# Study Guide: Chapter 5 - Island Secrets

## Summary

In Chapter 5: Island Secrets, Emily, Jace, and Tyler explore the I-Kiribati village and encounter the customs and daily life of the islanders. They see taro root, huts woven from pandanus leaves, and octopuses drying in the sun. The villagers react with a mixture of curiosity and fear, whispering about the strangers. The children notice both the beauty of island life and the suspicion surrounding them. The chapter introduces mystery about what secrets the islanders are hiding and how the children will earn their trust.

## Vocabulary

curiosity - a strong desire to learn or know something

fear - an unpleasant feeling caused by danger or threat

village - a small community of houses in the countryside

clearing - an open space in a forest or field without trees

pandanus - a tropical plant with long leaves used for weaving

midrib - the central vein of a leaf

fronds - large, divided leaves of a palm or fern

giant - very large in size

drying - becoming free of water or moisture

whispering - speaking softly so others cannot easily hear

customs - traditional practices of a group of people

hut - a small, simple shelter made of natural materials

frightened - feeling afraid or scared

distance - the amount of space between two points

secrets - things kept hidden from others

trust - belief in the reliability or honesty of someone

beauty - qualities that give pleasure to the senses

suspicion - a feeling that something is wrong or untrustworthy

encounter - to meet or experience something

daily - happening every day

## Comprehension Questions

1. What food did Tyler recognize in the pit near the village?

2. What were the I-Kiribati huts made of?

3. How did the villagers react to seeing the children?

4. What unusual food did the children see drying in the sun?

5. What mystery is hinted at in this chapter about the villagers?

## Answer Key

1. He recognized taro root in the pit with water and leaves.

2. They were made of pandanus leaves and coconut palm fronds.

3. Some watched with curiosity, while others reacted with fear.

4. They saw giant octopuses drying.

5. That the islanders had secrets and were suspicious of strangers.

## Themes

- Cultural differences and curiosity

- Fear of outsiders

- The mystery of hidden knowledge

- Survival through building trust