



Call it Courage

 !"#

"#"$%

&'#"

()#

'#\*#$%

+#(+\*

,\*$+#

###

%+,)

#+-#.\*

#+#

.###

/0###

#

+$##\*

##\*## 

.###

1#

)##

/\*####



12#+#

#"$\*#3 

\*##,#\*2

+###3\*

###

###))

+,#%'+

#(###

#$+#,

#4###0#+





Call it Courage

 !"#

"#"$%

&'#"

()#

'#\*#$%

+#(+\*

,\*$+#

###

%+,)

#+-#.\*

#+#

.###

/0###

#

+$##\*

##\*## 

.###

1#

)##

/\*####



12#+#

#"$\*#3 

\*##,#\*2

+###3\*

###

###))

+,#%'+

#(###

#$+#,

#4###0#+

*Call It Courage*

Example book report

*Call it Courage* is the story of a boy who faces his worst fears so that he can prove to himself, as well as his tribe, that he is worthy of the name Stout heart. This story is written by Armstrong Perry and takes place on a Polynesian island in the South Pacific. I know this because on page one, the author states: “Before the traitors and missionaries came into the South Seas the Polynesians were great in number.” The story takes place a long time ago. This is evident because on page one, the author says that “Even today the people of Hikueru sing the story in their chants and tell it over the evening fires. It is the story of Mafatu the boy who was afraid.” The main character Mafatu, which means Stout Heart, is the chief’s son. His tribe is a fishing tribe, but Mafatu is afraid of the sea, because he was swept away in a hurricane when he was three with his mother and she was killed while he barely survived.

In the beginning of the story, other boys Mafatu’s age go hunting in the sea. They make fun of him because he is afraid.  Mafatu sets out alone in a canoe with just his dog Yuri for company. He wants to prove to himself and his tribe that he is worthy of his name, given to him by his father. Mafatu and Yuri are caught in a terrible storm and they lose all their food and water as waves crash upon the canoe.  Finally, the canoe capsizes and breaks into pieces. They wash up on the shore of a seemingly deserted island.

Mafatu uses his skills to create a net to fish with and to build a shelter. He uses the skeleton of a whale that washed ashore to make a knife and tools. His courage is tested and proven when he battles a shark to save Yuri, as well as when he kills a wild boar and makes a necklace from its teeth in order to prove his brave act. Once again he has to face his fears of the ocean when he is chased by a tribe of eaters of men. This time the currents are against him and he becomes weak with hunger and thirst, but he manages to escape. Finally, he arrives at Hikueru, and his bravery is celebrated and remembered by his tribe, for years to come.

The main type of conflict in this story is man versus himself. At the beginning of the book we are told that Mafatu is afraid of the ocean ever since he and his mother were swept away. This was the cause of his mother’s death. Because of his fear, he cannot be a regular member of his fishing community. This is evident because Mafatu is teased by his peers for being frightened by the Pacific. He feels ashamed, so he sets off to battle the sea alone. The conflict is really inside Mafatu as he tries to gather courage and face his fears.  He probably didn’t intend to meet such a violent storm. Here in lies a secondary type of conflict, man versus nature. This type of conflict is integral to the story. Mafatu is repeatedly forced to overcome different forces of nature. He has to survive a churning sea and defeat wild animals. It is through this type of conflict that Mafatu resolves the main conflict.

This story is told from third person limited, where a narrator who is not participating in the story, knows all of Mafatu’s thoughts and feelings.  I can tell this because the narrator says, “Mafatu was certain of it, as he was certain that the sun shone and was warm.” The author used third person limited, instead of first person because Mafatu probably wouldn’t have been able to put a lot of his thoughts into words. Using third person limited helped the author explain feelings of fear that paralyzed Mafatu. I think that by using third person point of view the author helped me, as a reader, to understand and strongly identify with Mafatu as he faces each of these challenges and comes out stronger and more confident after each one. I could tell that as the story progressed Mafatu was more willing to face the things that scared him especially the shark, and being in the water.