

QUESTIONS ABOUT
ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

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. This happens in the early eighteenth century.

The questions below concern the first 9 chapters or 55 pages.

Chapter 1

1. To whom and why is Karana telling this story? Do you think she is writing it? Or is she speaking it?
2. Why did the villagers have secret names?
3. Aleut hunters come to hunt otters for fur. What did they offer to pay for these furs, and what did Chief Chowig demand? Why?

Chapter 2

4. What "good fortune" came to the village?
5. How did this "good fortune" bring trouble?

Chapter 3

6. How did the villagers know the Aleuts were about to leave?

Chapter 4

7. Why did Chief Chowig try to prevent the Aleuts from leaving?
8. What was the result?

Chapter 5

9. Why did the new Chief Kimki seek out a new land to the East?

Chapter 6

10. A new ship came, which the villagers were certain belonged to returning Aleuts. What was this new ship?

Chapter 7

11. Karana leaps from the ship and swims back to the island. Why?

Chapter 8

12. How did Ramo react to being the only male on the island?
13. What led to Ramo's death?

Chapter 9

14. Why did Karana burn and abandon her village?
15. Karana wanted to make weapons to kill the dogs. What prevented her?
16. Do you think there is more to taboo than just superstition?