# Study Guide: Chapter 6 - New Friends and Old Superstitions

## Summary

In Chapter 6: New Friends and Old Superstitions, the children are welcomed into the village more warmly than before. They sit with the islanders under a breadfruit tree, eat roasted fish, and begin learning some of the I-Kiribati language. Emily and the others notice kindness from certain villagers but also whispers and superstitions that linger about outsiders. One elder warns about the 'red-haired witch,' deepening the mystery of the island. This chapter highlights the mix of friendship and fear that defines the villagers’ attitude toward the children.

## Vocabulary

welcomed - received with friendliness and acceptance

circle - a round shape or group arranged in a ring

cross-legged - sitting with legs folded over each other

shade - an area sheltered from direct sunlight

fluttered - moved quickly and lightly in the air

breeze - a gentle wind

drifted - moved slowly through air or water

approached - came closer to someone or something

smiled - formed a happy expression with the mouth

warmly - in a kind and friendly way

patted - touched lightly with the hand

mat - a piece of woven material used to sit on

elder - an older, respected member of a community

warned - told someone about possible danger

superstition - a belief in magical causes of events

whisper - speak very softly

outsiders - people not part of a group or community

friendship - a close and trusting relationship between people

acceptance - the act of receiving someone as they are

mystery - something unknown or difficult to explain

## Comprehension Questions

1. Where were the villagers sitting when the children arrived?

2. What food did the children smell cooking in the air?

3. How did the villagers show kindness to the children?

4. What warning did an elder give about the island?

5. What balance of feelings did the villagers show toward the children?

## Answer Key

1. They were sitting in a large circle under a breadfruit tree.

2. They smelled roasted fish.

3. One woman smiled warmly and invited them to sit on the mat beside her.

4. An elder warned them about the 'red-haired witch.'

5. They showed both friendliness and lingering fear or superstition.

## Themes

- Friendship and kindness across cultures

- Superstitions influencing community behavior

- The tension between trust and fear

- The mystery of the 'red-haired witch'