



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Call It Courage

Armstrong Sperry

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your final exam.

Chapter 1:

1. When and where did the story take place?
2. Who was Mafatu and what did his name mean? What was his christened name?
3. What did Mafatu fear most? Why?
4. How did the older people treat Mafatu? How did the other kids treat him?
5. Who were Uri and Kivi?
6. Why was killing the bonito so important to the boys?
7. What made Mafatu finally decide to face the Sea God?
8. What did Mafatu take on his trip?

Chapter 2:

1. What was the Ara Moana?
2. Explain what the narrator means by saying, "This world of the sea was ruled by Nature's harsh law of survival."
3. How did Mafatu lose all the food and weapons he had brought?
4. After the storm, why couldn't Mafatu steer his boat?
5. How did Uri give Mafatu courage?
6. How was the island Mafatu approached different in appearance from his homeland, Hikuera?
7. How was Mafatu nearly killed as he approached the island?
8. Why did Mafatu drag himself to the edge of the jungle before passing out?
9. What happened to Uri when the canoe broke up?

Name _____

Directions: Discuss with classmates what Mafatu is like. Jot ideas onto the attribute web, below.

The diagram is an attribute web for the character Mafatu. It consists of a central oval labeled "Mafatu" with four rectangular boxes arranged around it. The top-left box is titled "How He Looks", the top-right box is titled "How He Acts", the bottom-left box is titled "How He Feels", and the bottom-right box is titled "How Others Feel About Him". A large, light gray watermark reading "SAMPLE" is oriented diagonally across the entire page, passing through the central oval and all four boxes.

Directions: In stories, the plot often is carried along by the causes and effects of decisions made by the characters (or by chance events). Had the characters made an alternate decision—or had chance events not occurred—the plot would have turned in a different direction. Even small decisions or chance events can bring about later events. We know this is also true in our own lives where decisions and chance events have real consequences.

- A. Choose one of the following scenes from the book:
- a) Mafatu decided to take Uri with him on his long trip over the sea.
 - b) As the canoe drifted, Mafatu—terrified—buried his face in his hands. Hearing Uri whimper, Mafatu decided that if Uri could have the courage to die, he—Mafatu—could do no less.
 - c) Uri fell off the raft as the hammerhead circled; Mafatu dove into the water gripping his knife and stabbed the shark.
 - d) Mafatu found the Sacred Place and decided that he must watch for the eaters-of-men.
 - e) As Mafatu struggled with the octopus, one of his wildly driven blows went true and killed the octopus.
 - f) Mafatu had prepared his canoe the night before the arrival of the cannibals.
 - g) Lying weakened on the floor of the canoe, Mafatu saw the lagoon fire and heard the beat of an albatross' wings.
- B. Fill in the chart below to show what might have happened if there had been a different turn of events in the scene you chose.

Scene Chosen from List: _____	Changes in Your New Version of the Scene:
Changes in the Outcome of the Story:	