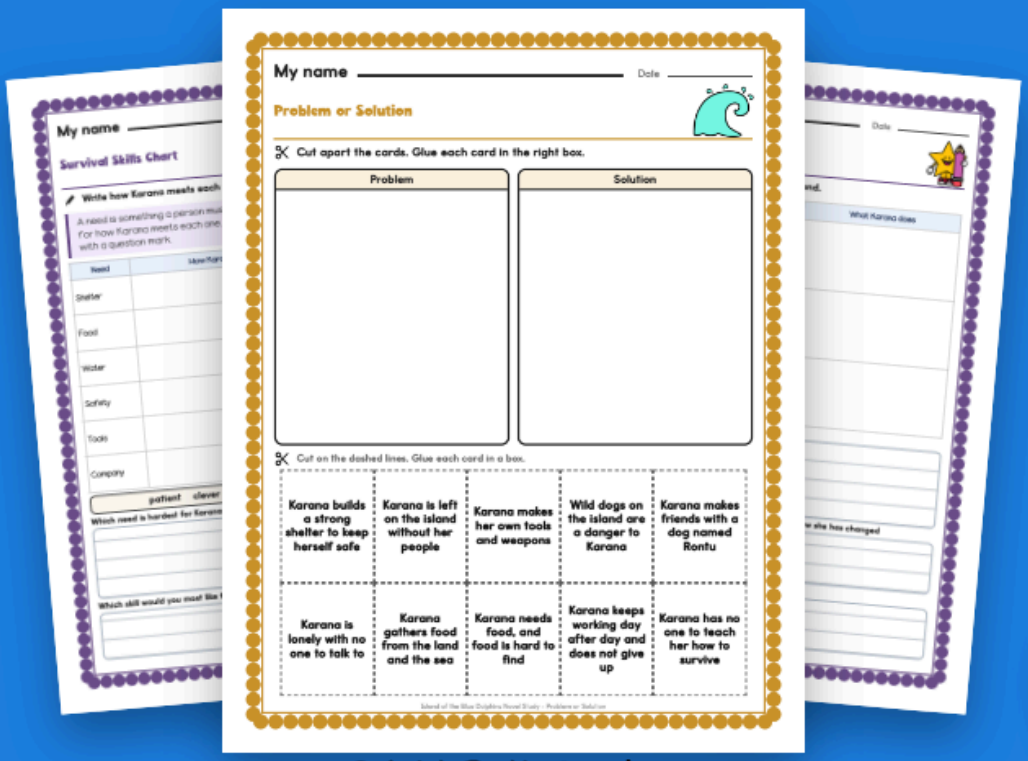
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

NOVEL STUDY + ANSWER KEY

- QUESTIONS
- VOCABULARY
- SURVIVAL CHART
- CUT & SORT
- END-OF-BOOK TEST
- ESSAY + RUBRIC







GRADES 5-7

36 STUDENT PAGES

Bright Path Sped

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PREVIEW

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How to Run the Novel Study

One plan for the whole book in 8 parts, a question page for each, and pages on survival, the character's change and what is fact and what is story.

A plan for the whole book

Read	Part	My chapters	Page	Talk about it
Part 1	Home on the Island		6	How is a home more than a place?
Part 2	Visitors by Sea		7	What makes a deal between two groups fair?
Part 3	Left Behind		8	Why might a person choose to stay, even when it is hard?
Part 4	Shelter and Food		9	What does a person need most to stay alive and well?
Part 5	Rules and Courage		10	When do rules help people, and when might they get in the way?
Part 6	Wild Dogs		11	How can an animal become a friend?
Part 7	Days Alone		12	What helps a person keep going when they are lonely?
Part 8	Leaving the Island		13	How can a hard time change a person?

The routine

- **Read a part** aloud, in small groups, or on their own. Split your copy into 8 parts of about the same length and write your chapters in the table. The part names are ours, not the book's chapter titles, so the key says what to look for.
- **Students answer** that part's question page (pages 6 to 13). Each page has a recall, a think and a your-view question, and says it is okay to pass.
- **Keep the organizers going**: the plot path (page 14), character map (page 15), conflict chart (page 16), and the part-by-part survival log (page 18).
- **Study survival and change** with the survival skills chart (page 17), the problem-or-solution sort (page 19), cause and effect (page 20) and how Karana changes (page 21).
- **Teach the vocabulary** with the four word pages (pages 26 to 29) and the match (page 30).
- **Finish** with the final review (page 33), the two-page test (pages 34 and 35), the essay (pages 36 to 38) and the final project (page 39).

Before you teach it

- Read the book yourself first. Karana loses her family and her people, and some students may have lost someone or moved away. Questions are for talking, and any student may pass.
- Use the names and the order of events your own copy uses: this file has no book text in it.

Spoilers and your answer key

The answer key (pages 42 to 46) gives away how the story goes. Keep it from students until the book is finished. Most questions ask for an opinion or a detail from the student's own copy, so the key says Varies and tells you what to look for.

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Think about the book. Then write your ideas.

It is okay to pass on a question.

1. Look at the title, Island of the Blue Dolphins. What do you think this book is about?

2. Think about a time you had to solve a problem with only what you had. What did you do?

3. Have you ever felt lonely? What helped?

4. Agree or disagree: a person can learn to do almost anything if they keep trying.

☐ I agree ☐ I disagree

Why do I think so?

5. What do you want to find out as you read?

PREVIEW

Preview - Right Click Save

My name _____ Date _____

Part 3: Left Behind



Read this part of the book. Then answer each question.

Questions about the book, Part 3. It is okay to pass on a question.

1. Recall: What happens that leaves Karana on the island without her people? Tell it in two sentences.

2. Think: Why does Karana make the choice she makes? Which feelings might she have?

3. Your view: Would you have made the same choice? Explain.

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____



Part 6: Wild Dogs

Read this part of the book. Then answer each question.

Questions about the book, Part 6. It is okay to pass on a question.

1. Recall: What problem do the wild dogs cause for Karana? How does she deal with it?

2. Think: Karana's feelings about the dogs change. What changes them?

3. Your view: Why can an animal be an important friend? Give an example from your own life or from another story.

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Part 8: Leaving the Island

Read this part of the book. Then answer each question.

Questions about the book, Part 8. It is okay to pass on a question.

1. Recall: How does the story end for Karana? Tell it in two sentences.

2. Think: How is Karana different at the end? Use one early detail and one late detail.

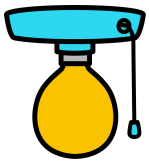
3. Your view: What did Karana's years on the island teach her? What did they teach you?

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Conflict Chart

Find the problems in the story. Write who or what each one is between.

A conflict is a problem in a story. It can be between two people, between a person and nature, or between a person and a hard choice inside. Find at least three in the book.

Who or what is it between?	What is the problem?	How does it change?	Part

The biggest conflict is between

☐ **two people** ☐ **a person and nature** ☐ **a person and a choice** ☐ **something else**

Which conflict is hardest to solve? Why?

How is the biggest conflict solved?

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____



Problem or Solution

Cut apart the cards. Glue each card in the right box.

Problem	Solution

Cut on the dashed lines. Glue each card in a box.

Karana builds a strong shelter to keep herself safe	Karana is left on the island without her people	Karana makes her own tools and weapons	Wild dogs on the island are a danger to Karana	Karana makes friends with a dog named Rontu
Karana is lonely with no one to talk to	Karana gathers food from the land and the sea	Karana needs food, and food is hard to find	Karana keeps working day after day and does not give up	Karana has no one to teach her how to survive

PREVIEW

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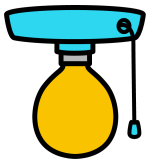
My name _____ Date _____



Traits and Proof

Pick four words. Prove each one with the book.

brave patient clever lonely determined careful caring stubborn

Word I picked	Proof from the book (a short phrase)	Part

The word that matters most in her story, and why

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____



Fact or Story?

Sort what you know from what the author imagined.

This book is a story, and it was inspired by the true story of a Native woman who lived alone on an island. A story can mix what happened with what the author imagined. Careful readers check.

What I know

from a source I trust

Write here

What the author imagined

or I am not sure

Write here

Where I can look to check (a library book, a museum site or a person my teacher suggests)

Why is it important to learn about a real person or people from careful sources?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Words: Staying Alive

Read each word. Write a sentence. Add a word that means the same.

survive (verb)
to stay alive in a hard or dangerous place.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

shelter (noun)
a safe place that protects you from weather or danger.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

supplies (noun)
the things you need to live or to do a job.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

scarce (adjective)
hard to find because there is not much of it.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

gather (verb)
to collect things and bring them together.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

endure (verb)
to keep going through something hard.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ever Soul

My name _____ Date _____

Match the Meaning

Write the letter of each meaning.

1	**tide**	☐	A	a custom that people pass down from one generation to the next
2	**horizon**	☐	B	hard to find because there is not much of it
3	**survive**	☐	C	someone or something that keeps you company
4	**scarce**	☐	D	the rise and fall of the sea that happens each day
5	**endure**	☐	E	the strength to do something even when you are afraid
6	**courage**	☐	F	not allowed
7	**resourceful**	☐	G	to stay alive in a hard or dangerous place
8	**tradition**	☐	H	to save someone from danger
9	**ancestor**	☐	I	to keep going through something hard
10	**forbidden**	☐	J	a family member who lived long before you
11	**companion**	☐	K	the line far away where the sky seems to meet the land or sea
12	**rescue**	☐	L	good at finding clever ways to solve problems with what you have

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Prove It With the Text

Make a claim. Back it up with evidence.

The question I am answering

My claim: my answer

Evidence 1. Part _____

The book says (a short phrase)

This shows

Evidence 2. Part _____

The book says (a short phrase)

This shows

My reasoning: how the evidence proves my claim

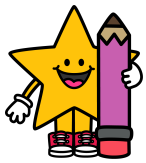
Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ideas Shed

My name _____ Date _____

End-of-Book Test: Part 2



Answer each question in your own words.

1. Name two things Karana does to stay alive. Tell why each one matters.

2. Choose one word for Karana. Prove it with one detail and tell what the detail shows.

3. How is the island both a home and a danger for Karana? Give one example of each.

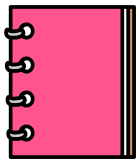
4. Write four to six sentences: What is the most important thing Karana learns about herself?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

My Essay: Draft



Write your essay here.

Title of my essay _____

PREVIEW

Talking About Survival, Rules and Respect

A guide for a class talk about survival, loneliness, rules and fairness in the book. These are discussion questions, not a lesson in history.

Before you start

- Any student may pass. No one has to tell a story about their own family.
- Students can write first, on the fact-or-story page (page 24), then talk.

Six discussion questions

Question to ask the class	What to look for
What does a person need most to stay alive and well? Is it only food and shelter?	Needs can include safety, hope and company. Any answer with a reason.
Why might a person choose to stay in a place, even when it is hard?	Family, home, hope, fear of the unknown. Accept thoughtful reasons.
When might it be right to break a rule, and when would it not be?	Look for a clear line and a reason. Some students will say it depends on who is hurt or helped.
What is the difference between being alone and being lonely?	Alone is about company; lonely is about feeling. Accept thoughtful examples.
How can an animal become a friend, and what does a friend give us?	Trust, company, courage. Any answer with a reason.
A story can be inspired by a true life. How can we tell what is fact and what is imagined?	Use trusted sources, ask who is telling the story, and say what we do not know yet.

Reading with care: the people behind the story

- The book is fiction, inspired by the true story of a Native woman who lived alone on an island. Many details are imagined.
- This file has no history lesson. For the real history and culture of the Native peoples of the California coast, use sources you trust, such as your school library, a museum or a university or tribal website, and let students ask what they do not know yet.
- Talk about Karana as a person and about her people with respect. Avoid guessing about what any people believed or did.

Our class talk rules, and the sources we will use for the history (your wording)

PREVIEW

Answer Key

Parts 5 to 8.

Part 5: Rules and Courage (page 10)

1. **Recall: A rule.** In the story, her people have a rule that women do not make weapons, and Karana makes her own. Accept another accurate rule from the student's copy.
2. **Think: Her choice.** Varies. Look for a feeling such as worry or determination, tied to something she does.
3. **Your view: Changing a rule.** Varies. Look for a clear line with a reason. Any student may pass.

Part 6: Wild Dogs (page 11)

1. **Recall: The dogs.** Wild dogs on the island are a danger to her. How she deals with them varies; accept accurate details. Later she makes friends with a dog named Rontu.
2. **Think: A change of heart.** Varies. Look for a cause named with a detail, such as loneliness or a moment with the dog.
3. **Your view: Animal friends.** Varies. The example is the student's own or from another story, with a reason.

Part 7: Days Alone (page 12)

1. **Recall: Passing time.** Varies. Accept two accurate jobs from the student's copy.
2. **Think: Staying hopeful.** Varies. Look for a detail such as her work, her animals or her hope, with an explanation.
3. **Your view: Alone or lonely?.** Varies. The example should be invented or from the student's own life. Look for a clear difference.

Part 8: Leaving the Island (page 13)

1. **Recall: How it ends.** After many years alone, Karana leaves the island on a ship. Accept an accurate retelling, in order, from the student's copy.
2. **Think: How she changed.** Varies. Two details, one early and one late, and a comparison.
3. **Your view: What I learned.** Varies. Opinion with a reason. Any student may pass.

PREVIEW

My notes on parts 5 to 8 (your wording)

Answer Key: Vocabulary

Pages 26 to 29 cover all 24 words.

The 24 words, with a model sentence for each

Word	Model sentence
coast	We walked along the coast and looked for shells.
tide	The tide came in and covered the sand.
current	The strong current carried the leaf downstream.
cliff	The gulls built nests on the cliff.
shore	The boat pulled up to the shore.
horizon	A tiny sail appeared on the horizon.
survive	The plants survived the dry summer with very little rain.
shelter	We built a shelter out of branches to stay dry.
supplies	They packed supplies for the long hike.
scarce	Fresh water was scarce in the desert.
gather	The children gather acorns under the oak tree.
endure	She could endure the cold because she kept moving.

Word	Model sentence
courage	It took courage to speak up in front of the whole school.
lonely	He felt lonely on his first day at the new school.
determined	The determined runner kept going to the finish line.
resourceful	A resourceful camper used a flat rock as a table.
patient	She was patient while the paint dried.
fearful	The fearful puppy hid under the bed.
tradition	Eating together on Sunday is a tradition in our family.
ancestor	My ancestor came to this country long ago.
forbidden	Running in the hallway is forbidden.
companion	The old dog was her faithful companion on every walk.
tame	It takes a lot of patience to tame a wild bird.
rescue	The lifeguard swam out to rescue the swimmer.

Match the Meaning (page 30)

1 D, 2 K, 3 G, 4 B, 5 I, 6 E, 7 L, 8 A, 9 J, 10 F, 11 C, 12 H

Using the word pages

- The words are for talking about the book, survival and courage. They may or may not appear in your edition.
- A sentence that uses the word correctly in a new setting counts. Model sentences are samples.

Words my class needs more practice with (your wording)

PREVIEW

Island of the Blue Dolphins at Home

Dear family, our class is reading Island of the Blue Dolphins, a novel about a girl named Karana, her island home and how she survives. Questions are for talking, not for a grade, and any student may pass.

Student _____ Part we are reading _____

Three things to talk about

- Ask your student: what is the story about so far, in three sentences?
- Ask: what does Karana need, and how does she meet that need?
- Ask: what is the difference between being alone and being lonely? Share an example from your family, only if you want to.

My words from home

One thing I learned _____

One feeling I noticed _____

A question I have _____

Words that may come up

Survive: to stay alive in a hard or dangerous place. **Shelter:** a safe place that protects you. **Courage:** the strength to do something even when you are afraid. **Tradition:** a custom passed down in a family or a people.

Note from the teacher

Note from home

PREVIEW