



Brothers of the Fire Star

Core Curriculum Standards-Based Study Guide

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Answer Key
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Answer Key

Note: Answers may not be given in complete sentences as most answers should be.

P. 8 Core Standard: Author Biography

Douglas Arvidson

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. a

P. 10 Critical Thinking: Introduction

1. to provide information necessary to the understanding of the book.
2. 1941 – 45 in the Pacific to expand its economic and military influence
3. to find sea routes to the Far East
It resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and largely destroyed the culture of the islands.

P. 20 Comprehension Check: Chapters 1 – 5

Chapter 1

1. out in the jungle exploring
2. He worries he will hurt himself.
3. in the tangled roots of a nunu or banyan tree
4. He wakes up to the sound of whispering.
5. The spirits of the islander's ancestors live in it and he must treat it with respect
6. He must not die yet. He must escape to sea with a boy named Napu and bring back the secrets of the ancient navigators

Chapter 2

1. The village has been destroyed by Japanese air attacks.
2. at the trans-Pacific cable station
3. He meets a boy named Tomas who tells him not to go back to the village because there are dead people there and the planes will come back.
4. His uncle was killed in the Japanese attack.
5. Joseph's favorite book, *A Boy's Picture History of the World in One Volume*
6. back to their house

Chapter 3

1. A calendar is hanging on the wall of the house.
2. It is the day the Japanese attacked the United States and started World War II in the Pacific.

Chapter 3 (continued)

3. He leaves the village to escape into the jungle.
4. the Spirit of the Voyage and the book
5. an empty sack and a machete
6. climb a coconut tree to get a nut
7. The soldiers shoot at Joseph

Chapter 4

1. his machete
2. someone singing
3. standing in his boat
4. Because Joseph doesn't know anything and will cause trouble and get them both killed.
5. The stick and the book are worthless.

P. 23 The Chamorro People and the Taotaomo'na

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False (a type of fig tree)
5. True
6. In the old days, they felt close to the taotaomo'na and thought the spirits could protect and help them. A medicine man was needed to help contact the ancient spirits. In modern times, the taotaomo'na are believed to be evil and are feared.
7. The people had lost connection with the very old spirits and needed the medicine to contact them.

Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling, and Grammar

1. He had been told he must come home right away if anything happened, even though his uncle had insisted the war would not reach them. (period at end of sentence)
2. Its long roots, growing downward through the air and along the tree's trunk, were like a thousand writhing, twisting, gray snakes. (add commas)
3. Could war be so quiet? Is it over already? (add question marks)
4. "Are the soldiers there?" Joseph asked. (add quotation mark and question mark)
5. He got up from the table and went into the bedroom. (add period)
6. "Can you climb in by yourself?" he asked.
7. "I found it," he said. (quotation marks, capitalization, and period)
8. "Okay," he said, "use the pole to steer us." (quotation marks, commas, and period)
9. "Don't stop paddling," Napu whispered. (quotation marks, comma, period)
10. Joseph scrambled as quickly as he could back across the tarp. (Capitalization, spelling of "could," add period.)

Chapters 1 – 10 Core Standard: Foreshadowing (Accept reasonable answers)

1. Joseph may die later.
2. They will learn how to use birds to help them navigate.
3. Napu learned how to speak Japanese from his grandmother.

Comprehension Check—Chapters 6 – 10

Chapter 6

1. Napu tells Joseph that knowing how to navigate using the stars was in his blood. No, because Joseph remembers that the old ghost told him that he must help Napu learn how to navigate.
2. to an island where the people will give them food and there are no soldiers
3. He thinks Joseph is lying because the spirits of the ancestors have never spoken to him.

Chapter 7

1. He dropped the machete into the boat.
2. No, he had not been listening to instructions and he almost capsized the boat.

Chapter 8

1. Come out of the stick and go into Napu's mouth.
2. Again, Joseph remembers that the old ghosts told him to help Napu learn how to navigate.

Chapter 9

1. He feels disgusted by the raw fish and expects Napu to throw up.
2. Wake Napu up.
3. Come out of the stick and go into his mouth like he did with Napu.

Chapter 10

1. He feels both relief and sadness because he realizes that no one is looking for them.
2. He thinks he sees trees growing out of the ocean.
3. He falls asleep, falls into the bottom of the canoe, and the canoe capsizes.

Core Standard: Conflict

1. man against nature
2. man against himself (internal conflict)
3. man against man

Comprehension: Chapters 11 – 15

1. The boat capsizes in the surf and they are shipwrecked on an island.
2. He blames himself for them getting shipwrecked and losing the boat.
3. He finds his book, *A Boy's Picture History of the World in One Volume*. It is important to him because it is his only connection to the world he came from. Looking at the pictures was like looking at pictures of his long-lost family.
4. He finds his fishing net. With it he can catch all the fish they need to live.
5. The lagoon is full of fish.

Comprehension Check: Chapters 16 – 20

1. It may have been the Spirit of the Voyage or could have been a bird or just a dream.
2. The carved root of the nunu tree—the Spirit of the Voyage
3. He feels uneasy because of his restless night's sleep and the mysterious appearance of the Spirit of the Voyage by their fire.
4. The machete falls from the tree and badly cuts his leg.
5. It becomes infected.
6. He imagines he sees the Spirit of the Voyage and an evil taotaomo'na fighting.
7. to thank the Spirit of the Voyage for saving Joseph and to become "brothers."
8. He thinks they should have eaten the turtle and her eggs.
9. He sees a sail; a proa is approaching the lagoon.
10. Take the boys with them back to their island.
11. He releases him into the lagoon.

Core Standard: Theme

1. Brotherhood is an important theme for the author because the two main characters struggle to overcome their cultural and racial differences and realize they need each other to survive.
2. Yes, because despite their differences, Joseph and Napu come to realize that they both have something important to offer to each other. Each comes to respect the other and they become "brothers."

Comprehension Check: Chapters 21 – 25

1. The boys could tell Raumwele was captain of the canoe because the other men waited for him to give them permission to eat and, as the navigator, he did not have to do changed positions and do other jobs.
2. the sea and the stars
3. They must bring him food, keep him company, and help him repair his canoe.
4. Joseph dreams he sees the old navigator as a young man sitting around a fire with the Spirit of the Voyage and Napu and Joseph. Retawasiol has made a circle of stones in the sand and is speaking a strange language.
5. He teaches them how to use a paddling canoe to catch fish.
6. A Japanese war ship comes to the island and a Japanese officer comes ashore. Joseph must hide in the canoe because if the Japanese captain finds him, they will kill him.
7. They catch a turtle and bring it up onto the beach. When it dies, they cook it for Retawasiol.

Core Standard: Elements of Style

1. Answers may vary. A quiet mood of reflection, of oneness with nature.
2. "and," "time" and "wind."
3. The repetition of the words "and," "time," and "wind."

4. "...and time passed over them as if it, too, were part of the wind."

".....that time and the wind were the same thing and that stars, too, were all part of the wind and the sea and time, and so was the canoe and everyone in it."

Comprehension Check: Chapters 26 – 30

Chapter 26

1. They notice that their physical appearances were changing; they were getting taller, their voices were changing, and they were starting to grow beards.
2. They fished, gathered food, prepared meals, and kept the canoe house clean.
3. a—an example of metaphor

Chapter 27

4. They tell the captain that they used the book to start fires.
5. He tells them they must leave the island because the next time the soldiers come they might find Joseph and they will take the canoe. He wants to sail to an island where he believes the spirits of the ancestors came out of the Earth and he wants to die there.

Chapter 28

6. They get the canoe ready to go sailing.
7. After a day of sailing, Napu and Joseph feel that they are learning and being successful.

Chapter 29

8. He seems to become angry but he may have only been teasing them.
9. He became anxious and unsure of himself until he saw the birds and knew which way to steer to reach the island.
10. The men from Puluwat.
11. They tell them that there is big battle being fought on Saipan between the Americans and the Japanese.

Core Standard: Character Development

Character: Joseph

Joseph has learned a great deal about sailing, fishing, and surviving at sea and on an island. He has grown bigger and stronger and is developing a lot of self confidence.

Character: Napu

Napu has learned to admit what he does not know and learned to accept Joseph as a equal. He, too, has grown physically stronger and has learned how to sail a canoe and much about star-path navigation.

Napu and Joseph's Relationship

At the beginning, Napu was the leader and Joseph looked up to him and depended on him. Now, Joseph and Napu share the decision making and each recognize that other is competent at sailing and survival.

Character: The Spirit of the Voyage

1. Yes, Joseph, Napu, and Retwasiol believe the Spirit of the Voyage is real. They speak to it and depend on it to protect and help them.
2. Answers will vary. Accept any well-reasoned response.
3. No, the Spirit of the Voyage is an unchanging presence throughout the book. It does not grow or weaken or learn new skills or gain new insights.

Character: Retawasiol, the Old Navigator

Retawasiol is an authority figure and the boys' teacher and mentor. Napu and Joseph both respect and fear the old man but don't seem to feel much affection for him.

Comprehension Check: Chapters 31 – 35

Chapter 31

1. Hide in the jungle
2. They believe that the thunderstorm has been caused by the spirits on the island.

Chapter 32

1. They used the stars and the ocean currents.
2. They find a rubber life raft containing the body of an American serviceman. They are frightened and curious.
3. He wants to give them to the serviceman's family so they will know what happened to him.

Chapter 33

1. They see war planes.
2. the bodies of women and children

Chapter 34

1. They need to get coconuts to drink for the voyage to the island where the old navigator wants to die.

Chapter 35

1. They get caught in the middle of a battle.

Core Standard: Setting

1. 1941 to 1945
2. World War II
3. The setting is among the tropical island of the Pacific. The warm climate makes it unnecessary for the characters to worry about getting cold or wearing much clothing. The ocean and the islands provide enough food but, because the islands are small, there are few places to hide from the Japanese soldiers.

***Bushido* and the Suicide and Banzai Cliffs of Saipan**

1. Bushido means “the way of the warrior” in Japanese. Answers will vary. Accept any reasonable response.
2. Propaganda means the deliberate spreading of rumors or ideas to help a cause. The Japanese leaders encourage the civilians on Saipan to commit suicide when the American invaded Saipan because they did not want the Americans to win a propoganda victory by treating the people well.

Comprehension Check: Chapters 36 – 40

Chapter 36

1. He has moved off the proa and is lying on the beach under the shelter of the rocks. He has the Spirit of the Voyage with him.
2. He finds C-rations—cans of Army food.

Chapter 37

1. Yes, they show that they know how to use the currents, the ocean swells, and the stars when they leave Saipan.

Chapter 38

1. There are soldiers on the island and the American planes are bombing it. Napu said they must go to the island despite the soldiers and bombing because the old navigator wants to die there.

2. He finds a young Japanese soldier.
3. He tells him that spirits of the ancestors are with them and they will take revenge on him if he kills them.

Chapter 39

1. He sees the shadow of the Spirit of the Voyage floating over the young soldier.
2. They take him up into a cave above the beach because it will be a good place to be when he dies.
3. The young Japanese soldier builds a tomb for the old navigator inside the cave.
4. The soldier's name is Kiki. He is young and dirty and has a bad cold. He is wearing a ragged uniform with a hat that has a flap on the back to cover his neck.

Chapter 40

1. Napu does not trust Kiki and thinks he might try to kill them.
2. Kiki resists getting on the canoe and Joseph and Napu have to fight him.
3. They have to bring the secrets of navigation back to the island.

Core Standard: Point of View

1. This is written in the third-person limited point of view because it tells how Joseph felt; he felt fear.
2. This shows the third-person point of view because although Napu rests his head on the tam for a moment and seems tired, we don't know what he is thinking.

Comprehension Check: Chapters 41 – Epilogue

Chapter 41

1. Napu speaks to him in Japanese and tells him that they did not want him to die in the war and Joseph offers him a coconut to drink.
2. He thinks the war is over on Guahan and they are running out of coconuts.

Chapter 44

1. They see American war ships and planes shelling and bombing the island.
2. The wind dies.
3. A shell damages the proa and Joseph is badly injured. When they reach the beach, Kiki walks on the sand and disappears into the battle.

Epilogue

1. Joseph and Magahet are Napu's sons and Isa is their sister.
2. Joseph has just turned eighteen and he is excited because today, for the first time, he will be the navigator on a voyage to another island.
3. Napu, Joseph, Magahet, and Isa's father perform a ceremony to bless the voyage. Napu always puts the carved root of the nunu tree and the book *A Boys History of the World in One Volume* into the canoe when they leave to go to sea.

Core Standard: Symbolism

1. The root is from a nunu or banyan tree. Banyan trees, which are also called strangler figs because their roots grow up and around other trees, are considered sacred by many people around the world including the people of Guahan. When the ghost of the old man enters the root, it takes the form of the Spirit of the Voyage, a sleeping figure. They believe it has the power to protect and guide them.
2. Joseph finds the book in the arms of his uncle who has been killed by the Japanese attack on the village. In this manner, both the book and the Spirit of the Voyage are gifts given to Joseph and Napu by dead men and seem to offer comfort and guidance. They can be considered as symbols of the two different cultures, the Western culture of Joseph's and Napu's Pacific Island culture.

3. Napu feels that the root of the nunu tree actually contains the Spirit of the Voyage and is therefore valuable while the book is just pictures and words. While Joseph also feels that the carved root has the power of spirits inside, he has always loved books and been taught they are sacred, too.

4. The Spirit of the Voyage and the book, *A Boy's Picture History of the World in One Volume*, can be seen as symbolizing the way two different cultures hand down the myths and legends of their pasts. The island culture, which until recently did not have a written language, passed down the stories and lessons from long-dead ancestors by oral memories such as stories, chants, and songs. Western culture, with its long history of a written language, transmits the mythology of its past through books.

Core Standard: Elements of Plot

Exposition: The main characters of Joseph, Napu, and the Spirit of the Voyage, are introduced in the first four chapters. The character of Retawasiol, the old navigator, is introduced in Chapter 21. The setting is the islands of the Pacific at the outset of World War II.

Rising Action: Both Joseph and Napu face the possibility of being killed by the Japanese if they are captured. They have also been told by the Spirit of the Voyage must also learn the secrets of navigating by the stars and bring them back to Guahan but the only way they can accomplish this is to take Retawasiol to the island where he wants to die.

Climax: The climax occurs in the last few pages when Joseph, Napu, and Kiki are caught up in American invasion of Guam.

Falling Action: This takes place in the Epilogue.

Denouement: This also takes place in the Epilogue.

Quiz: Chapters 1 – 5

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. b
5. d
6. c
7. b
8. a
9. a
10. c

Vocabulary Quiz: Chapters 1 – 5

1. procession
2. perpetual
3. chaotic
4. concussions
5. diminished
6. fervently
7. unscathed
8. windward
9. leeward
10. serenity

Quiz: Chapters 6 - 10

1. He is too proud to admit he cannot.
2. He almost caused it to capsize. He feels worthless stupid.
3. He has eaten it many times before.
4. He is afraid of being out at sea and wants someone to rescue them.
5. He has never seen a low island rise up from the sea. He cannot believe there could be trees in the ocean. He is very sleepy.
6. Not at first because he has never seen them and he grew up on the island.

Vocabulary Quiz: Chapters 6 - 10

1. stern
2. sheath
3. horizon
4. anticipate
5. flogging
6. stoically
7. zenith
8. relinquish
9. Ignite
10. crescent

Chapters 11 – 15 Quiz

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. c
7. a
8. c
9. a
10. b

Chapters 11 – 15 Vocabulary Quiz

1. carnivorous
2. tinder
3. loom
4. flotsam
5. constellations
6. lagoon
7. riffle
8. sodden
9. friction
10. Charles Darwin

Chapters 16 – 20 Quiz

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. False
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. True

Chapters 16 – 20 Vocabulary Quiz

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. b

Chapters 21 – 25 Quiz

1. c
2. c
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. c
7. b
8. a
9. b
10. a

Chapters 21 – 25 Vocabulary Quiz

1. incomprehensible
2. liling
3. helmsman
4. deferred
5. utt
6. intonation
7. smallpox
8. reproach
9. mirage
10. Samuri

Chapter 26 – 30: Quiz

1. They do not have watches or a calendar. They have no way of measuring the passage of time other than the seasons and the phases of the moon.

2. Because they do not have compasses or sextants and if they do not learn to use the stars, they cannot leave the island and the Japanese will find them and kill them.

3. Joseph has the book in the canoe with him when he hides.

4. b

5. d

6. b

7. a

8. b

Chapters 31 – 36: Quiz

1. b

2. a

3. b

4. d.

5. a

6. b

7. b

8. a

9. c

10. d

Chapters 36 – 40: Quiz

1. a

2. c

3. a

4. b

5. c

6. a

7. c

8. d

9 .b

10. d

Chapters 36 – 40: Vocabulary Quiz

1. c

2. a

3. a

4. c

5. b

6. b

7. a

8.b

9. b

10. c

Chapters 41 – Epilogue: Quiz

1. a

2. d

3. a

4. b

5. c

6. b

7. a

8. b

9. d

10. They were successful in that they brought the secrets of the ancient navigators back to Guahan as they were told to do by the Spirit of the Voyage.

Epilogue: Vocabulary Quiz

1. epilogue
2. legible
3. impassively
4. acrid
5. lopped
6. haunches
7. supergiant star

The Coconut Palm: The Tree of Life

1. She thought the author had mentioned coconuts too often in the book.
2. Napu and Joseph drank and ate coconuts while at sea and while on the islands.
3. any three of the following: building houses, making rope, making utensils, food, drinking, burning in fires for cooking, medicine, hair-care products, copra
4. Copra is dried coconut meat. It contains oil that is used for cooking, medicines, and hair-care products. It is also fed to farm animals.
5. any of the following: coconut oil, hand cream, carpets or door mats made of coconut fiber, shampoo

Core Standard: Identifying Parts of Speech

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a. adjective
b. preposition
c. verb
d. noun 2. a. verb
b. adverb
c. verb
d. noun 3. a. pronoun
b. verb
c. adjective
d. drank 4. a. noun
b. preposition
c. adjective
d. noun | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. a. verb, b. adjective, c. verb
d. interjection 6. a. pronoun, b. noun, c. verb
d. preposition 7. a. noun, b. conjunction,
c. adjective, d. noun 8. a. preposition, b. preposition
c. conjunction, d. verb 9. a. article, b. noun, c. verb, d. noun |
|---|---|

Brothers of the Fire Star: Final Test

1. d
2. f
3. g
4. j
5. a
6. b
7. e
8. c
9. h
10. I

True/False

11. False
12. True
13. True
14. False
15. True
16. False
17. True
18. True
19. False
20. False

Multiple Choice

21. b
22. a
23. b
24. a
25. c
26. d
27. d
28. a
29. b
30. b

Short Response (3 to 7 sentences each)

31. Accept reasonable answers. By having Joseph and Napu settle their differences and become “brothers.”
32. It is important not to lose touch with the with nature.
33. Accept any reasonable answer.

Vocabulary

34. f
35. g
36. c
37. h
38. j
39. a
40. b
41. d
42. n
43. e
44. o

45. p
46. q
47. i
48. k
49. l
50. m