

QUESTIONS ABOUT
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Part 3

This book is about a young girl named Won-a-pa-lei (Girl with long black hair) with the secret name of Karana who is stranded alone on an island off the California coast. Most of her tribe has been killed and the remainder has been taken away on a ship. She tries unsuccessfully to leave the island and decides the island will be her home forever. All events take place in the early eighteenth century.

The questions below cover chapters 18 through 23, which contain 41 pages.

Chapter 18

1. Karana describes many of the birds she sees on her island. She catches and cages two of them. What does she do with these birds? What happens?
2. She makes and wears a skirt of yucca fibers. Why does she bother to wear clothes when she is entirely alone?
3. How long does her hair grow? How long does it take to grow hair this long?

Chapter 19

4. What happens when Karana stalks the giant "devil fish"?

Chapter 20

5. She explores a cave accessible only from the sea and is trapped by rising tide. What does she find in the cave? How does she feel about this find?
6. What does she do when she spies the Aleut ship returning?

Chapter 21

7. She makes a skirt from ten cormorants she kills. What drives her to expend so much effort on this skirt?
8. She tries to hide from the Aleuts. Who finds her?

Chapter 22

9. Tutok the Aleut girl wants to make friends with her. Why is Karana afraid?
10. What gift does Tutok give Karana?
11. What gift does Karana give Tutok?
12. When the Aleuts leave and only the wild animals are left, the island seems too quiet. What do you think Karana has learned?

Chapter 23

13. How does Karana handle her loneliness?
14. Karana is entirely self-sufficient on her island? How do her skills compare to ours?
15. How does the book show us that Karana misses Tutok?