

# Island of the Blue Dolphins Essay and Book Project

Project and Essay Due: Friday, February 20th



We have just finished our novel study of Island of the Blue Dolphins. Students will be completing an essay in class and I will be editing it with them. Final drafts of essay will be done at home. Students will also do a book project from the attached list of options to be completed at home.

I have read over the book option list and plan on doing book option: \_\_\_\_\_.

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

## Response to Literature Essay Format

### Island of the Blue Dolphins

Due in final draft form: **Friday, February 20th**

Essay must be:

Typed using Comic Sans or Times New Roman font or written in cursive

Include a title

Have 1.5 to double spacing

#### **Paragraph One: Introduction**

You may choose to use this as a format or you can write your own. Be sure to include the following criteria:

The story \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ is a  
(genre) \_\_\_\_\_ book about (brief  
summary) \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the main characters in the book is

\_\_\_\_\_. He/She is (courageous, honest, truthful, generous, etc... choose one character trait that you can prove through examples from the story). You can pick one character trait to prove three different ways or three different character traits.

#### **Paragraph #2: Support your thesis statement. For example:**

The main character (\_\_\_\_\_) proves that he/she is \_\_\_\_\_ in many ways in the story. (Give examples from the book). Include quotes that support your ideas.

#### **Paragraph #3: Support your thesis statement. For example:**

The main character (\_\_\_\_\_) proves that he/she is \_\_\_\_\_ in many ways in the story. (Give examples from the book). Include quotes that support your ideas.

#### **Paragraph #4: Your opinion of the book**

In this paragraph you will discuss your opinion of the book using specific examples. If you like description, give examples of sections that you liked. Include quotes if at all possible to support your ideas.

The following are some questions that you might want to discuss.

Did you agree with the character's decisions?

Was the ending satisfying? Why/Why not?

Did you have any thick connections with any of the characters? Did this help you to understand the story or create a deeper meaning for yourself?

Is there anything you would have done differently?

#### **Paragraph #5: Conclusion**

Provide a link to the main idea. Restate your thesis statement using transition words. (Summarize the ideas in paragraph #2,3,4.) Remember to write a satisfying ending to your essay!

## Island of the Blue Dolphins Final Project

You will choose **one** of the following projects to display your understanding of the book. Book Projects are due on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

1. **Shoebox Museum**- Create a "shoebox museum" displaying artifacts representing Karana's life on the island. Label the items in the box. Be sure to write a brief description of each item and display them on the outside of the box. Provide details explaining how each item relates to Karana's life on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure to include names for items. This part may be typed. Be creative in making your display! Show such things as:

- the clothing, jewelry, tools, utensils and weapons she made
- the house and canoe she built
- the animals she befriended

2. **Survival**- Research modern day stories of survival. Write a paragraph giving a brief description of the stories you read about using at least 5-7 complete sentences. Then, use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the modern day survival stories to the survival story of Karana. How are they alike or different? You may put the Venn diagram on a poster board or large piece of paper.

3. **Art**- This book is rich in visual images "painted" by the author. Find a favorite passage and create a painting that comes to them from the imagery of the passage. Write a 2-paragraph response.

In the first paragraph, tell us why you picked this image.

- What did you like about it?
- What specific words/phrases really stood out to you?

In the second paragraph, tell us how you created your picture?

- What steps did you take?
- What medium did you use? (type of paint?)
- What is your favorite part of your painting?

### **4. National Park**

Pretend that the Island of the Blue Dolphins (San Nicholas Island) is becoming a national park. Next create (using art materials) monuments or tributes (3) to Karana that will be scattered around the park that highlight important events in the story.

Next, draw and illustrate a brochure for visitors to the new island park. Include a map, list and description of the monuments- where they are located and why, and then any other important information you would like to include.

**5. Podcast**- Pick two important chapters in the book and re-write them in a script format. See your teacher for examples. Think about sound effects and music that you might want to include and at what point in your script (Be specific). Think about who you might want to do read each part (include a

narrator) and record the sound using an iphone, tape recorder, etc.. or you can do this with Mrs. H during a lunch period.

6. **Website-** Using Weebly.com, create your own website about the **Island of the Blue Dolphins**.

On your home page, type an introduction/summary of the story. Include the following pages:

- A Page for Karana- Describe her and the character traits that she displayed
- A page for 2 other main characters. Describe them and include pictures of what they may have looked like
- Main Problem
- A Review of the Story- in your own words.

The following are some questions that you might want to discuss.

- Did you agree with the character's decisions?
- Was the ending satisfying? Why/Why not?
- Did you have any thick connections with any of the characters? Did this help you to understand the story or create a deeper meaning for yourself?
- Is there anything you would have done differently?

Also, include a page dedicated to the island- describe the island and important places where things occurred