

Call it Courage
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Have students complete *The Anticipation Guide* to build background knowledge and make connections to the themes and messages of the story.
- Frontload vocabulary on pages 1-3; disclose to students that the language in this novel may appear to be challenging due to being written in the 1940s.
- Review strategies on how to utilize context clues to identify the meaning of unknown words.

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- "Flight": Why is Mafatu going out into the sea, although it is something he fears?
- "The Sea": How was Mafatu able to make it to land? *Think: personality traits, actions, companions, etc.*
- "The Island": How did Mafatu find belief in himself and his abilities on the island?
- "Drums": Why does Mafatu want his father to be proud of him? Do you think Mafatu's experiences on the island would fill his father with pride? Why or why not?
- "Homeward": How did Maui answer Mafatu's prayer? Why? Had Maui deserted Mafatu? Why or why not? How did Tavana Nui react to his son's return? Was it what Mafatu expected? How?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What are some lessons we can learn from Mafatu's journey?
- Has anyone ever doubted you before? How did that make you feel?
- What are some ways you have overcome challenges that you are afraid of?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.