



## DISCUSSION GUIDE TO THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

1. Mateo was warned about the dangers and dismal pay of the long sea voyage to a secret destination. Why do you think Mateo signed up for the voyage anyway?
2. The Castilian code of honor becomes essential to understanding both Mateo and Rodrigo's characters. How did you understand the Castilian code of honor? In what ways is it similar or dissimilar to social systems of honor today?
3. Mateo and Rodrigo's friendship had its share of bumps and bruises. How did Mateo feel about Rodrigo? How did Rodrigo feel about Mateo?
4. Magellan repeatedly ignored Cartagena's taunts, even seeming cowed. Do you think that Magellan's responses were deliberate? Cowardly? Calculating? Brave? Why?
5. Why was there such a push by Spain to get to the Spice Islands? Why did they have to find a route to the west instead of to the east?
6. What do you think Cartagena and his cronies expected to accomplish with a mutiny? To what extent do you think history would have been rewritten had Cartagena succeeded and deposed Magellan? Seeing as Magellan was ultimately successful in circumnavigating the globe, do you think there are certain times when the ends justify the means?
7. There came a time when both Mateo and Rodrigo had to choose where to place their loyalties—with Magellan or with Cartagena. As one old sailor told them, "whether you live or die depends on which side you choose. So choose wisely . . ." If you were there alongside Mateo and Rodrigo, how would you have chosen? On what basis would you make your decision?
8. When the fleet finally arrived at the Philippines, relations started well, but quickly deteriorated. History has not been kind to Magellan regarding his actions that led to his death and the near destruction of the fleet. Why do you think Magellan acted the way he did? Do you think Magellan lost sight of his goal?
9. In what ways did the voyage change Mateo? If you were to write a sequel, how would you continue Mateo's story?
10. What was your favorite part of the book, and why?
11. Who was your favorite character, and why?