetu se toa.
16	se agava'a.
17	pule o le tautua.
18	ae fai lona lua.
19	matua fanau.
20	o le tagata ma lona fa'asinomaga.
21	manū o aiga.
22	nai lo le togafitia.
23	nai lo le ga'o o le mamoe po'a.
24	e malu foi i fafo.
25	le tava'e i ona fulu.
26	o le tuagane o lona tuafafine.
27	na i lo le taulaga.
28	ae o le anofale.
29	Falealili fua.
30	mativa fesaga'i.



ING

but has a burrow to go to.

as the people in it

BEGINNING	
1	Every person has family
2	The house is not as important
3	To be secure at home
4	It is important
5	The blessings of a family
6	A sister is the black pupil
7	Parents love
8	The toloa (bird) flies,
9	The crab roams
10	The tava'e (bird) takes pride
11	The offspring of birds
12	But the children of humankind
13	It is better to listen
14	Obedience is better
15	Prevention is
16	Whoever is guilty
17	We are one
18	I sit before you
19	The concern of
20	From the great mountains
21	Samoan culture
22	Choose a leader
23	The way to authority
24	Educated children
25	Educated children
26	I would be very proud
27	The young should
28	You are a wise
29	May one hero fall
30	The skilled fisherman

[illegible]

ENDING	
1	but has a burrow to go to.
2	as the people in it.
3	ask the old.
4	fisherman.
5	but will always go to water.
6	to struggle together.
7	is present here.
8	is based on giving and receiving love.
9	of her brother's eye.
10	come the blessings of the village.
11	than ram oil.
12	who is wise.
13	their children.
14	are not hard to see.
15	and the same.
16	in its feathers.
17	is to serve.
18	than to offer any sacrifice.
19	are fed with flowers ...
20	and another rise.
21	come from Heaven.
22	are nurtured with words of wisdom.
23	to be from Falealili.
24	better than cure.
25	are well-informed.
26	is to be secure elsewhere.
27	in shame like 'Ae.
28	still makes mistakes.
29	as a guide in life.
30	a loving parent.



6 CONNECTING PROVERBS TO YOU

In this activity, choose a proverb and work on your own or with other students to reflect and record how that proverb shows up in your everyday life.

Proverb 1

O le tagata ma lona aiga o le tagata ma lona fa'asinomaga.

Every person has family as a guide in life.

Make a list of things you have learned from parents and families. Do this in groups then compare your lists. Are there any learnings that seem to be common for everybody?

Proverb 3

A malu a i fale e malu foi i fafo.

To be secure at home is to be secure elsewhere.

Record examples of children being treated well in your family.

Proverb 6

O le mea uliuli i le mata o le tuagane o lona tuafafine.

A sister is the pupil of her brother's eye.

What have you done for your sister or brother to show you love them?

Proverb 9

E ta'a le kupa ae fai lona lua.

The crab roams but has a burrow to go to.

Why do you think children's homes are important to them?

Proverb 17

O ta'ua o le uso tu'ofe.

We are one and the same.

Who is your uso tu'ofe, or your uso taufeagai?

Proverb 21

O le aganu'u a Samoa, e fa'avae i le alofa ma le fa'atau alofa.

Samoa culture is based on giving and receiving love.

Why should you serve others well?

Proverb 23

O le ala i le pule o le tautua.

The way to authority is to serve.

What do you think you could do to become a good leader in the future?



SAMOAN LANGUAGE (GAGANA SĀMOA) PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

The Samoan alphabet has 14 letters:

- VOWELS: A, E, I, O, U

Vowels can be long or short. The long vowels are marked with a macron: Ā, Ē, Ī, Ō, Ū.

- CONSONANTS: F, G, L, M, N, P, S, T, V.

GUIDE TO PRONOUNCING VOWELS

Vowel	Pronunciation
A	as in car
E	as in bed
I	as in seat
O	as in thought
U	as in food

Although there are only five vowels, combining vowels is not uncommon (for example, au, ao, ea, oi, ua).

A glottal stop (indicated with an apostrophe) is also used (for example, fa'asamoa, fa'alavelave).



USING THIS BOOK AND RESOURCE IN THE CLASSROOM

This teacher resource is to be used alongside *Alagā'upu Fa'asmoa ma Uiga mo Tamaiti*. It will help students understand the meaning of the proverbs and assist them in formulating speech and writing patterns used in tautalaga (delivered prepared speech) and Samoan language debates, as well as encouraging them to write in different genres.

The focus and goal of this teacher resource is to assist teachers by:

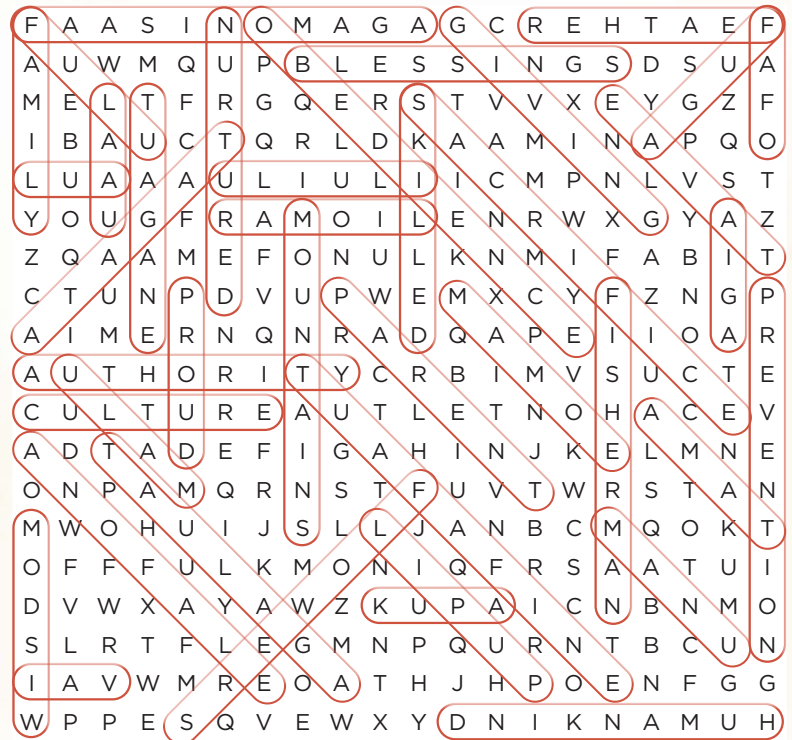
- providing thought for further discussion of Samoan proverbs
- providing reactive resources to reveal meanings of proverbs
- providing reactive resources to reveal values of Samoan culture
- providing reactive resources to reveal the values of aiga, lotu and community
- providing reactive resources to reveal student ideas and concepts through writing, speaking, reading and listening feedback.

ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 2 RESEARCH: ABOUT SĀMOA

- 1 24 November 1962.
- 2 Upolu, Savai'i, Apolima and Manono.
- 3 Apia.
- 4 The Nelson Memorial Public Library.
- 5 Talofa.
- 6 Oratory language.
- 7 Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa.
- 8 The National University of Samoa (NUS).
- 9 The pe'a.
- 10 The malu.
- 11 Siva Sāmoa.
- 12 Teuila.
- 13 Taro leaves, coconut cream and onions.
- 14 Fine mat/ie toga.
- 15 The matai system.
- 16 Mount Vaea.

ACTIVITY 3 WORD SEARCH



ACTIVITY 4 CROSSWORDS

SAMOAN



ENGLISH



ACTIVITY 5 MATCH-UP AND ILLUSTRATE

Samoan

1-20, 2-28, 3-24, 4-30, 5-21, 6-26, 7-19, 8-8, 9-18, 10-25, 11-14, 12-1, 13-27, 14-23, 15-22, 16-2, 17-7, 18-10, 19-4, 20-5, 21-12, 22-16, 23-17, 24-11, 25-3, 26-29, 27-13, 28-9, 29-15, 30-6.

English

1-29, 2-2, 3-26, 4-6, 5-21, 6-9, 7-13, 8-5, 9-1, 10-16, 11-19, 12-22, 13-18, 14-11, 15-24, 16-7, 17-15, 18-27, 19-30, 20-10, 21-8, 22-12, 23-17, 24-25, 25-14, 26-23, 27-3, 28-4, 29-20, 30-28.

