

“Ghost of the Lagoon” Discussion Prompts

Name_____ Period_____

Page 192 ~ Lines 1-14

This passage establishes the setting and main character: Mako lives on the South Pacific Island of Bora Bora.

~ What kind of place is Bora Bora? Where is it located?

~Who is Mako? And how does he spend his time?

~Who is Afa?

Page 192 ~ Lines 6-14.

~What does the narrator reveal about Mako?

Page 194 ~ Lines 29-44.

~How does Grandfather describe Tupa?

~What details make Tupa seem mysterious, dangerous, and evil?

Page 194 ~ Lines 34-50.

This passage begins to set up the motivation for Mako’s conflict with Tupa

~Who is Tupa, and where does he live?

~What reward has the king offered for capturing Tupa?

~Why does Grandfather think that Tupa cannot be captured?

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~Mako has never before heard the story Grandfather tells in lines 36-42. Complete the T-chart by answering the questions.

Questions	Answers
What did Mako already know about Tupa?	
What did Mako learn from Grandfather?	
What does Mako want to learn?	

Page 195 ~ Lines 60-70

~How does Mako react when he learns what happened to his father? What does this suggest about the traits of a hero?

~Write the line that uses a simile.

~Write the line that uses personification.

Page 196 ~ Lines 73-77

~What is the narrator able to reveal about Mako that the other characters in the story wouldn't know?

Page 196 ~ Lines 94- 111

~How does the lagoon look as Mako paddles his canoe?

~Why does Mako begin to doubt the story of the ghost of the lagoon?

~Do you think Mako will keep his vow to kill Tupa?

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Page 196 ~ Lines 105-111

~How do you learn what Mako is thinking even though he hasn't spoken?

Page 198 ~ Lines 154-183

~How would you feel if you were in a dark and gloomy jungle and you suddenly realized that you might not get home before dark?

~How does Mako's attitude about Tupa suddenly change?

~Do you think Mako can defeat the shark? Why or why not?

Page 198 ~ Lines 166-170

~How would this paragraph be different if Mako were telling the story?

Page 199 ~ Lines 194- 211:

This passage presents the climax of the story: Mako spears the shark to save Afa.

~What does Tupa do as Afa swims toward the canoe?

~How does Mako save Afa from the shark?

~What happens after Mako drags Afa onto the canoe?

~What qualities of a hero does Mako display?

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Page 200 ~ Lines 212-240

~What would you have done after getting Afa aboard and spearing Tupa a second time?

~How would the story be different if Mako had chosen not to fight the shark?

Page 200 ~ Lines 225-240

This passage concludes the story: it shows the attitude of the community toward their new hero.

~What does Mako do when he is sure that Tupa is dead?

~Who spreads the news of Mako’s victory over Tupa?

~What will Grandfather’s new song be about?

~How has Mako become a hero in his community?
