

Teacher Guide

Grades 5–6

Island of the Blue Dolphins

Scott O'Dell

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ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

by
Scott O'Dell

Teacher Guide

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Note

The Dell Yearling paperback edition of the book was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

ISBN 978-1-60878-354-0

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Publisher Information

For a complete catalog, contact—

Novel Units, Inc.
P.O. Box 97
Bulverde, TX 78163-0097

Web site: novelunits.com

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming, classifying
and categorizing, visualizing,
synthesizing, analyzing

Writing

Expository, narrative,
persuasive, descriptive,
research

Listening/Speaking

Participation in discussion
and cooperative groups,
entertain others with
dramatic activities, persuade
others

Literary Elements

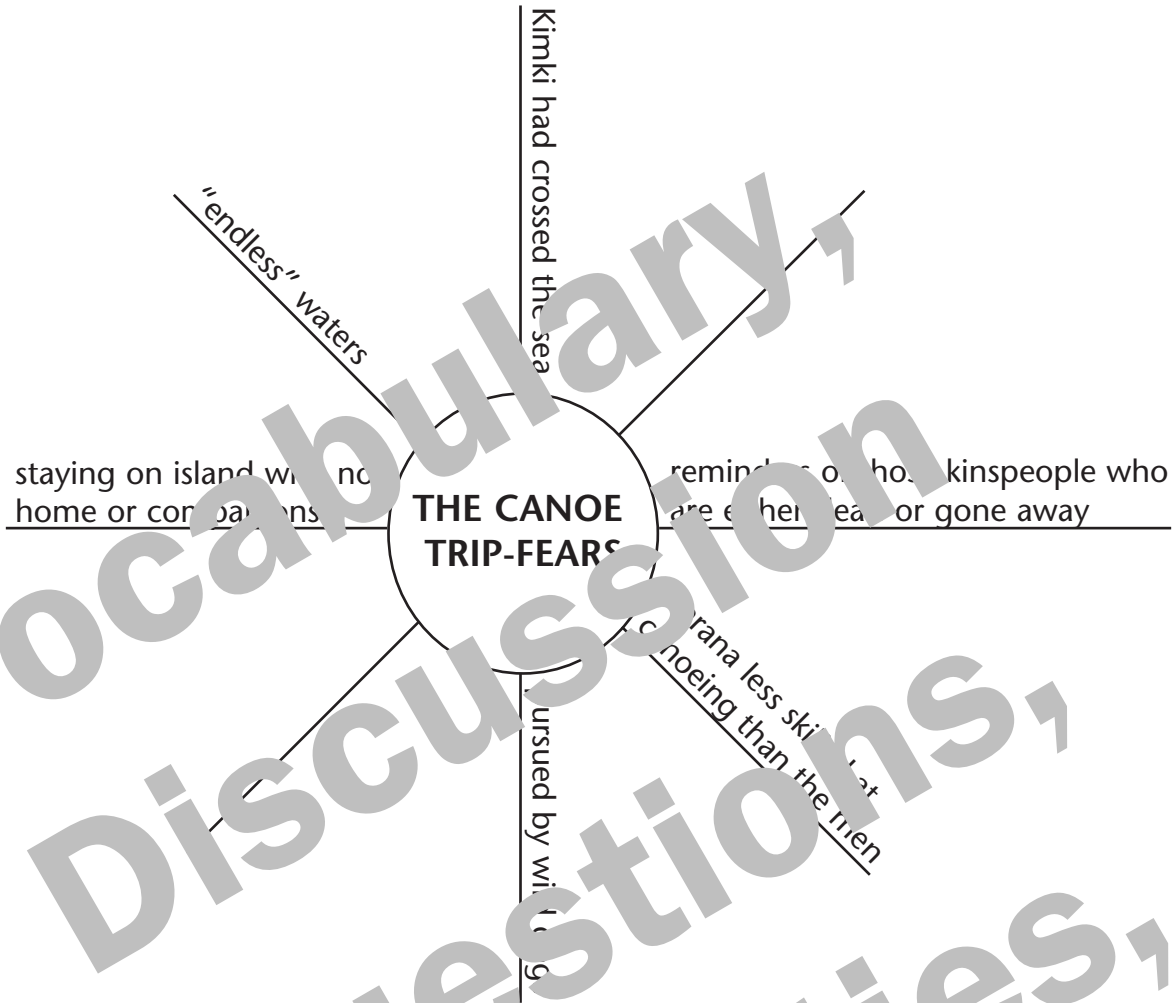
Character, setting, plot
development, conflict,
theme, mood/tone, point of
view, imagery

Vocabulary

Synonyms/antonyms,
multiple meaning words,
key words, context clues

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
cause/effect, drawing con-
clusions, decision making



Chapter 11

Pages 69-72

Vocabulary

brackish 71

omen 73

Discussion Questions

1. How did Karana feel after she returned to the island? *She says she was happy to be home.*
2. How had her ideas about the island changed? *Karana was no longer plagued by memories of past death, loneliness, sadness, and despair which had happened on the island. She now focused on happier associations with the island. See page 69, paragraph 3 for details.*
3. What did she realize after making her canoe voyage? *The island was her home; she had no other. Until the wild men returned with their ship, the island would be Karana's home. (Page 70)*

- How did Karana decide where she would build her new home? *She first considered what kind of a place she needed—sheltered from the wind, not too far from Coral Cove, and close to a good spring. Then she reviewed the island for possibilities and visited these. But the thing that finally made her decide on the place was the sea elephants who congregated nearby.*
- Why does Karana think a particular day was "an omen of good fortune"? *The day was fresh after rain and Karana detected sweet odors as she walked along the beach.*

Prediction

Reread the last sentence of Chapter 11. What is the mood of the book now? What do you think will happen in Chapter 12? Consider how much of the book is left. What do you think will happen? Why?

Supplementary Activities

- Writing:** What kind of day is, for you, "an omen of good fortune"? Finish this sentence, "My day was an omen of good fortune because..."
- Plot the emotional feelings of Karana this far in the book. (See chart on next page.)

Chapter 12

Pages 74-79

Vocabulary

pile 77

gruel 77

tusklike 79

sai-sai 78

Discussion Questions

- How does Karana make her fence? Why does she build it first? *She used whale ribs which she set into holes, arranging them so they curved outward and could not be climbed. She drove strands of bull kelp between the bones. The entrance was a narrow hole and tunnel under the fence just big enough that she could crawl through. It was covered with a net on one side and a flat rock on the other side.*
- List some of the things Karana does in building her house. Explain how each is important for survival. *built fence—protection from animals; rock at one side—wind protection, ease of construction; position house with rock toward prevailing winds—protection; poles for support—use of wood available; shelves for food—protection from mice*
- What is Karana's problem at the end of the chapter? *sharp spear points such as tusklike teeth of bull sea elephant* Think of ways she might solve her dilemma.

Supplementary Activity

Details: Karana has been making, finding, and adapting tools. Make a list of some of the tools she has created, illustrated, and describe their use in a single sentence each.

PLOTTING KARANA'S EMOTIONS AS THE STORY PROGRESSES

Directions: In the top of each box, identify the parts of the book by page numbers and events. In the bottom of each box, explain in words Karana's feelings.
