



# Chapter One (Part One)

(To the paragraph that starts with "A nondescript yellow dog...")

1. With a straight line, match the characters on the left with the sentences that describe them on the right.

- 1 Mafatu
- 2 Uri
- 3 Tavana Nui
- 4 Mafatu's mother
- 5 Kivi

- A The Great Chief of Hikueru.
- B Taken by Moana, the Sea God.
- C A nondescript yellow dog.
- D The boy who was afraid.
- E A bird with one foot smaller than the other.

2. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

- a) When does the story take place?
- A In the afternoon.
  - B Before the dawn of recorded history.
  - C Before the great storm.
  - D After the traders and missionaries came to the South Seas.
- b) How did Mafatu care for the small bird trying to fight off its more powerful fellows?
- A He ran at the bigger birds and scared them off.
  - B He flapped his oar at them.
  - C He showed him where he could hide.
  - D He carried it home and caught fish for it.
- c) What did everyone think would happen in Mafatu's future?
- A He would never earn his proper place in the tribe.
  - B He would overcome his fear and lead them.
  - C He would lead them from dry land.
  - D He would become skillful and teach others how to do the same.



# Chapter Two (Part One)

(To the paragraph that starts with "Kivi!" Mafatu cried hoarsely.)

## 1. Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they occurred in this Section.

- a) Mafatu saw a whale surface, spout air and then dive back down into the water.
- b) Wherever Mafatu looked, all he could see was water.
- c) Mafatu could not tell if his albatross flew around with all of the thousand sea birds flying in the sky or if he vanished leaving him alone.
- d) Mafatu lowered his sail and gripped the steering paddle so tightly that his knuckles became white.
- e) When the wind howled above his head, Mafatu gripped his paddle so he could steer.
- f) After Kivi flies away, Mafatu only has Uri to keep him company.
- g) Mafatu's little canoe was carried forward by an ocean current across the Pacific.
- h) A monster wave rose higher until it seemed that it would reach the low-hanging clouds.

## 2. Complete each sentence with a word(s) from the list.

ominous	convulsively	sustaining	oppressive	mysterious
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- a) But there seemed to be no need of a sail: the little canoe was riding one of the \_\_\_\_\_ ocean currents that flow in their courses through the length and breadth of the Pacific.
- b) His fingers gripped the paddle \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) It was an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ world at this season of storm.
- d) More refreshing than spring water, cool on the hottest days and as \_\_\_\_\_ as food.



## Chapter Two (Part Two)

(From the paragraph that starts with "Even as he spoke, the bird wheeled slowly...")

1. **Circle S** if the statement(s) suggests that Mafatu will survive. **Circle P** if the statement(s) indicates he will die.

- S P** a) "Once more it seemed as if his albatross were leading him onward, just as he had led the canoe out of the passage of Hikueru."
- S P** b) "Hour by hour, with every lift of the swells, the island rose higher and higher, filling Mafatu's soul with wonder."
- S P** c) "Mafatu was powerless to guide his craft."
- S P** d) "He could only watch helplessly as the little canoe, swift as the following gulls, rushed to meet the tides of the island where they met and churned in a cross sea of conflict."
- S P** e) "Of a sudden he felt the canoe under him lifted and flung high into the air."
- S P** f) "Of a sudden there was something solid beneath his feet."

2. Choose the most appropriate answer for each of the following.

- a) Once Mafatu finally reached land, what guided him to go to the jungle's edge?
- A Moana
- B Maui
- C He knew not what.
- D The murmur of water.
- b) What could Mafatu smell when the Southern Cross pointed to the end of the world?
- A bittersweet flowers
- B salty sea air
- C coconuts
- D fish
- c) What did the moonlight reveal?
- A An island with lots of fruit.
- B A boy thin with hunger, naked as the daystar.
- C Uri drinking water.
- D Mafatu's shattered canoe.



## Chapter Three (Part One)

(To the paragraph that starts with "Mafatu decided that before he retraced his steps...")

### 1. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from this Section.

- a) Uri lay close at hand, holding a robber-crab in his forepaws, cracking the tough shell and \_\_\_\_\_ the meat with \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) He was \_\_\_\_\_ with thirst and there was an odd \_\_\_\_\_ in his limbs.
- c) Then, prompted more by \_\_\_\_\_ than by \_\_\_\_\_ thought, he withdrew, to let the water run down his \_\_\_\_\_ throat sparingly, with caution.
- d) But the solitude was \_\_\_\_\_ save for the soft \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and the gentle splash of the cascade.
- e) Once, in the dim beginnings of the world, this mountain had \_\_\_\_\_ forth fire and \_\_\_\_\_, spreading destruction over the land.
- f) His leg still pained, and he would need the juice of limes to \_\_\_\_\_ the coral wound, and \_\_\_\_\_ leaves to make a healing \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Number the events from 1 to 7 in the order they occurred in this Section.

- a) Mafatu decided that instead of going back the way he came, he would explore the other side of the island.
- b) Mafatu laid down on the volcanic rock and watched the wild goats leap from peak to peak high above his head.
- c) Canoes could only make their way through two reefs.
- d) The vines hung like ropes from high branches where the birds flew away and vanished in the green gloom.
- e) When the trail sloped up sharply, Mafatu had to pull himself up by the roots of plants and crawl on his stomach.
- f) Everyone in the Hikueru tribe wanted a necklace like the one his Grandfather earned.
- g) Mafatu grabbed onto roots and vines so that he would not fall.



# Chapter Three (Part Two)

(From the paragraph that starts with "At the base of the ancient crater,...")

## 1. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

a) What did Mafatu find that struck him with awe and trembling?

- A A row of men eating plants.
- B A hut that housed the eaters-of-men.
- C A grotesque idol on top of a pyramid.
- D A platform for performing plays.

b) How did Mafatu know that the savages had been there recently?

- A There were piles of ashes untouched by the wind.
- B They left food on the platform.
- C Moana—the Sea God—told him.
- D Their fire was still burning.

c) What happened when Mafatu drew the spearhead toward him?

- A The idol winked at him.
- B He dislodged a bone and it fell at his feet.
- C Uri ran away with a bone.
- D Phantoms started whispering.

d) Why was taking the spear worth the risk?

- A Mafatu could now spear fish.
- B Mafatu could play tricks with Uri.
- C Mafatu could now kill a wild pig and defend himself.
- D Mafatu had tricked the idol.

e) What tool does Mafatu wish he still had?

- A An axe for cutting down trees.
- B His knife.
- C A hatchet so he could make a shelter.
- D None of the above.

f) What does breadfruit baked in fire taste like?

- A Bread and potato.
- B Bread with avocado spread.
- C Potato with sour cream.
- D Flaky pastry.



# Chapter Four (Part One)

(To the paragraph that starts with "Hunger alone drove Mafatu out to the reef...")

## 1. Complete each sentence with a word from the list.

<b>multitude</b>	<b>cautiously</b>	<b>sheltered</b>	<b>fiber</b>	<b>sportive</b>
<b>persistent</b>	<b>buoyant</b>	<b>clumsily</b>	<b>splintered</b>	<b>elation</b>

- a) It was tough, durable, yet \_\_\_\_\_ in the water.
- b) When at length it had eaten well into the trunk, Mafatu climbed aloft and crept \_\_\_\_\_ out upon a large branch that overhung the beach.
- c) At sundown, regularly, the white bird came wheeling and circling, to alight \_\_\_\_\_ on the beach almost at Mafatu's side, while Uri pranced about and greeted his friend after his own fashion.
- d) Then he wet the \_\_\_\_\_ and laid it upon a flat stone and set about beating it with a stick of wood.
- e) The fiber spread and grew thinner under the \_\_\_\_\_ beating.
- f) The days passed in a \_\_\_\_\_ of tasks that kept Mafatu busy from dawn till dark.
- g) All day long the wind played through the opening in the bamboo walls and at night lizards scurried through the thatch with soft \_\_\_\_\_.
- h) One morning, wandering far down the beach, Mafatu came upon a \_\_\_\_\_ cove.
- i) It might not have meant very much to you or to me; but to Mafatu it meant knives and fishhooks galore, \_\_\_\_\_ bone for darts and spears, a shoulder blade for an ax.
- j) It was a \_\_\_\_\_ treasure trove.
- k) And thus they returned to the campsite, weary, but filled with \_\_\_\_\_.
- l) He leaped about like a \_\_\_\_\_ puppy, yapping until he was hoarse.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



## Chapter Four (Part Two)

*(From the paragraph that starts with "Wait, you!" the boy threatened darkly..." to the paragraph that starts with "The realization flooded through him...")*

1. Number the events from **1** to **12** in the order they occurred in this Section.

- a) Mafatu drops a fishline and baited hook into the water.
- b) Mafatu has Uri pull the boar back to camp.
- c) Mafatu's instinct warns him to beware of danger.
- d) A boar charges at Mafatu.
- e) Mafatu jokes with Uri that he's not getting any puua.
- f) Mafatu builds a fire and piles stones on top to heat.
- g) Mafatu drags the pig to the fire and rolls it onto the hot umu.
- h) Mafatu impales the boar with his spear.
- i) Mafatu uses logs to move the canoe into the lagoon.
- j) Mafatu makes the tusks into a necklace.
- k) Mafatu takes the canoe out toward the barrier-reef.
- l) Mafatu believes that he has made a truce with Moana, the Sea God.



## Chapter Four (Part Three)

*(From the paragraph that starts with "How fantastic was that undersea world!")*

1. Circle **T** if the statement is **TRUE** or **F** if it is **FALSE**.

- T F** a) Mafatu decides that he will not retrieve the knife because it is too dangerous.
- T F** b) An octopus attacks Mafatu when he tries to empty his trap.
- T F** c) Mafatu stabs the octopus under water with his spear.
- T F** d) Uri remains calm in the canoe.
- T F** e) Mafatu believes that he was protected by Maui.
- T F** f) Mafatu did not want to be reminded of the Octopus that nearly killed him, so he didn't keep the tentacle.
- T F** g) Mafatu realizes that the sea is not to be feared more than earth or air.
- T F** h) Mafatu decides that tomorrow it is time for him to go home.
- T F** i) Never again will Mafatu hang his head before his people.
- T F** j) Mafatu had faced loneliness, danger and death with courage.
- T F** k) When Mafatu lay down to sleep that night, he felt a deep sadness about leaving the island.
- T F** l) Before morning, Mafatu hears the thump-thump of the eaters-of-men's drums.





# Chapter Five

## 1. Complete the paragraph by filling in each blank with the correct word from the Chapter.

Mafatu's canoe, so slim and light, sped like a \_\_\_\_\_ across the lagoon. The tide was on the \_\_\_\_\_, churning in its race through the \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_ ocean. The boy gripped the \_\_\_\_\_ paddle and offered up a prayer. Then he was caught in the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ dashed through the passage, a chip on a \_\_\_\_\_. The wind of the open sea rushed to greet it. The sail filled; the outrigger \_\_\_\_\_ over. Mafatu scrambled to \_\_\_\_\_ to lend his weight for \_\_\_\_\_. He was off! Homeward, \_\_\_\_\_ ...

## 2. Number the events from 1 to 10 in the order they occurred after the crowd assembles on the beach.

- a) The crowd cries out as if the sea gave up its dead.
- b) The crowd sees a head lift above the gunwale and a tiny body struggle to sit upright.
- c) His father presents him as 'Mafatu, Stout Heart'. A brave name for a brave boy.
- d) The canoe looks empty.
- e) Mafatu identifies himself.
- f) The crowd watches a small canoe slip through the reef-passage.
- g) Mafatu sways and his father catches him as he falls.
- h) The Great Chief's face was transformed with joy.
- i) The crowd thinks the canoe was artfully built.
- j) Tavana Nui went forward to greet the stranger.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Comprehension Quiz



Answer each question in a complete sentence.

1. What do the Hikueru worship?

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2. Why do the Hikueru reject Mafatu?

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3. Why does Mafatu's mother take him out to the barrier-reef?

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4. What would Mafatu never forget?

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5. How did Mafatu and his mother get through the night?

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6. What happened to Mafatu when he went out to the glassy swells where the ocean lifted and dropped the small canoe?

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7. What did the old Hikueru sing about?

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SUBTOTAL: /14



# Comprehension Quiz

8. What happened when the wave crashed down upon Mafatu and his canoe?

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



9. What sound did Mafatu hear once on shore?

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



10. What condition was Mafatu in when he arrived on the island?

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



11. What did Mafatu discover near the tree where he bandaged his leg?

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



12. Describe what Mafatu sees from the top of the lookout.

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



13. How long has it been since the savages have been on the platform? How does Mafatu know this?

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



14. What does Mafatu say to his father when he arrives home?

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



**SUBTOTAL: /19**