



Brothers of the Fire Star

Core Curriculum Standards-Based Study Guide

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Chapters 1-5
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Name _____ Period _____

Note-Taking Guide: Chapter 1

To keep track of the story as it develops, it is helpful to keep notes for each chapter. You do not need to use complete sentences.

Setting:

Characters:

Summary of Chapter:

Prediction of Coming Events:

Name _____ Period _____

Note-Taking Guide: Chapter 2

To keep track of the story as it develops, it is helpful to keep notes for each chapter. You do not need to use complete sentences.

Setting:

Characters:

Summary of Chapter:

Prediction of Coming Events:

Name _____ Period _____

Note-Taking Guide: Chapter 3

To keep track of the story as it develops, it is helpful to keep notes for each chapter. You do not need to use complete sentences.

Setting:

Characters:

Summary of Chapter:

Prediction of Coming Events:

Name _____ Period _____

Note-Taking Guide: Chapter 4

To keep track of the story as it develops, it is helpful to keep notes for each chapter. You do not need to use complete sentences.

Setting:

Characters:

Summary of Chapter:

Prediction of Coming Events:

Name _____ Period _____

Note-Taking Guide: Chapter 5

To keep track of the story as it develops, it is helpful to keep notes for each chapter. You do not need to use complete sentences.

Setting:

Characters:

Summary of Chapter:

Prediction of Coming Events:

Name _____ Period _____

Chapters 1 – 5: Vocabulary

Use a dictionary as well as how they are used in the context of the book to understand the meaning of these words and terms. Keep these definitions to study for quizzes and tests.

1. Concussions
2. Searing pain
3. Intertwining branches
4. Banyan tree (*nunu* tree)
5. Ancestors
6. Trans-Pacific cable station
7. Acrid
8. Diminished
9. Procession
10. Bomb craters
11. Corrugated metal
12. Chaotic

13.Unscathed

14.Harbor

15.Fervently

16.Windward

17.Leeward

18.Perpetual

19.Serenity

20.Sword grass

21.Negotiated the curves

22.Ravine

23.Rivulets

24.Gunwale

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Comprehension Check

On a separate piece of paper, answer the questions below. Use complete sentences.

Chapter 1

1. Where is Joseph when the planes attack his village?
2. How does his uncle feel about his exploring?
3. Where does Joseph hide when the bombing begins?
4. What happens to Joseph after he falls asleep?
5. What has he been told about the *nunu* tree?
6. What does the Spirit of the Voyage tell Joseph?

Chapter 2

1. When Joseph returns to the village, what does he find?
2. Where does his uncle work?
3. Who does he meet on the road to the village and what does this boy tell him?
4. What happened to his uncle?
5. When Joseph finds him lying in the water, what was his uncle holding?
6. Where does Joseph go after he finds his uncle?

Chapter 3

1. When Joseph wakes up he is not certain how long he has been sleeping. What does he find that helps him figure out what the date is?
2. Why is the date December 7, 1941 important?
3. When the planes attack the village again, where does Joseph go?
4. What does Joseph take with him when he escapes the village?
5. What two things does Joseph find along the side of the road?
6. When Joseph gets thirsty, what does he try to do?
7. What happens when a truck carrying Japanese soldiers sees Joseph on the side of the road?

Chapter 4

1. What does Joseph have to search for when he finds himself in the jungle at the bottom of the ravine?
2. Joseph sits on a log to rest. What does he hear when he closes his eyes?
3. What is Napu doing when Joseph sees him?
4. Why doesn't Napu want to take Joseph with him when he escapes?
5. What does Napu think of what Joseph has in the sack?

Name _____ Period _____

Comprehension Check (continued)

Chapter 5

1. What does Napu have Joseph do when they start to leave the river in the boat?
2. What happens when they meet the Japanese patrol boat?
3. After the patrol boat is gone, what do the boys do?

Name _____ Period _____

Directions: Read the following essay and on the next page answer the questions by writing the word “true” if the statement is true, and “false” if the statement is false.

The Chamorro People and The Taotaomo’na*

In Chapter 1, when we first meet Joseph, he is in the jungle exploring when the Japanese army begins its attack on the island of Guahan (Guam). Looking for a place to hide from the bombs, he takes refuge deep among the roots a banyan tree, a type of fig tree that the Chamorros, the indigenous people of Guahan, call a nunu tree. Joseph remembers that the Chamorros believe that the taotaomo’na, the spirits of their ancestors, live among the tangled, twisting roots of the tree and he has been warned to treat the tree with great respect and ask permission to walk near it. And, indeed, when Joseph falls asleep, he is awakened by the ghost of an ancient Chamorro who says he is the Spirit of the Voyage.

While for many people the belief in spirits is just superstition, to many others the spirit world is very real. For many on Guahan, the taotaomo’na, whose name means “the people of before,” really exist and must be treated with respect and, in some cases, feared. Over the centuries, the Chamorro way defining or understanding the taotaomo’na, however, has changed.

In times past, the taotaomo’na were thought to be the spirits of close ancestors who were still looked upon as members of the family. They were referred to by name, it was believed they played a major role in daily life, and they were asked to help and give protection in times of trouble.

At other times, taotaomo’nas were thought to be the spirits of ancestors who lived so long ago that the family no longer had a real connection with them. If this taotaomo’na’s help was needed to heal a sick family member, the help of a “medicine man” was needed to reach the spirit.

Under the influence of Spanish Catholicism, Chamorros today have come think of the taotaomo’na as pesky, troublesome, or even evil spirits rather than the helpful spirits of ancient ancestors. They feel they cannot be trusted and are, in fact, feared because of their ability to cause illness or physical harm.

*Reference: www.Guampedia.com

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Historical Fiction, Sailing Fiction
Navigation Fiction, Survival Fiction
Young Adult Fiction, Fantasy

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1. _____ The indigenous people of Guahan are called *Chamorros*.
2. _____ The Chamorros' beliefs in the taotaomo'na have not changed over the centuries.
3. _____ The word Chamorro means "the people of before."
4. _____ A banyan tree, called a nunu tree by the people of Guahan, is a type of palm tree.
5. _____ In former times, it was believed that the taotaomo'na could be called to help a Chamorro family in times of trouble.

Essay Question: Be sure to use complete sentences.

6. How have the Chamorro's belief's in the taotaomo'na changed over the centuries?

7. Why was it believed a medicine man needed to help a family contact a taotaomo'na?

Name _____ Period _____

Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling, and Grammar

Directions: Find the errors in punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and grammar in the sentences below. Write them correctly in the space provided. There is more than one error in each sentence.

- 1. he had been told he must come home write away if anything happened, even though his uncle had insisted the war would not reach them

- 2. Its long roots, growing downward through the air and along the trees trunk, were like a thousand writhing twisting gray snakes

- 3. Could war be so quiet. is it over already.

- 4. "Are the soldiers there Joseph asked.

5. he got up from the table and went into the bedroom

6. can you climb in by yourself he asked.

Name _____ Period _____

1. i found it he said

2. Okay he said use the pole to steer us

3. Don't stop paddling Napu whispered

4. joseph scrambled as quickly as he kould back across the tarp
