ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What changes do volcanoes cause?
Five brothers explore the Hawaiian Islands. Manu, the youngest brother, saves the life of an injured seal and the two become friends. When it’s time for the brothers to go home, Manu is unsure if he’ll ever see his friend again.
In the days when the sun, the moon, and the stars guided birds with seeds in their bellies to these islands, when ocean waves brought driftwood teeming with life, when storms brought frightened birds in the clouds and insects on the wind, the Hawaiian Islands grew green and lush.

The streams and lagoons rippled with fish. And the forests flashed with the feathers of birds and the rainbow wings of insects.
The Hawaiian Islands welcomed all life that made the long, long journey to its shores, and some two thousand years ago, they embraced the first people to come.

In those days of first canoes, first footprints, first campfires, there were five brothers who came from their home far to the south to explore these islands. They were Hōkū, who loved the stars, Nāʻale, who loved the sea, ‘Ōpua, who loved clouds, Makani, who loved the wind, and Manu, who loved birds.
One night, soon after their arrival, Hōkū said, “See, my brothers, that new star I’ve discovered? It always points north!”

Everyone except Manu looked up at the sparkling North Star. Everyone except Manu began talking excitedly about all the other new things they had discovered.

“New things!” Manu exclaimed. “I miss the old things. Where are the coconuts, the bananas, the sweet potatoes? And how about the pigs, the chickens, the dogs?”

“We’ll go home and bring these things back here with us,” said Hōkū.

“We’re coming back?” Manu cried. “I don’t want to come back. I just want to go home.”

But home was a long ocean voyage away, and there was much to do before they could leave—food and water to gather and sails to repair. So no one spoke.
The next day, as the brothers were exploring a lagoon, Manu spotted an animal lying at the water’s edge.

“It’s a dog, my brothers! A dog!”

At last! Something familiar in this strange land.

But when they got close, they saw that it was like no dog they had ever seen before. It had flippers for legs, a fish’s tail, and the body of a dolphin. And it was badly hurt.

Manu tried to calm the animal. He brought cool water and cleaned the wound. He built a shelter against the sun and kept the fur wet with seawater.

The brothers left Manu. They had no time for an animal that was going to die. They had to prepare for the long sea voyage home.
But the animal didn’t die.
“I will call you ‘Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves,’” Manu said on the third day, as he fed him fish.
At the end of the week, the two had their first swim together, and before long, they were playing tag in the waves. Manu made up a silly chant:

Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves,
Dog-with-no-paws,
Dog-with-no-ears,
Dog-with-no-wag,
We’re friends!

Manu giggled, and Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves tickled his cheek with his whiskers.
“Come help me dry berries and roots for the voyage home,” called Hōkū.

“We need fish,” scolded Nā’ale.

“There’s water to gather,” scowled ‘Ōpua.

“And sails to repair,” cried Makani.

But Manu pretended not to hear. Instead he and Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves played together and got into all kinds of trouble. They terrorized the fish Nā’ale was trying to catch. They made a mess of the beach where Hōkū was drying food. They played with Makani’s ropes and accidentally pulled ‘Ōpua’s gourds off the boat, tripping Makani, who fell into the water.

No one laughed. The two were separated, and Manu was put to work.
Manu gathered berries for Hōkū. He caught fish for Nāʻale. He fetched water for ʻŌpua. He twisted rope for Makani. But every evening after his work was done, he slipped off to meet his friend, and they played in the waves until it got too dark to see. Then Manu swam ashore, and Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves went hunting for food.

After many months of hard work, the boat was finally ready to leave. At the last moment, Manu dived into the water to say goodbye to Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves. As the brothers yelled for Manu to get aboard, Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves brushed his whiskers against Manu’s cheek, then disappeared beneath the waves.

Hawaiian Raspberry
The brothers sailed down the island chain. When they came to the last island, ‘Ôpua said, “Is that a cloud on the side of that mountain, or smoke? Let’s go see.”

Curious, the brothers anchored their boat in a quiet bay and swam ashore.

Halfway up the mountain, Makani felt a warm wind and hesitated. But his brothers told him not to worry.

After a few more steps, Manu noticed that the birds were silent. But his brothers paid no attention.

Then—a jolt!
The earth heaved up and slammed the brothers to the ground. Deep cracks appeared, then flames.

Hōkū grabbed Manu’s hand, and the brothers fled down the slope. But a river of fire cut them off from the sea and forced them to the cliffs.

The earth shuddered, and the five brothers jumped—into the sea far below.
But the sea they landed in was a monster. It thrashed from the earthquakes. It hissed from the burning lava. It lashed out at the brothers and grabbed Manu. In an instant, he was gone.

Makani filled his lungs with air and went to the very depths of the ocean, but there was no sign of Manu. ‘Ōpua, with his voice like thunder, shouted for Manu above the crashing waves, but there was no answer. Nā‘ale, who loved the sea, begged it to be calm, but it wouldn’t listen.
All this time, Manu was fighting to get to the surface, but the sea wouldn’t let go. Then he felt the whiskers. Manu clasped his arms around Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves, and up they went.

Pompom Crab
It was Hōkū who spotted them. The brothers raced toward Manu and cradled him above the waves.

“Manu, Manu,” they cried over and over as they made their way to the boat. And to Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves they chanted their thanks:

Dog-that-swims-the-depths,
Dog-that-braves-the-currents,
Dog-that-knows-the-sea,
Dog-that-cares-for-our-brother.
The brothers then weighed anchor and headed for the southern sea and home. Manu stood on the deck and listened to Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves barking goodbye. “We’ll be back,” Manu shouted.

Happyface Spider
And when they returned, they came with their families. They embraced the land and made it their home.