

# Prescription

**This task is about reading a poem and making inferences from it**

**Read the poem and answer the questions.**

a) Apart from the pot pourri of frangipani, sandalwood, maso'oi, and gardenia, what five other things does the writer want put in the parcel?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

iv) \_\_\_\_\_

v) \_\_\_\_\_

b) Why does the speaker in the poem most probably want these things sent?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Why might the speaker in this poem want "a pocket of air" from the kitchen?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) Why is "Prescription" a better choice for the title than "Parcel"?

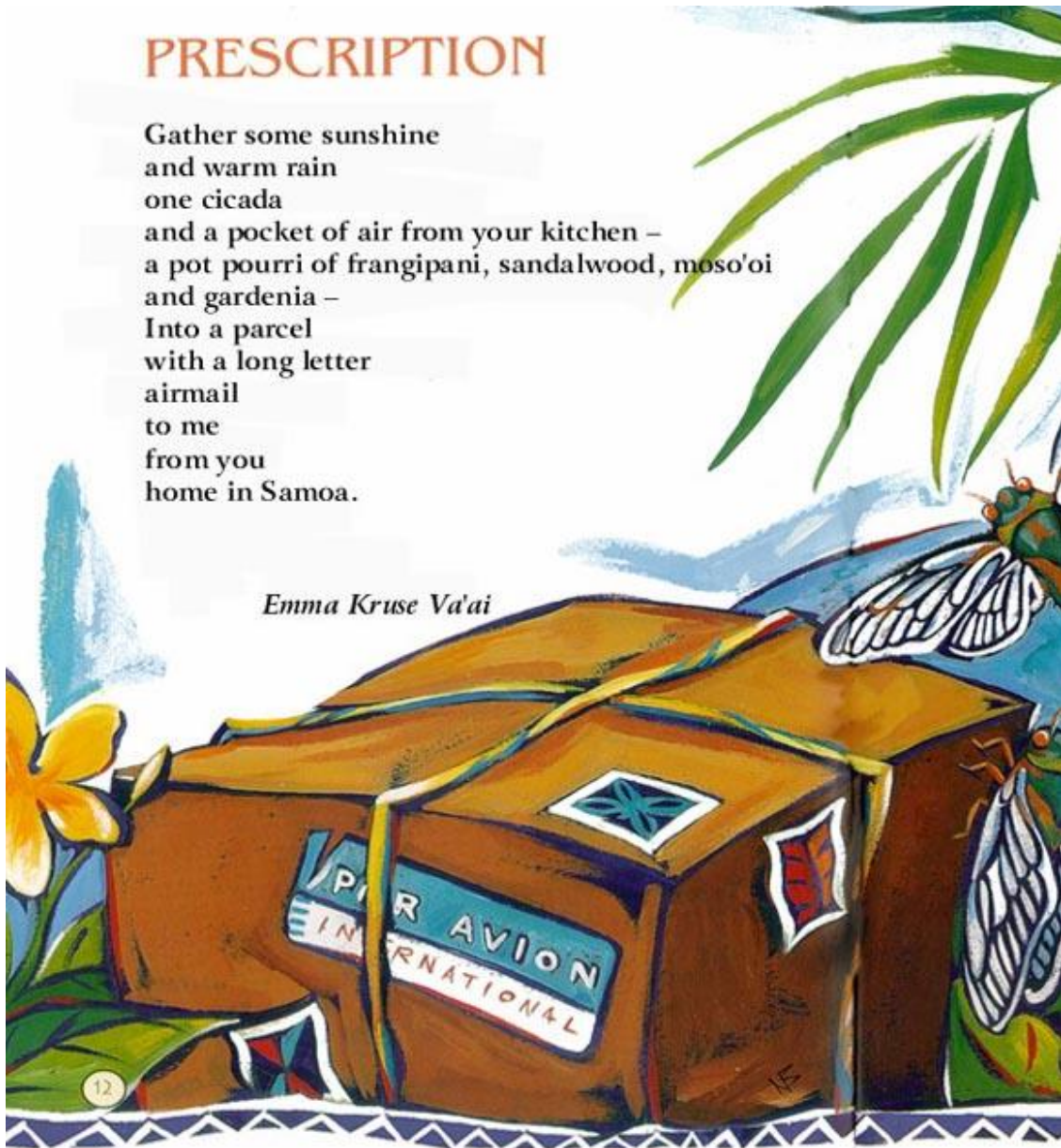
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The following poem is a message from the writer in New Zealand to a family member or a friend in Sāmoa.

## PRESCRIPTION

Gather some sunshine  
and warm rain  
one cicada  
and a pocket of air from your kitchen –  
a pot pourri of frangipani, sandalwood, moso'oi  
and gardenia –  
Into a parcel  
with a long letter  
airmail  
to me  
from you  
home in Samoa.

*Emma Kruse Va'ai*



*Source: Choices, 'Can't a Person Have a Friend?,'  
Learning Media, 1996.*