

Name _____ Date _____

Island of the Blue Dolphins By: Scott O'Dell

Chapter 1

1. Who is the narrator? How old is the narrator? _____

2. What is the setting of the story? What is the name of the village? _____

3. The visitors come in a red ship with red sails. Why do you think the author chose this color? _____

4. Where are the Aleutian Islands from where the Russians came? _____

5. If you were in charge of the island, would you accept Captain Orlov's offer? Why? Why not? _____

6. The Aleuts were hunting sea otters. How are sea otters unique among animals? _____

Chapter 2 & 3

1. Why did the chief warn the villagers not to visit the Aleut camp? _____

2. What good fortune came to the villagers? _____

3. Why did Karana become angry when she saw hunters? _____

4. Why were the villagers concerned when they knew the Aleuts would soon leave the island? _____

5. Karana tells distances in leagues. Look up "league" and see how far it is in miles. Add it to your glossary. _____

Chapter 4 & 5

1. What caused a fight between the Aleuts and the villagers? _____

2. What happened to Chief Chowig? What did Karana say was the reason for this?

3. Karana harvests abalone for food and tools. What is abalone? _____

4. Karana prefers red abalone. Why are they called red abalone? _____

5. Much of the time spent is in hunting and gathering food. Why? How is that different from today? _____

6. Why was life not so peaceful at Ghalas-at after the Aleuts

went away? _____

7. Karana says, "So hard did the women work that we really fared better than before when the hunting was done by the men." Why do you think this happened? _____

8. What would make them work so hard? Why didn't the men usually work as hard as the women? _____

Chapter 6 & 7

1. The people measure time by the sun and moon. When Karana says Kimki was gone "one moon," how long do you think that is?

2. Who is Matasaip? _____

3. What happened to Kimki? _____

4. Why do you think Ulape drew a blue mark on her face? _____

5. Why did Karana jump off the ship into the water? _____

6. What do you think will happen to Ramo and Karana? _____

Chapter 8

1. Why did Ramo not want the ship to come back for them? _____

2. Describe the "rites of manhood." Do we have rites of manhood now? What are boys expected to do or know how to do? _____

3. Why was Karana afraid when Ramo went alone to get the canoes? _____

4. Why did she decide not to go after him? _____

Chapter 9

1. Why do you think Karana set her village on fire? _____

2. Why did Karana sleep on a high rock? _____

3. Why do you think she threw the jewels away instead of keeping them? _____

4. It was against the law of the tribe for women to make weapons. What did she think might happen to her if she made weapons?

5. What things do we commonly say girls can't or shouldn't do now?

6. Why do you think people believe this?

Chapter 10

1. Why did Karana decide to leave the island? _____

2. What did Karana use as a guide to find her way to the east country where Kimki had gone? (Name two things.) _____

3. Why did Karana decide to turn back to the island?

4. What good fortune did Karana have that helped her to get back home?

5. How did Karana feel when she finally reached the island? _____

Chapter 11 & 12

1. Karana had to build a house since she had burned all the houses in the village. Give three reasons why she decided to build her house on the headlands. _____

2. What did Karana use to build a fence and why did she build the fence before she built the house? _____

3. What are sai-sai? What did Karana use them for?

4. Why did she want to kill a male sea elephant (Northern Elephant Seal)? _____

Chapter 13 & 14

1. How did Karana hurt her leg? _____

2. What happened when Karana went to the ravine to get water? _____

3. Why did she spend six days in the cave? _____

4. Why did she decide to make the cave another house? _____

5. What did Karana find when she returned to the place where the sea elephants lived? _____

Chapter 15

1. Where had the yellow-eyed dog come from? _____

2. How did Karana get the dogs to come out of the cave? _____

3. What did she do when she found the wounded dog? _____

4. Why do you think Karana "did not send the arrow"? _____

5. What did Karana do when she left the house at dawn and what did she find when she returned each day? _____

6. What did Karana decide to name the dog and what does the name mean? _____

Chapter 16 & 17

1. Why did Karana want to make her canoe smaller? How did she do it?

2. What kept Karana from being lonely?

3. Why did Karana think that finding the sea cave was a great discovery?

4. Read the description of the devil fish and draw a picture to match the description.

5. Karana could have killed the attackers, but she decided not to help Rontu. Why? What would you have done?

6. What did Rontu do after the battle was over? What do you think that action means?

Chapter 18 & 19

1. Where did Karana get the birds that became her friends? What did she name them?

2. Why did she cut the tips of their wings?

3. What did Karana use to make her clothes (skirt, belt, sandals, and in her hair)?

4. Nature has given all animals a natural defense. How does the devil fish protect itself from attackers?

Chapter 20 & 21

1. What are cormorants? Why did Karana kill them? List two facts about cormorants.

2. What did Karana discover in the cave that made her afraid?

3. Why did she move everything from her house to the cave at the ravine?

4. Karana wanted to make it look as if no one had lived in her house for a long time. Why do you think she did this?

5. What did Karana find when she returned to the cave?

6. What do you think will happen next?

Chapter 22 & 23

1. Why do you think Karana decided to speak to Tutok?

2. Why did Tutok give Karana a gift? Why did Karana work so hard to make a gift for Tutok? Why do you think this was so important?

3. What did Karana do with the otter the Aleuts left behind?

4. What did she name her new friend?

5. Why didn't Mon-a-nee leave the small pool?

6. Reread the last paragraph in chapter 22. Why do you think the island suddenly seemed very quiet?

Chapter 24 & 25

1. Who made up Karana's new family?

2. Why did Karana change the otter's name to Won-a-nee?

3. What made her decide never to kill another animal?

4. Why did the herd of otters leave Coral Cove in the summertime?

5. How did Karana keep account of the days and years that she lived on the island alone?

6. Rontu went off and did not return. Where did Karana find him and in what condition?

Chapter 26 & 27

1. What are snares and why did Karana make them?

2. What did she name her new dog and what does that name mean?

3. How did Karana shield her eyes from the hot sun?

4. What happened when she went to sleep under her canoe?

5. How did Karana escape the tidal wave?

Chapter 28 & 29

1. What did Karana lose from the great waves?

2. Where did she get wood to build a new canoe?

3. What do you think Karana was thinking about when she was deciding whether or not to hide?

4. The men made a new garment for Karana to wear. Why?

5. The man in the gray robe wore an ornament around his neck. Who was this man and what do you think this ornament was?
