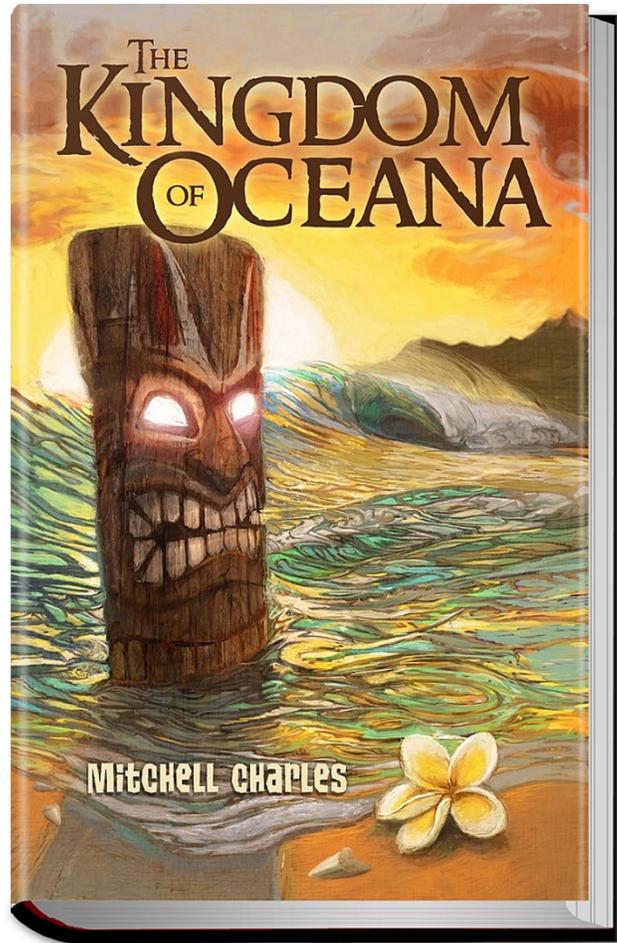


Study Guide



Literature, History, and the Humanities

This study guide uses the novel, *The Kingdom of Oceana* to teach about literary devices, ancient Hawaiian culture, mythology, and language. The study guide also explores other themes in the book such as sibling rivalry and income disparity, and its effect on the environment.

I. Literary Devices

Authors use a range of literary devices in their writing. Below, you'll see a passage from *The Kingdom of Oceana* that illustrates a number of different literary devices, including metaphors and personification.

Nahoa led us along the crest of the ridge and then down a narrow path into a deep gorge known as the singing forest, a dense thicket of towering bamboo that swayed in the early morning breeze. As the hollow trees rubbed against each other, they performed a haunting symphony that sounded like a thousand bass-toned flutes playing slightly out of key. The forest seemed to moan with sadness, and the eerie melody made me jumpy. (Chapter 1, page 3).

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. A **simile** is a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another of a different kind, and is used to make a description more emphatic or vivid. How do you tell the difference? A simile uses "like" or "as," while a metaphor does not. The passage above uses metaphors, but not similes.

This passage also uses **personification**. Personification is the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form. The trees perform a symphony, and the forest moans with sadness are examples of attributing human characteristics or abilities to non-human objects.

There are many other literary devices that authors use to give color to their descriptions and dialogue. You can find a list of many different literary devices at <http://literary-devices.com>.

Discussion Questions

1. In chapter one and chapter two of *The Kingdom of Oceana*, find examples of each of the following: a simile, a metaphor, and personification.

2. Think about why literary devices are used. What purpose do they serve? Give at least two examples from the novel.

Activity

1. Write a two or three paragraph short story about Ailani, Nahoā, or another character from *The Kingdom of Oceana*. Use at least two different literary devices.

II. The Hero's Journey

The Hero's Journey is an **archetype** identified by Joseph Campbell. Joseph Campbell was an American scholar and mythologist (someone who studies mythology) with a strong interest in comparative religions. Campbell found many similar stories in religions and mythologies of widely different cultures. He called these similar stories or concepts archetypes. One of the archetypes is that of a hero—and the hero must, to attain his status or meet his goals, go on a difficult journey.

Prince Ailani is on an archetypal “hero's journey.” Joseph Campbell's writings were an influence on the author.

The archetypal hero's journey is made up of 12 distinct steps.

1. **The Ordinary World.** The hero is introduced as a sympathetic character, complete with insecurities. Some information about his background or environment is provided, and there's evidence of a conflict in his life.
2. **The Call to Adventure.** An internal or external pressure drives the character to action.
3. **Refusal of the Call.** The hero may avoid the struggle, or another character may voice concerns about the call to adventure.
4. **Meeting with the Mentor.** The hero meets a mentor or finds a source of strength in himself.
5. **Crossing the Threshold.** The hero begins an emotional or physical journey as he accepts the challenges before him. The hero leaves behind his ordinary world.
6. **Tests, Allies, and Enemies.** The hero is tested by various challenges.

7. **Approach.** The hero, along with friends or allies, prepares for a significant conflict.
8. **The Ordeal.** The hero faces death or another frightening and life-changing experience.
9. **The Reward.** The hero takes possession of some sort of reward as a result of the ordeal. This may be physical or emotional, but can also be lost.
10. **The Road Back.** The hero returns home.
11. **The Resurrection.** The hero is again tested, with another moment of potential death. The conflict is resolved.
12. **Return with the Elixir.** The hero returns home transformed in some way.

Discussion Questions

1. Choose one of the following mythological characters and compare him with Prince Ailani, in terms of the hero's journey. How are the characters and their journeys alike and different?
 - a. Odysseus from the Odyssey
 - b. Luke Skywalker from Star Wars
 - c. Frodo from Lord of the Rings
 - d. Harry Potter from the Harry Potter series
2. Why do you think that archetypal figures and their journeys are found across many different cultures?

Activities

1. Create a diagram or mind map that shows as many of the steps of the hero's journey as you can, as experienced by Prince Ailani.

III. Artistic License

Often in works of historical fiction, an author will alter some inconsequential facts to better serve the story. This is called **artistic license**.

One example of artistic license in *The Kingdom of Oceana* is the proximity of Waimoku Falls to Moana Kea. In fact, Moana Kea is on the island of Hawaii, referred to as the Great Island in the novel, Waimoku Falls is actually on Maui.

Artistic license can provoke controversy, but artists often respond to these criticisms by pointing out that their work was not intended to be 100% factual, but rather, as a work of fiction, should be judged on its artistic merit. Artistic license is a generally accepted practice.

Activities

1. Find another example of artistic license in *The Kingdom of Oceana*. Why do you think the author used creative license in this example? In your opinion, do you think it detracted from the story?
2. List three examples of artistic license in other books you've read this year. Why do you think the author used creative license in this example? In your opinion, do you think it detracted from the story?

IV. Hawaiian History and Culture



Figure 1 An 18th century royal robe and helmet from Hawaii. Image: By Luis García, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4381241>

The Hawaiian Islands are the most geographically isolated place on the planet. Thus, both ancient migrations and western explorers discovered them relatively recently, and the Hawaiian Islands have had human settlements for a relatively short time compared to many places on earth.

The first human settlements on the Islands began around 300 to 500 AD. Before 300 AD, the Islands may have been used as a stopping point by travelers, but there is no evidence of permanent habitation. The first permanent settlers came from the Marquesas Islands, travelling

in double-hulled canoes. They were skilled navigators, and by 900 AD, all of the main Hawaiian Islands were inhabited by communities of Polynesians.

Around 1200 AD, another wave of migrants arrived in Hawaii from Tahiti. The Tahitians conquered and enslaved the original settlers, and became the ruling class. Much of what we define as Hawaiian culture comes from the evolution of these Tahitian migrants. After this second wave of migration, the islands developed in isolation until 1778.

Captain James Cook, the British explorer, reached Oahu and Kauai on January 18, 1778. The Hawaiians believed him to be the reincarnation of one of their gods. Cook named Hawaii the Sandwich Islands, after the Earl of Sandwich. Cook and his crew brought a number of illnesses to Hawaii, including cholera and measles. In the 70 years after that first contact with Europeans, the population of the Hawaiian Islands fell dramatically because of diseases brought by Europeans. When Cook arrived, there were between 500,000 and one million native Hawaiians. By 1848, there were only 88,000.

V. Sailors and Navigators



Figure 2 <http://paaponomilolii.org>

Native Hawaiians, like other Polynesians, were skilled boat-builders and navigators, managing exceptionally long journeys without maps or mechanical equipment. Ancient Hawaiians navigated using the planets and stars, ocean currents, the flight patterns of migratory birds, and weather patterns. Deep water sailors, called *ho'okele-moana*, relied upon simple, hand-drawn charts, often on a gourd. In *The Kingdom of Oceana*, you can see the importance of navigation skills as Ailani and Nahoa journey to Pearl Island, the Twin Atolls, and Uhiwi Island. The gifted royal navigator Captain Holokai, and his daughter, Luina, play a key role in helping Ailani and Nahoa reach their destinations.

The native Hawaiians relied primarily on double-hulled canoes with mat sails and paddles. The canoe, called a *wa'a*, was captained by a *ho'okele* or *ho'okele-moana*; however, astrologers or priests were consulted before setting off on a journey.

Discussion Questions

1. Why were navigation skills so critical to Polynesians, and later, native Hawaiians?
2. Why were native Hawaiians so at risk from European illnesses?

Activity

1. Compare and contrast Hawaiian navigators with one of the following explorer cultures:
 - a. Viking
 - b. Spanish
 - c. Portuguese

VI. The Hawaiian Language



Figure 3 <http://www.honoluluairport.org>

The Hawaiian Language has only 12 letters (A, E, I, O, U, H, K, L, M, N, P, and W) and a symbol called the *'okina* ('). *'Okina* indicated a glottal stop or slight pause. *'Okina* is often represented by the apostrophe ('), but its official symbol is a single, open quotation mark, or a straight, rather than curved line. (') In the Hawaiian language, Hawaii is written as: Hawai'i. In written English, both Hawaii and Hawai'i are acceptable. *'Okina* appears in *The Kingdom of Oceana* in a number of different words, including *wa'a*.

Every word in the Hawaiian language has to end with one of five vowels (A, E, I, O, U). The *kahakō* symbol is a line placed over a vowel. It directs speakers to stretch out a vowel sound. Think about some of the words you learned in *The Kingdom of Oceana*, like *kohala*, *mana*, and *honu*. You can see that all of these end with a vowel sound.

There are two helpful documents on *The Kingdom of Oceana website*. The first document has stylized illustrations of native animals featured in the novel, showing their Hawaiian names <http://kingdomofoceana.com/native-creatures-of-hawaii-2/>, and the second is a glossary of Hawaiian terms used in the book:

http://kingdomofoceana.com/wpcontent/uploads/2016/05/Glossary_of_Hawaiian_Words.pdf

Prior to the 1980s, the Hawaiian language was in danger of becoming extinct. Efforts to revitalize it have included Hawaiian language preschools and immersion schools, as well as the creation of new words to meet the needs of the modern world.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is preserving traditional language important?
2. In a novel, what is the purpose of including words in the native language, even if it's not the language used in the novel?

Activities

1. Go to http://electronicfieldtrip.org/volcanoes/teachers/classroom_language.html to learn more about the Hawaiian language.

VII. Hawaiian Culture



Figure 4 Hula dancers. Image: National Park Service/S. Geiger

Just as Hawaii has a history of its own, it also has a unique culture. In *The Kingdom of Oceana*, you learn about many aspects of ancient Hawaiian culture.

There are a number of native Hawaiian sports. One of these, **surfing**, is probably already familiar to you. Surfers ride the waves on long, polished surfboards. In *The Kingdom of Oceana*, Ailani, Nahoa, and Momi go surfing in the waters off the coast of Pearl Island at *Teahupo'o*. *Teahupo'o* is one of the most famous and dangerous surfing breaks for professional surfers. The waves are so large, that surfers need to be towed into them by jet skis. Later in the novel, Ailani takes Momi land-sledding, called **he'e hōlua**, down a lava course. Both Ailani and Nahoa practice **lua**, or traditional Hawaiian martial arts, trained by their sadistic teacher, Master Olohe.

Another interesting aspect of Hawaiian culture and Hawaiian history are fishponds. The Royal Fishponds, tended by Puhi and his father in the novel, provide an additional source of easily

accessible food. This is called **aquaculture**, or the cultivation and raising of fish. Fish, other types of seafood, and various types of seaweed are essential to the traditional Hawaiian diet.

In *The Kingdom of Oceana*, the citizens of Pearl Island use pearls as currency. In ancient Hawaii, before Europeans visited and traders came, people relied primarily on barter systems, exchanging a variety of goods with one another. Later, sandalwood was sometimes used as a form of currency. Much later, as trade became more common, coins and paper money came into use.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do cultures develop traditional sports? Can you think of benefits to these activities?
2. What other cultural practices do you associate with Hawaii?

Activities

1. Research other objects used for currency. Compare the use of pearls in the novel to the use of tulip bulbs in 16th and 17th century Holland.

VIII. Hawaiian Religion and Mythology



Figure 5: Tiki Statue. City of Refuge. <http://kingdomofoceana.com/>

Hawaiian religion and mythology falls within the greater scope of Polynesian belief systems. It is, however, different in many ways. These differences are the result of the cultural and geographic isolation of the Hawaiian Islands.

The Hawaiian religion is **polytheistic**. The native Hawaiians have many shared gods, as well as *aumakua*, or the spirits of ancestors honored as family gods. A pivotal scene in the novel is when Prince Ailani seeks guidance from his family's *aumakua*, manifested as a shark. The four most important gods in Hawaii are:

- Kāne, the most important Hawaiian god. He is the god of wild foods, plants, forests, and jungles.
- Kū, the brother of Kāne and the god of war.
- Lono, the third brother of Kāne, and the god of peace and agriculture.
- Kanaloa, the complementary power to Kāne, symbolized by the squid or by the octopus.

While these four deities are identified as male, goddesses were also honored and worshipped in traditional Hawaiian religion.

Pele is one of the most important goddesses in the Hawaiian pantheon. Pele is a goddess of fire and volcanoes, who is said to reside in the volcanic crater of Mount Kilauea. There are many stories about her, and she's often associated with passion and jealousy. The goddess Pele is a prominent character in the sequel to *The Kingdom of Oceana*, set for publication in 2017.

The stories associated with the gods and goddesses of ancient Hawaii explained many natural phenomena, from the volcanoes to the changing tides and currents of the ocean. Appropriately honoring the gods was essential for personal well-being. **Tiki** statues, like one Nahoia disturbs atop Waimoku Falls at the beginning of *The Kingdom of Oceana*, often represent gods or goddesses.

In *The Kingdom of Oceana*, you learned about the importance of priests, astrologers, and other spiritual figures to the society, including the ruling classes. The word **kahuna** in Hawaiian means priest or wizard, and these figures were critical.

Hawaiian religion had a number of **taboos** (*kapu* in Hawaiian), or actions that were totally banned and deemed unacceptable. While there are relatively few taboos in modern society,

there were many in ancient Hawaii. In *The Kingdom of Oceana*, you encounter one significant taboo—the killing of the humpback whales.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think there were so many deities in Hawaii?
2. What is the purpose of taboos, like the taboo against killing whales?

Activities

1. Research one Hawaiian deity. Create a presentation or poster about the deity.

IX. Social Issues in *The Kingdom of Oceana*



Figure 6 A young humpback whale. Image: By D. Gordon E. Robertson - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10970553>

The Kingdom of Oceana presents a number of social issues to the reader. While the novel is set in ancient Hawaii, these social issues remain relevant and important today.

Social Class/Income Disparity

When Ailani and Nahoia visit Pearl Island, they encounter a wealthy city, and then a very poor village not far away. The wealth of the island is limited to a few people, and the majority of the people are living in poverty. This is unusual to the brothers, suggesting that they've not seen poverty before.

Income disparity is difference between the incomes of the richer and poorer parts of society. The more unequal the distribution of wealth in an economy, the greater the income disparity.

Sibling Rivalry

If you have brothers or sisters, you probably already know all about **sibling rivalry**! Sibling rivalry is jealousy and disagreement between brothers and sisters. While it's quite normal, sometimes it becomes more extreme. That's what happens with Nahoia and Ailani. Obviously, most siblings don't try to kill each other or turn to the dark side and end up being cursed into a pilot whale.

Sibling rivalry is often fueled by parental favoritism. In *The Kingdom of Oceana*, the boys' mother, Queen Ua, is not shy about her favor of Nahoia over Ailani.

Whaling

You might already know that the reason whale populations are endangered is pretty simple—humans hunted them, nearly to extinction. While some traditional populations rely upon whale meat, in many cases, the whales were hunted for their fat, or blubber. The blubber was used as a fuel source, just as it is by King Lako and his alchemist, the villains in *The Kingdom of Oceana*.

While some traditional cultures made the killing of whales taboo, others, like the Inuit, who inhabit the Arctic regions of Canada, Greenland, Siberia, and Alaska, relied upon annual whale hunts. In both cases, the cultures greatly revered the animals, with the Inuit honoring their prey.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about the social classes Ailani and Nahoia experience at home vs. what they saw on Pearl Island? Do you think poverty existed on their island as well?
2. Write 2 to 3 paragraphs about a famous sibling rivalries in history, literature, or popular culture.
3. Why do you think two traditional cultures who revere whales expressed that very differently?

Activities

Another social issue addressed in *The Kingdom of Oceana* is the role of technology, called *mikini* in Hawaiian, on their society. Write a three paragraph essay on how *mikini* impacted the story and characters.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who developed the idea of the archetypal hero's journey?
 - a. Sigmund Freud
 - b. Joseph Campbell
 - c. Leonardo da Vinci
 - d. Franklin Roosevelt
2. Which of the following is an example of personification?
 - a. The wind in the trees sounded like a symphony.
 - b. The wind blew through the trees, an orchestra of sound.
 - c. The trees sang beautifully.
 - d. The wind in the trees blew as loudly as an alarm.
3. What is a *kahuna*?
 - a. The king
 - b. A government minister
 - c. A tradesman
 - d. A priest

4. An *Okina* is:
 - a. A type of boat
 - b. A line that indicates that the sound should be drawn out
 - c. A sledding activity using lava courses
 - d. A punctuation mark that shortens the sound

5. How many letters are in the Hawaiian alphabet?
 - a. 10
 - b. 12
 - c. 18
 - d. 26

6. Who is the most important of the Hawaiian gods?
 - a. Kāne
 - b. Kū
 - c. Pele
 - d. Kanaloa,

7. *Lua* is:
 - a. A dance
 - b. A martial art
 - c. A type of ship
 - d. A class of people

8. *Aumakua* are:
 - a. Family gods and ancestors
 - b. All Hawaiian gods
 - c. Cursed animals
 - d. Gods of the volcanoes

9. Aquaculture is:
 - a. Protecting the ocean
 - b. Raising fish
 - c. Raising coral
 - d. The study of Polynesian culture

10. Who was the first European to visit the Hawaiian islands?

- a. The Earl of Sandwich
- b. James Cook
- c. Christopher Columbus
- d. Ferdinand Magellan

Teachers and students with questions or comments, please contact the author at: mitch@kingdomofoceana.com

Answers

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. D
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B