

QUESTIONS ABOUT
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Part 4

This book is about a young girl named Won-a-pa-lei (Girl with long black hair) with the secret name of Karana. She 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 remains behind living alone on the island for eighteen years.

The questions below cover chapters 24 through Chapter 29 and the *Author's Note* at the end. These sections contain 32 pages.

Chapter 24

1. Name some of the birds and animals that Karana befriends.
2. Karana hopes her sister now has a family with many children. Karana also has a family. What is her family?
3. What does Karana discover about her otter friend?
4. She makes a decision her whole tribe would laugh at her for. What is this decision? Why does she make it?

Chapter 25

5. How does the author show us how much Rontu means to Karana?

Chapter 26

6. Karana is very lonely and decides to catch another dog. How does she plan on catching it? Is she successful?
7. Karana and her new companion have many happy times fishing and going to Tall Rock in her canoe, but she is not truly happy. How do we know this?

Chapter 27

8. Karana is almost killed by a tsunami. What are the first signs of this tsunami? How does she escape?
9. An earthquake follows. How is the earthquake like the tsunami?

Chapter 28

10. Karana begins to rebuild a canoe but is distracted by the arrival of a ship. Describe what she does and what happens next.

Chapter 29

11. The ship returns two years later. How does she prepare herself? What is her hope will happen?
12. The ship's captain has a dress made for her. Why?

Author's Note

13. How much of this story is true? Is the author successful in convincing us of his reconstruction?

Review Questions

1. Was the book predictable? Were you surprised by the ending?
2. Is the ending satisfying? Why or why not? How would you change it?
3. What would you say is one of the main ideas - themes - that the author explores in this book?
4. Why do you admire or disapprove of the main character?
5. Does the main character change by the end of the book? Does she grow and mature?
6. How has the novel changed you? Do you know something new?