

## CALL IT COURAGE, BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY

The book Call it Courage takes place on HIKUERU, an island atoll in French Polynesia. Today you get to learn more about this small island by exploring its land, plants, animals, and author.

Please answer these questions in your composition book.

### ACTIVITY 1:

Let's take a look at the atoll.

- a. On Google Earth, type "Atoll Hikueru, French Polynesia". Explore the atoll. From looking at the island, what are your impressions of the atoll?
  - b. Looking on Wikipedia, list three facts about the atoll that you learned.
2. According to websites about GEMSTONES, what rare gemstone is found on Hikueru? What creature does it come from? What impact does it have on the economy?
  3. Visit two tourism sites to look at pictures of different French Polynesian islands. Compare two different TOURS that you could take. Include where, when, cost, activities, food, etc.
  4. According to the IRD website, what happened to Hikueru in 1903? Do people live there today? Why or why not?

### ACTIVITY 2:

Let's look at the sea creatures that live in French Polynesia.

For each sea creature write a description and draw a picture. Britannica Online is helpful.

1. Sea Urchin
2. Flying Fish
3. Albatross
4. Sword Fish
5. Tiger Shark
6. Sand Shark
7. Bonitos

### ACTIVITY 3:

Let's look at the plants that live in French Polynesia.

1. For each plant write a description and draw a picture. Britannica Online works well.

1. Breadfruit
2. Coconuts (also called Green Drinking Nut in the novel).
3. Plantain
4. Mango

2. Now visit the IRD website to look at plants that live in coral reefs similar to the one surrounding Hikueru. Describe some of the plants and draw their pictures.

## ACTIVITY 4

Let's learn about the mythology in the book.

1. In Polynesian Mythology, Moana is the god of the sea.
  2. Study the Dreaming the Land Moana website. Then, write four reasons why the sea is so important to the people.
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2. After reading the following poem about Moana **explain lines 3, 5 and 7.**

### O MY MOANA!

1. You unite us under your greatness, depth and mystery
2. You hold us all under the palm of your mighty hands
  3. You are my means of communication
  4. You let me ride on your back to safety
5. You satisfy my hunger with your infinite resources
6. You so unite us that we cannot live without you
7. Your majesty and beauty are beyond compare
8. O my Moana, we all belong to you...

## ACTIVITY 5

Let's get to know about the author.

1. What happened to Armstrong Sperry in 1925 that may have inspired this book? Explain in your own words where Sperry spent the year and the events that happened to him.
2. Describe how Sperry's grandfather inspired him to be a writer of adventure stories about islands.
3. The Newbery Medal is the biggest honor a young adult author can receive. Explain why it is such an honor, what the medal is and how a book is selected. When was this book selected?

**Read the letter** he received describing the events of the week that he would be getting the award. [www.ogram.org/Sperry/](http://www.ogram.org/Sperry/)

- a. Who wrote the letter to Mr. Sperry?
- b. List the events, who would be there and where they were located.
- c. Who was invited to go with him?
- d. Where would they be staying?
- e. Which event would be the nicest?