



Detail of *Fishermen, Finisterre* (1951), Keith Vaughan. Oil on canvas, 91.4 cm × 71.1 cm.
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ANALYZE VISUALS
What do the **details** in this painting tell you about the three men?

“What of my father?” the boy asked quickly. And now he sat up straight on the mats.

“Tell him, Grandfather,” his mother whispered.

The old man cleared his throat and poked at the fire. A little shower of sparks whirled up into the darkness.

60 “Your father,” he explained gently, “was one of the three fishermen in the canoe that Tupa destroyed.” His words fell upon the air like stones dropped into a deep well.

Mako shivered. He brushed back the hair from his damp forehead. Then he squared his shoulders and cried fiercely, “I shall slay Tupa and win the king’s reward!” He rose to his knees, his slim body **tense**, his eyes flashing in the firelight. **C**

“Hush!” his mother said. “Go to sleep now. Enough of such foolish talk. Would you bring trouble upon us all?”

Mako lay down again upon the mats. He rolled over on his side
70 and closed his eyes, but sleep was long in coming.

The palm trees whispered above the dark lagoon, and far out on the reef the sea thundered.

tense (tĕns) *adj.*
nervous; feeling strain

C PREDICT
Consider the conversation between the **characters** and what you know so far about Mako. What do you think is going to happen? Add this information to your chart.