

“The Sacred School of Learning” (34:13-41:13). Add to this chapter what we can also see of the Sacred School in the chapter titled “Fathers and Sons” (49:35-52:00).

Watching and listens to the two seconds titled “The Sacred School of Learning” and “Fathers and Sons,” we come across numerous examples of the cultural customs and behaviors of the Maori village where Pai lives with her Grandfather Nagati.. The first one is that this village is split according to sex. Men have one expectation and women have another. In the first scene the older women are in the school preparing the food for after the ceremony, no men only women. Outside you have men and women waiting for the boys to enter, the first rows are designated for men and women are expected to sit in the back. Which is really displayed when Pai tries to sit in the front row and Nagati kicks her out of not only the front row but also the whole ceremony, after she refuses to move to the back row. The seats are also separated by age. When the boys walk into the ceremony with their fathers, or those who are present, the boys sit in the back row, while the fathers sit in the front. This is showing the respect for elders that the Maori community holds dear. Another things as the boys and their fathers walk into the ceremony they all have their heads down, another sign of respect for that the ceremony means and their ancestors. The buildings are filled with sculptures of the ancestors, very beautiful work, again showing respect for the culture and ancestors.

The Second half of the scenes deal with Nagati leading the boys though the “sacred school of learning, taught in the old ways for the qualities of a chief.” The biggest part of the scene is the boys learning the sacred chant. First, when Nagati is teaching it to them, Pai is outside listening in on the chant, and then later when they are performing the chant. Something very interesting happens when the boys are reciting the chant. One of the boys fathers comes, this same father was in Jail earlier in the movie. When he is introduced to Nagati, they embrace in a nose to nose, forehead to forehead sign of respect that takes places throughout the movie. You can tell he might be trouble by the way he is dressed, but the interesting thing is how serious he takes the proceedings and how proud of his son he is when he completes his chant correctly. He then introduces his son to “his mates’ a car full of what looks like Maori gang bangers, but even though they look worthless, they also are very proud of him for completing the chant and it seems very proud of their heritage, which is interested considering how they act, dress, etc. The movie is full of cultural interesting cultural differences and behaviors that can be found in the Maori communities in New Zealand.