Sad joke on a marae – Apairana Taylor   
  
Tihei Mauriora I called   
Kepe Paikea Te Kooti   
Rewi and Te Rauparaha   
I saw them   
grim death and wooden ghosts   
carved on the meeting house wall   
  
In the only Maori I knew   
I called   
Tihei Mauriora   
Above me the tekoteko raged   
He ripped his tongue from his mouth   
And threw it at my feet   
  
Then I spoke   
My name is Tu the freezing worker   
Ngati D.B. is my tribe   
The pub is my marae   
My fist is my taiaha   
Jail is my home   
  
Tihei Mauriora I cried   
They understood   
The tekoteko and the ghosts   
Though I said nothing but   
Tihei Mauriora   
For that’s all I knew

Strong verbs – instead of ‘said’ we have called.

Listing of the Maori names – makes it seem like there are lots of ancestors, shows their importance

Personal pronouns – ‘I’ links to the Maori man Tu, the ‘them’ creates a separation between him and his ancestors.

Metaphor – ‘wooden ghosts’ – links to ancestors (important to Maori)

Strong verbs – ‘ripped,’ ‘raged’ and ‘threw’

Repetition of ‘Tihei Mauriora’ – which clearly shows that it is the only Maori he knows – lack of knowledge

Personification – brings the ancestors to life, makes them ‘alive’ so we can identify with them.

Links to the powhiri and the challenge – the ancestor is challenging Tu to find his culture

Repetition of ‘is my’ – proves the point that everything he ‘is’ is not Maori.

Structured like a mihi (maori introduction) – shows that everything he identifies with is not Maori. Loss of identity.

He is almost the stereotypical Maori.

Strong verbs again ‘cried’ instead of said

‘They understand’ that he does not know anything more and it is not his fault.

‘all I know’ is repeated – to make it hit home that he has lost his culture.