ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Chapter 1

Vocabulary. On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

example: cricket (1)

   cricket (n)  a small brown insect that makes sound by rubbing its wings together.  
   He was small for one who had lived so many suns and moons, but quick as a cricket.

   afloat (1)    gather (1)    trembled (3)    ravine (4)    mesa (4)
   harbor (1)   gaze (3)     kelp (4)     ornaments (4)   spear (5)

Questions. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What did Ramo like to do?

2. If Karana had never seen a ship before, how did she know what it was?

3. What surprised Karana when her father spoke to the Aleut man?

4. Who are the Aleuts? Why did they come to the island?

5. Why didn’t Karana’s father trust Captain Orlov?

6. What method of payment was agreed upon between the Aleuts and the tribe?

Vocabulary in context. Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

   (p. 2)  1. They (Ramo’s eyes) were half closed, like those of a lizard lying on a rock about to flick out its tongue to catch a fly.  
   ________________________________

   (p. 4)  2. Half the men from our village stood at the water’s edge. The rest were concealed among the rocks at the foot of the trail, ready to attack the intruders should they prove unfriendly.  
   ________________________________

   (p. 4)  3. As I crouched there in the toyon bushes, trying not to fall over the cliff, trying to keep myself hidden and yet to see and hear what went on below me, a boat left the ship.  
   ________________________________
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Chapter 2

Vocabulary. On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

leagues (9)
sparingly (12)
spring (10)
glistening (12)
stalked off (14)

Questions. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Describe the island. What kind of weather do they have?

2. What did Chief Chowig warn his people about the Aleuts?

3. What did Ulape say she saw? Did other people believe her?

4. Why is spring a bad season for fishing? What do they eat instead?

5. What good fortune happened to the people of Ghalas-at? Why were the Aleuts mad at them?

Vocabulary in context. Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 13) 1. Before Ulape had finished speaking, we were running toward the shore, hoping that we would get there in time, that the fish had not flopped back into the sea, or that a chance wave had not washed them away. ____________________________

(p. 13) 2. But since the tide was high and the biggest waves were already lapping at the fish, there was no time to lose. One by one we hauled them out of reach of the tide. ____________________________
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Chapter 3

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

pelts (15)
carcasses (16)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How does Karana feel about the sea otters?

2. What does she worry might happen to the otters? How does her father answer?

3. What were the tribes people afraid the Aleuts might do?
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
Chapter 4

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

- scattered (20)  
- bundles (20)  
- chest (20)  
- barred (22)  
- pursue (23)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What happened when it was time for the Aleuts to pay for the otter pelts?

2. What happened to Chief Chowig?

3. Why did the battle end?

4. What reason did Karana give for her father not surviving the battle?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 23) 1. Ulape screamed again and flung a rock into the cove. It fell harmlessly beside Captain Orlov. Rocks showered into the cove from many places along the cliff, **striking** several of the hunters. ____________________________

(p. 24) 2. As Ulape and I ran along the cliff a **whirring** sound like a great bird in flight passed above our heads. ________________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**

Chapter 5

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

fateful (25)
fowl (26)
shirkers (26)
perish (26)
burdens (28)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How many village men died in the battle with the Aleuts?

2. What new job did Ulape and Karana have? What was Ramo’s job?

3. Give two reasons why life in the village wasn’t peaceful at this time.

4. Who is Kimki? What decision did he make for the tribe?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 26) 1. Most of those who **snared** fowl and found fish in the deep water and built canoes are gone. ____________________________

(p. 26) 2. Kimki portioned work for each one in the tribe, giving Ulape and me the **task** of gathering **abalones.** This shellfish grew on the rocks along the shore and was plentiful. ____________________________ and ____________________________

(p. 27) 3. They soon grew as **fierce** as the wild ones and only came back to the village to steal food. ____________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
Chapter 6

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

pondering (32)  
dunes (33)  
stern (34)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. For how long was Kimki gone?

2. Who is Matasaip?

3. What plan did the tribe have if the Aleuts should return?

4. Who is Nanko? What news did he bring?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 31) 1. We lacked the men to keep them from landing or to save our lives if they attacked us, which we were certain they would. Plans were therefore made **to flee** as soon as their ship was sighted. ____________________________

(p. 32) 2. Quietly we **filed out of** the village along the trail that led toward the place where our canoes were hidden. ____________________________
Vocabulary. On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

urging (35)
masts (37)
forlorn (40)

Questions. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What items did Karana pack?
2. What mark did Ulape make on her face? What did it mean?
3. What had Ramo forgotten? Why did this become a problem?
4. Describe the weather as the people tried to get to the main ship.
5. Why couldn’t the ship wait for Ramo?
6. What does Karana do? Why?
7. Did Karana punish Ramo when she reached him on shore?

Vocabulary in context. Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 36) 1. The wind blew in fierce gusts as we left the village, stinging our faces with sand. ____________________________

(p. 39) 2. A wave passed over my head and I went down and down until I thought I would never behold the day again. ____________________________

(p. 39) 3. I was still clutching the basket that held all of my things, but it was very heavy and I realized that I could not swim with it in my arms. ____________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
Chapter 8

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please  
1) tell the part of speech of each word,  
2) write a short definition of the word, and  
3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

snarling (41)  
rites (44)  
vowed (48)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What noises did Karana hear as she and Ramo reached the village? What problem did they cause?

2. Why didn’t Ramo want the ship to come back for them?

3. Why did Ramo call himself chief? What did Karana say he must do before he became chief?

4. Why did Karana decide to not chase Ramo?

5. What fear did Karana have?

6. How did Karana protect the food from the wild dogs?

7. What happened to Ramo?

8. What promise does Karana make?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 41) 1. The pack must have **slunk** into the village soon after we left, for it had **gorged** itself upon the abalone we had not taken.  
_________________________________________ and  ____________________________

(p. 42) 2. But when the sun rose and I went out of the hut, the pack **trotted off** toward its **lair** which was the north side of the island, in a large cave.  
_________________________________________ and  ____________________________

(p. 42) 3. The wild dogs came again that night. Drawn by the **scent** of fish, they sat on the hill, barking an growling at each other.  _____________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
Chapter 9

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

crept (49)  
pace (53)  
sinews (55)  
stunted (50)  
forbade (54)  
scarce (55)  
slain (51)  
bound (55)  
crevices (57)  

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Why did Karana leave the village?
2. Describe the place Karana chooses for her new home.
3. What does Karana do in her free time?
4. Why didn’t the women of the village make weapons? What were they told might happen if they did?
5. Where did Karana find the Aleuts’ chest? Was it easy to get to?
6. What was inside the chest? What didn’t Karana keep it?
7. What weapons does Karana make? Why does she have trouble?
8. How does she feel with her new weapons?
9. How long has she been alone now?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 57) 1. They circled down to the tide pools where they stood first on one leg and then the other, **splashing** water over themselves and combing their feathers with curved beaks. ____________________________
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Chapter 10

Vocabulary. On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

sandspit (62)  leaking (64)  pitch (64)  omen (66)
dusk (62)  planks (64)  fortune (66)  chafing (66)

Questions. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Why did Karana like summer the best?
2. When did she know that no ships would come for her that year? How did this make her feel?
3. What decision does she make during the storms?
4. How did she get the canoe to the water?
5. Why wasn’t she lost even though she paddled at night?
6. What problem did the canoe have? What decision did she make?
7. What good luck did she have?

Vocabulary in context. Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 62)  1. The shore was steep and once I got the canoe to move with its own weight, it slid down the path and into the water. ____________________________

(p. 64)  2. Then I searched around, feeling in the dark along the smooth planks, and found the place near the bow where the water was seeping through a crack as long as my hand and the width of a finger. ____________________________

(p. 65)  3. The thought of turning back after all this labor was more than I could bear. ____________________________

(p. 67)  4. My legs were stiff from kneeling and as the canoe struck the sand I fell when I rose to climb out. ____________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
Chapter 11

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

- sheltered (70)
- hut (71)
- brackish (71)
- bull/cow (72)
- specks (72)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How have Karana’s feelings about the island changed? What decision did she make?

2. Where did she decide to build her house? Why?

3. Why did she need to build a fence?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 72) 1. …yet the noise they made was deafening. I stayed there the rest of the day, looking around, and that night. At dawn when the **clamor** started again I left and went back to the headland. ____________________________

(p. 73) 2. The smell of the tide pools was strong. Sweet **odors** came from the wild grasses in the ravines and from the sand plants on the dunes. ____________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
Chapter 12

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

- mat (75)
- legend (75)
- quarreled (75)
- wove (77)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What did she use to build her fence? Describe how she makes it and what it looks like.
2. Which took longer to make: the fence or the house? Why?
3. In your own words, retell the legend of the island.
4. Describe her house. How long did it take to build?
5. How did she make a basket?
6. Did she make a new fire every night? Explain.
7. What were her plans for the wild dogs?
8. What kind of lamps did she make?
9. What did she want to make her spear tip from? Why? Will it be easy?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 74) 1. They were long and curved, and when I had scooped out holes and set them in the earth they stood taller than I did. __________________________

(p. 74) 2. I would have used sinew to bind the ribs together, for this is stronger than kelp, but wild animals like it and soon would have gnawed the fence down. __________________________ and __________________________

(p. 75) 3. On the outside I covered the hole with a mat woven of brush to shed the rain, and on the inside with a flat rock which I was strong enough to move. __________________________

(p. 76) 4. The winter was half over before I finished the house, but I slept there every night and felt secure because of the strong fence. __________________________
Vocabulary. On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

- pierce (80)
- flippers (81)
- alarm (82)
- stalking (88)
- hide (80)
- jealous (81)
- stunned (83)
- venturing (88)
- waddling (81)
- wary (82)
- swollen (86)

Questions. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How did she decide which sea elephant to hunt?

2. What had her father said about women using bows? Was he right?

3. What happened as she shot the first arrow?

4. How long did Karana stay in her house? Why?

5. How long did Karana stay in the cave? Why?

6. Who else had used the cave? How did she know?

7. What had happened to the sea elephants? What did she make? Why?

Vocabulary in context. Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 83) 1. The old bull bore down upon him, swinging his head and bellowing so loud it echoed against the cliffs. ____________________________
Vocabulary. On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

bolder (91)
quivering (93)
wound (93)
matted (95)
mending (96)

Questions. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How long had the dogs been on the island? When did they become a problem? Why weren’t they killed?

2. Who is the leader of the pack of dogs? Where is he from?

3. How many dogs did she kill? Were the dogs becoming more or less of a problem? Why?

4. How does she try to kill the dogs?

5. Why didn’t she kill the pack leader? What did she do instead?

6. How did she heal the dog?

7. What did she name him? Why?

Vocabulary in context. Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 94) 1. One of the pups came slowly toward me, a round ball of fur that I could have held in my hand. I wanted to hold it, but the mother leaped to her feet and bared her teeth. ____________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
Chapters 16-17

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abandoned</td>
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<tr>
<td>barbed</td>
<td>105</td>
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<td>lure</td>
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<td>roost</td>
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<td>drifted</td>
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<td>heed</td>
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<td>fend off</td>
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<td>puzzled</td>
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<td>whined</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>flank</td>
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**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What had she decided to do if the Aleuts returned?
2. What did she do with the canoe that was buried in the sand?
3. How has her relationship with Rontu changed?
4. What did Karana and Rontu discover when they were testing the canoe?
5. Describe the devilfish. Why is it dangerous? Why did she want it?
6. What kind of spear did she make? How was it different from the other ones?
7. How did she know spring had arrived?
8. How did Rontu’s behavior change?

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 102) 1. It was very silent in there, with no sound of the waves on the shore and only the **lapping** of the water against the rocky walls. ____________________________

(p. 104) 2. He was now twice the length of the canoe from me and though I paddled fast I could not **overtake** him. ____________________________
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**  
**Chapters 18-19**

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

- plentiful (112)     pecked (112)     dyeing (118)  
- clustered (112)    beg (114)       coils (119)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What did Karana do with the baby birds? Why? Why didn’t they fly away?

2. Describe the clothing she makes.

3. What had the women done after the men of the village were killed?

4. Describe her battle with the giant devilfish.

**Vocabulary in context.** Without using a dictionary, guess the meaning of the underlined word by looking at the other words surrounding it.

(p. 114) 1. By the time their wings had grown out, they had learned to take food from my hand. They would jump down from the roof and **perch** on my arm and beg, making their **reep, reep** sound. ____________________________

(p. 116) I saw many devilfish there where the black water is **streaked** with light, but not the giant one. ____________________________
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Chapters 20-22

Vocabulary. On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

jagged (127)
wander (134)
deserted (146)
squinting (146)

Questions. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How did Karana keep the gulls away.

2. What did Karana discover in Black Cave.

3. How long has she been alone for now?

4. Who came to the island? What did Karana do?

5. Why wasn’t Karana afraid the men would find her? Who was she afraid of? Why?

6. Describe the skirt she made.

7. Describe Karana’s encounter with the Aleut girl.

8. Why didn’t Karana want to go with the Aleut girl?

9. What was left for Karana?

10. What gift did Karana make for Tutok?

11. How did Karana feel when the Aleuts left?
**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

- gash (147)
- fledglings (152)
- snares (161)
- reef (148)
- tame (152)
- notched (161)
- reproachfully (149)
- teetering (153)
- frisked around (163)
- speckled (152)
- hobble (153)
- howled (163)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What did Karana find after the hunters left? What did she do with it? Why did it leave?

2. Who was Karana’s “family”?

3. Why did she rename Mon-a-nee?

4. How did Karana’s feelings about animals change?

5. How did Karana keep track of time? How did this change? Why?

6. What happened to Rontu?

**Vocabulary.** On a separate sheet of paper, please 1) tell the part of speech of each word, 2) write a short definition of the word, and 3) write the sentence from the chapter that uses the word.

shimmered (165)  
vanquished (168)  
strewn with (169)

**Questions.** Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What did Karana do to her canoe every spring? Why?
2. What noise woke her up? What was the noise?
3. What did she feel in the ground?
4. What was lost after the tsunami and earthquake?
5. What did she see when she was making the canoe?
6. What did she do when the men called for her? Why? What happened as a result?
7. How long until the ship returned?
8. What did she do to get ready to meet the men?
9. Who were the men? What did they make for her? Why?
10. Why had the men come to the island? How long did they stay?
11. What had happened to the ship that had taken her the other villagers years earlier?
12. Which parts of the story are true?