

## Bookfolio for Island of the Blue Dolphins

**Author:** [Scott O'Dell](#)

**Illustrator:** Ted Lewin

**First Publication Date:** 1960

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin

**ISBN:** 0395536804

**Recommended for:** [Grades 5-8](#)

**Classification:** Fiction

**Genre:** [Historical Fiction](#)

**Story Summary:** Based on the true story of the last woman of San Nicholas, ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHIN is written as a first person account of a young woman's survival. The Aleut hunters who came to the island to hunt otter killed most of the men of Ghalas-at and plundered the villages. When the remaining islanders departed for a nearby haven, twelve-year-old Karana, realizing her younger brother Ramo has been left behind, jumps from the boat and swims back to the island to take care of him. She gathers food, builds shelter, and makes tools to survive. In order to take revenge against the wild dogs that killed her brother, Karana must make weapons, something that had been forbidden to the women of the tribe. After many moons and suns, she realizes that her people won't be coming back for her. As the years go by, Karana learns to respect all of the animals of the island, and eventually tames Rontu, the dog who had killed her brother.

**Read-aloud Recommendation:** Chapters 9 and 10, pages 49-68

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:  
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

Island of the Blue Dolphins - Independent Activities	Skills
1. An Author's "TO DO" List (Assuming the role of author)	S , W
2. Father Gonzales's Story (Writing a chapter from another point of view)	S , W
3. "Island of the Blue Dolphins" (Identifying special words)	D , R
4. Survival Skills Strategies (Examining character's actions)	W
5. Dolphins (Researching a topic)	R , S , W
6. The North Star (Researching a topic)	D , R , W
Island of the Blue Dolphins - Group Activities	Skills
1. What's in a Sequel (Discussing a sequel)	L , R , S
2. Heroic Qualities (Identifying character traits)	D , W
3. Plants, Birds, and Animals (Drawing a mural)	L , S
4. Communicating by Actions (Using body language)	L , S
5. Many Moons (Researching a topic)	D , R , S
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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