

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Chapter 17
Rontu's Fight

Grade Level

Upper Elementary: Third Grade through Fifth Grade

Subject

Literacy and Language Arts, Social Studies

Common Core Standards

4.SL.1, 4.RL.1

Background Information

Earlier in the story, Karana wanted to kill Rontu because he was the leader of the pack of wild dogs that killed her brother. In chapter 17, however, O'Dell makes it clear that Karana's attitude toward the dog has completely changed. She anthropomorphizes him, seeing him as her companion. She respects him as an autonomous being.

This lesson requires students to find examples of Karana's thoughts and actions in the text and use those examples to make inferences about her changed attitude and feelings towards Rontu.

"It Says, I Say, and So" is a graphic organizer-based strategy designed to help students make inferences, connect the text to their prior knowledge, and identify important textual details.

Materials

- Copy of activity sheet for each student (provided)
- Class set of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of the activity sheet.
2. Model the strategy using the example provided on the activity sheet.
3. Assign students to work in pairs to complete the activity sheet.
4. Discuss student findings as a class.

Enrichment Activities

Writing prompt: When Rontu is fighting the wild dogs, Karana has the opportunity to intervene and ensure his safety, but she chooses not to do so. Why do you think she holds back? How do you think you would react if you were in her situation?