



# Filemoni's Dilemma

## Scenario

Filemoni is a 13 year old Samoan student. He is the eldest of five children. He lives in a village on the island of Upolu with his mother, father and siblings. His parents are thinking about emigrating to New Zealand under the belief that the children will be able to have a better life there. They would be able to stay with extended family members in Auckland. However, Filemoni is very confused and has called upon his friend (you) in New Zealand to help him through this time. Using skilful 'compare and contrast' what would you say to Filemoni? Should he come or should he stay?



Exploratory Environment

Dear Parents

We are about to start a new social studies Quest called 'Filemoni's Dilemma.' This unit of work has been developed here at Birkdale Intermediate. Our students work in pairs to answer the question posed in the scenario.

They search a multimedia resource called a Quest, listening to video interviews, reading newspaper articles and looking at photographs. The Quest is used to teach the Culture and Heritage section of the National Social Studies Curriculum. Our students look in depth at, 'Why and how individuals and groups sustain their culture and heritage.'

The students are being asked to decide whether Filemoni should come to New Zealand or stay in Samoa. Their work will be assessed on the strength of their argument.

Ways in which you could support your child during this study:

- If anyone from your family or circle of friends has been to Samoa please ask them to share their experiences, photographs etc.
- Pick up and read copies of the Samoa Observer newspaper. It can be purchased in Beachhaven, Birkenhead and Glenfield.
- Check out these newspaper web sites:  
<http://samoalive.com/samoanews.htm>  
[www.talamua.com](http://www.talamua.com)
- Spend a Saturday morning looking around the market at Otara. Every Saturday, 6am - 12noon. Otara Shopping Centre, Newbury Street, Otara. The largest and best known market in Manukau. Experience the food and products of the different cultures in the city.
- The Pacifica Festival is held in March of each year. Although it is over for this year, you might like to make a family visit to the next festival.



White Sunday



Market place Apia

## Quest Awards



**Online Learning Award**  
Recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.



Presented at the National Education Computing Conference, New Orleans, United States of America.



Finalist Computerworld Excellence Awards.



Presented at the National Centre for Teaching Thinking's Summer Institute held at Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Yours sincerely

Richard Coote  
Principal