



Brothers of the Fire Star

Core Curriculum Standards-Based Study Guide

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Chapters 31-35
Version 2.0 – January 1, 2016

Name _____ Period _____

Note-Taking Guide: Chapter 31

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 32

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 33

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 34

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 35

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 _____

Comprehension Check: Chapters 31 – 35

Directions: *Read Chapters 31 – 35 and, using complete sentences, write your answers in the space provided.*

Chapter 31

1. When the Japanese come back to the island what does Retawasiol tell Joseph to do?

2. Why do the Japanese soldiers leave the island so quickly?

Chapter 32

1. Retawasiol and the boys set sail after dark. What do they use to set the course to Saipan?

Name _____ Period _____

Comprehension Check: Chapter 31 – 35 (continued)

2. The next day, what do they meet drifting toward them on the sea? What is inside it and how do the boys feel when they see it?

3. Why does Joseph think it's important to get the dog tags from the dead man's body?

Chapter 33

1. On the third day, how do they know they are getting close to the island of Saipan?

Name _____ Period _____

Comprehension Check: Chapter 31 – 35 (continued)

2. As they approach Saipan, what do they see floating in the water?

3. What happens to the canoe as it approaches the beach?

Chapter 34

1. Why do Napu and Joseph feels it is necessary to go ashore even though there is a battle raging?

Chapter 35

1. What happens to Joseph and Napu when they go back to the battlefield together to get more coconuts?

Name _____ Period _____

Core Standard: Setting

Knowing the setting of a novel, especially in a work of historical fiction, is extremely important to understanding the book. By setting we mean the time, place, and mood, factors that help shape the events in the story. In other words, setting is when, where, and under what circumstances the action of the book is taking place.

Directions: Using complete sentences, answer the questions about the setting of Brothers of the Fire Star.

1. When does this novel take place?

2. What major historical event is happening at the time of the story?

3. In what part of the world is the story set?

4. How does the geographical setting affect the characters and the action in the story?

5. How is the culture of the islanders—that is, how they dress, what they eat, and their religious beliefs—different than yours?

Name _____ Period _____

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

Directions: Read the following essay and answer the questions on the next page using complete sentences. You may work together in groups and refer back to the essay.

As Napu, Joseph, and Retawasiol are approaching the island of Saipan after sailing from the atoll of Pikelot, they begin to see signs of war. Airplanes appear in the sky and fly down to investigate the proa and the shadows of many ships gather on the horizon.

The most terrifying thing they witness, however, are the bloated bodies of dead women and children floating past them. Here is a passage from Chapter 33: *“In the morning, with the smoke low on the water and the blueness of the water ruined by ash and debris, they saw a body. It floated face down past the slowly moving proa. But it was not a soldier; it was a woman, they could tell that much, and she was wearing a kimono of many bright colors and her black hair floated on the surface of the water in waving tendrils and the back of her neck was white against the darker sea.”*

Why were there bodies of women and children floating in the water? Where did they come from? There were two reasons why many Japanese soldiers and civilians committed suicide by jumping off cliffs as the American soldiers invaded Saipan.

The first was a code of honor called *bushido*, a Japanese word that means “the way of the warrior.” The Samurai, who were Japanese warriors in the 18th and 19th centuries, live by this code, a code which included vows of loyalty, wisdom, and serenity. It also included a belief that it was better for a soldier to die in combat than to surrender. It was for this reason that many Japanese soldiers chose to die either in hopeless combat or by committing suicide by jumping from cliffs onto the rocks below.

Banzai is a Japanese word that means “ten thousand years.” It became a patriotic victory cry for soldiers facing certain death in combat. On Saipan, women holding their children committed suicide by leaping from the so-called “banzai cliffs” into the ocean. They did this for a different reason than the code of bushido. Worried that if the American invaders treated the civilians well it would be a

propaganda victory for the Americans, the Japanese leaders encouraged civilians to commit suicide by telling them that if the Americans took them prisoner they would be tortured. At least a thousand terrified people took their own lives because of these lies.

