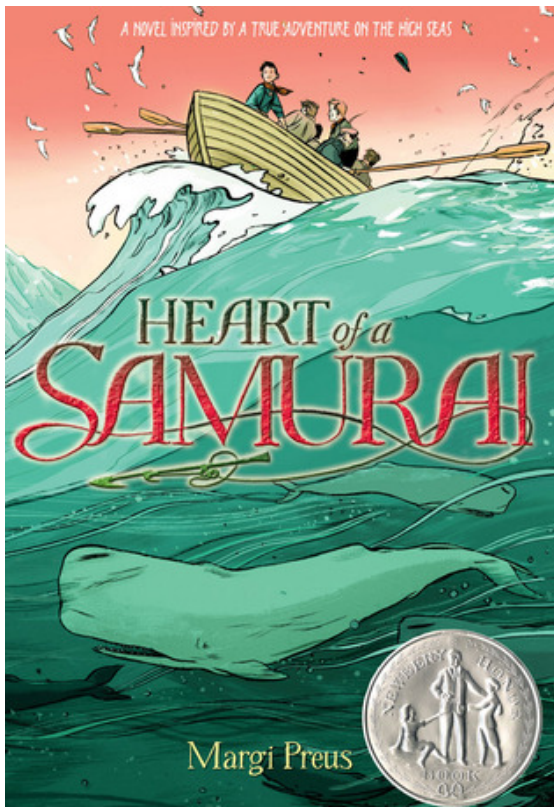


FULL LENGTH BOOK EXTENDER: Group Reading Aligned to Common Core

by Matthew Hadlock



Grade 6 Discussion Questions

RL 6.3 – Describe how a particular story’s plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters change as the plot moves forward to a resolution.

Identify the major periods in Manhiro’s life and explain how Manhiro develops as a person during each one.

RL 6.4 – Determine the meaning of words as they are used in a text; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

After Manhiro’s return to Japan, he is called a “spy”. Why? Do you agree? How does this term make you feel about Manhiro and Japan?

RL 6.5 – Analyze how a chapter contributes to the development of the theme and plot.

Explain how Chap. 3, when Manhiro first joins the ship, shows the struggles Manhiro will face in his future outside of Japan.

Heart of a Samurai

By Margi Preus
2010
Grades 5 - 9

Summary: In 1841, *Manjiro*, a 14-year-old Japanese fisherman, is swept out to sea and rescued by a boat of American fisherman. He becomes the adopted son of the ship’s captain and lives with him in Massachusetts and later in Hawaii before returning to Japan. After being held prisoner in Japan for more than a year, he ends up working for the Japanese government as it establishes formal relations with the USA in the mid-1800’s.

Grade 6 Activities

W 6.1 – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Write a letter to Manhiro advising him as to whether or not he should return to Japan knowing he will be jailed for leaving the country?

W 6.10 – Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of discipline specific tasks, purposes and audiences.

- Write a paragraph explaining why Japan chose to isolate itself?
- Prepare a presentation showing Manhiro’s accomplishments as a diplomat?
- Write a diary entry about how you would have reacted if you were Manhiro stranded on the island?
- Write an advice column article to a person of one race, amongst a crowd of different people, as to how they can establish good relations with the other people?