Island of the Blue Dolphins

Chapter 1&2 questions

Name ___________________________  Date _________________________

1. What two things does Karana compare the Aleut ship to ___________________________
   and what does the ship really look like? (pg. 1) _______________________________________

2. Explain why everyone in the tribe has two names. (pg. 5) _____________________________
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3. Why did the Russian men come to the Island? (pg. 6) ________________________________
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4. What deal did Captain Orlov and Chief Chowig make? (pg. 6&7) ______________________
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5. If a league is equal to about 3 miles, how long and wide is the island (pg. 9) ____________
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6. What was the good fortune that befell (happened to) the Indian village? (pgs. 11,12,13)
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7. Read the last paragraph on page 14. Predict the troubles soon to come for the Ghalas-at village.
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Island of the Blue Dolphins - Chapter 1&2 Vocabulary

Name ______________________________
Date _______________________________

Match the word with its definition. Use context clues from the story to help you. You may use a dictionary.

1. dolphin    _____  Excess of the selling price of goods over cost
2. cormorant   _____  Narrow steep-sided valley
3. canoe    _____  To stop
4. ravine    _____  A steep flat-topped hill
5. intrude/intruder  _____  A unit of distance equal to about 3 miles
6. ornament   _____  To follow in order to overtake
7. parley    _____  A sea mammal related to the whale
8. doubt/doubted  _____  To act as a friend to
9. cease/ceasing   _____  A dark colored sea bird
10. mesa    _____  To not believe
11. league    _____  To happen to
12. profit    _____  A narrow sharp-ended boat propelled by paddles
13. befriend    _____  To barge in on
14. befell/befall  _____  Something used to decorate
15. pursue    _____  A conference about a dispute or argument
1. Where did the Aleuts hunt for the otter? (pg. 15) ______________________________________
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2. How did the village of Ghalas-at know that Captain Orlov and his hunters were getting ready to leave the island? (pgs. 17 & 18)
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3. Why was Karana’s father making a new spear? (pg. 18) __________________________________
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4. Why do you think Captain Orlov wanted to give the Indian village a chest of beads and necklaces instead of the otter pelts? (20 & 21)
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5. Read the last paragraph on page 24. Why does Karana believe it was wrong for her father to tell Captain Orlov his secret name?
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Island of the Blue Dolphins - Chapter 3&4 Vocabulary

Name ______________________________
Date _______________________________

Match the word with its definition. Use context clues from the story to help you. You may use a dictionary.

1. kelp (15)   _____  To hit sharply
2. carcass (16)   _____  A social group of numerous families
3. pelt (16)   _____  Course shrubby vegetation
4. scarcely (16)   _____  A body of land surrounded by water
5. island (17)   _____  To fix the eyes in a steady intent look
6. preparation (18)  _____  To move nearer or be closer to
7. approach(22)   _____  Course brown seaweed
8. strike (19)   _____  Barely - by a very small margin
9. tribe (19)   _____  To throw
10. delight (20)   _____  The skin of a fur-bearing animal
11. brush (20)   _____  To make or get ready
12. chest (21)   _____  great pleasure
13. gaze (22)   _____  Unworthy of trust or belief
14. flung/fling (23)  _____  A boxlike container
15. dishonest (24)\  _____  The dead body of an animal
1. In the beginning of chapter five why was the night described as the “most terrible in all the memory of Ghalas-at”? (pg. 25)

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2. Who became the new chief? How did he organize the tribe? (pg. 26) _____________________
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3. What does Kimki decide to do in the spring? (pg. 28) ___________________________________
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4. Describe the plan the villagers will follow if the Aleut ships are sighted? (pg. 31)
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5. What does Nanko say about the ship that has come to the island? (pg. 33-34) ____________
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1. What is the mark Ulape draws on her face and what does the mark mean? (pg. 35)

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2. Why was the ship unable to anchor close to shore? (pg. 36)

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3. What does Karana mean when she says “The boat pitched so wildly that in one breath you could see the ship and in the next breath it had gone”? (pg. 37)

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4. What does Karana do when she realizes her brother Ramo is not on the ship? (pgs. 38 - 39)

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5. How does Ramo die and what does Karan vow to do someday? (pg. 47 -48)

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1. Why do you think Karana burned down the village? (pgs. 49-50) __________________________
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2. Why does Karana think she should not make weapons? What made her decide to make weapon in the end? (pgs. 51 & 54)
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3. Why did Karana decide to not keep the bracelets and beads that she recovered from the chest? (pgs. 52-53)
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4. When did Karana decide to leave the island and why? (pgs. 60-61) ________________________
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5. After two days in the canoe, Karana needs to decide whether she will continue or whether she will return to the island. **On the back**, list the reasons she thinks she should continue and the reasons she thinks she should turn back and go to the island. (pgs. 65-66)
1. How did Karana feel after she returned to the island? (pgs. 69-70) _________________________
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2. How had Karana’s ideas about the island changed? (pgs. 69-70) __________________________
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3. How did Karana decide where she would build her new home? (pgs. 70-72) __________________
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4. How does Karana make her fence? Why does she build this first? (pg. 74) __________________
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5. What is Karana’s problem at the end of chapter 12? ______________________________________
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6. Find an example of each: personification (pg 69), simile (pg 70) ___________________________
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Island of the Blue Dolphins - Chapter 11&12 Vocabulary

Name ______________________________
Date _______________________________

Match the word with its definition. Use context clues from the story to help you. You may use a dictionary.

1. certain (71) _______ Not plentiful, rare
2. lair (71) _______ To have a firm or strong purpose
3. brackish (71) _______ Thin porridge, soft boiled cereal
4. clamor (72) _______ To be assured, confident, or to guarantee
5. omen (72) _______ Eating or cooking tool
6. gnawed (74) _______ To roam about secretly
7. scarce (75) _______ A state of commotion or uproar
8. legend (75) _______ A shelter for animals, den
9. quarrel (75) _______ To argue
10. broad (76) _______ To have a salty taste
11. utensil (76) _______ A sign or warning for the future
12. gruel (77) _______ The smoldering fragments from a fire
13. embers (77) _______ A story handed down from the past
14. prowl (78) _______ To be wide or spacious
15. determination (79) _______ To bite or chew on
1. What was the warning that Karana remembered while preparing to kill the sea elephant (pgs. 82-83)?
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2. Which bull did Karana hope would win the battle? (pg. 84)
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3. What was Karana planning to do with the cave? (pgs. 88-89)
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4. What did Karana mean when she said “Gulls had picked his bones clean, but I found what I had come for.”? (pg. 90)
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5. What did Karana make from the teeth of the bull? How did she do this? (pg. 90)
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1. How did Karana set up to kill the pack of wild dogs? How many dogs did she kill? (pgs. 91-93)

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2. Why do you think Karana didn’t kill the wild dog when she had the chance? (pg. 94-95)

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3. What does Karana name the wild dog and what does the name mean? (pgs. 97-98)

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4. Why isn’t Karana lonely any more? (pgs.101-102)

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5. What is the “great” discovery that Karana makes? (pgs. 102-103)

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6. Why does karana say she is happy at the end of chapter 16?

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Island of the Blue Dolphins

Chapter 17&18 questions

Name ___________________________  Date _________________________

1. Why is Rontu now not the leader of the wild dogs? (pgs. 107-108)
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2. Why doesn’t Karana help Rontu during the battle? (pg. 109)
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3. How does Rontu act after the fight? (pgs. 110-111)
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4. How does Karana keep the two birds from flying away once they out grew their cage? (pgs 113.)
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5. Why does Karana often dress up in her yucca skirt and sandals? (pgs. 114-115)
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