Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell Novel study project

**Vocabulary assignments: building dictionary and vocabulary skills**

-introducing vocabulary from the novel Island of the Blue Dolphins

-dictionary and thesaurus skills: learning to use a dictionary and its components to search(using guide words), locate(alphabetically) and define vocabulary words

-learning how to use the features of a dictionary: pronunciation key, syllable break down, parts of speech(nouns, verbs, adjectives etc), and synonyms (thesaurus) to compare and describe similar meaning of vocabulary words

**Reader’s Response Journal writing: writing components using the reading comprehensions strands** (visualizing, connecting, synthesizing, questioning, developing main idea, inferring and clarifying & monitoring)

-using themes, writing prompts, and text features from the novel

-using a graphic organizer to organize writing response

-writing a response to (weekly) novel themes and outline comprehension in detail (connecting, questioning, visualizing etc)

-students are to write the prompt and then use a graphic organizer for elaborating their ideas in a response journal

-grade four expectations would be to write a full paragraph (5-10 sentences) explaining their response

-grade five expectations would be multiple paragraphs (3 full paragraphs to a full page of writing)

Island of the Blue Dolphins assessment:

-chapters 1-9 vocabulary and short question/comprehension quiz

-chapters 10-19 vocabulary and short question/comprehension quiz

-chapters 20-29 vocabulary and short question/comprehension quiz

Dictionary Skills: quiz on how to use components of dictionaries

-response journal: after 10 response journals use a rubric to assess response entries (rubric posted on the blog “response journal”)

-creative project (time permitting)

Island of the Blue Dolphins Novel Study assignment breakdown

Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #1 November 15

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**banks, glimpse, hasten, horizon, snares, victor, wreckage, reproachfully**

**Response Journal prompt #1 (text to self connections)** November 18

*Karana explains how each member of her tribe has 2 names. One is sacred and not commonly used. Explain the importance of your name(s), where does it originate (culture, country), and what does it mean*? (Research, outline and in paragraph form, explain).

Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #2 November 21

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**cormorant, conceal, cove, harbour, mesa, pursue, ravine, sparingly, parley, cease**

**Response Journal prompt #2 (text to world connections)** November 23 (NO EAL)

*The battle between the Ghalas-at villagers and the Aleuts had a devastating affect on Karana’s people. Relate the novel theme to current events. In your opinion, should the Sioux nation declare war with the U.S. government if the pipeline is forced into their territory (breach of treaty)? (write your opinion and back up with valid arguments).*

Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #3 November 29

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**glistening, idle, companion, dunes, retreat, preparations, kelp, pelt, carcasses, league**

**Response Journal prompt #3 (Synthesizing)** December 1, 2016

With the loss of the majority of the male villagers, the women had to assume male roles and duties. What are your cultures traditional female and male roles? In your opinion, should everything be the same for both males and females?

Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #4 December 5

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**bargain, wading, barred, council, shirkers, perish, abalones, decreed, mischief, launch**

**Response Journal prompt #4 (Visualizing)** December 7, 2016

Karana tells the legend from her culture about the god’s **Mukat vs Tumaiyowit**. These two gods quarreled and explains the effects on people. Every culture has tales, legends, or stories that teach new generations about morals and important lessons about values. Use an animal feature to create your own legend and have a moral that is taught.

**Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #5 December 19**

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**stout, yucca, dune, mast, sheltered, shrouded, chieftain, forlorn, gorge, mussels**

**Response Journal prompt #5 ( main idea)** January 4, 2017

“only once did I think of my enemy, the wounded dog, and then wonder why I didn’t kill him”. Karana had enemies that she vowed to kill to avenge her brother and people. Explain why you think she had a change of heart and befriend both Rontu and Tutok? Explain the theme of forgiveness and give examples of each. Explain a time you have shown forgiveness and explain why.

**Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #6 January 6**

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**voyage, vowed, lair, nettles, sandspit, solemnly, vanished, slain, forbade, sinew, secure**

**Response Journal prompt #7 (text to world connections))** January 9, 2017

“I knew the skeleton was one of my ancestors, though only images, but I was sleepless and afraid?”. Karana fears the presence of her deceased descendants. What is your philosophy on ghosts? What is your theory of what happens after this life? Explain.

**Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #7 January 11**

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**cholla, crevices, clamor, lure, mourning, omen, pitch, reef, rival, scarce, swarm**

**Island of the Blue Dolphins: Vocabulary #8 January 12**

Vocabulary: find the definition, pronunciation key, part of speech (noun, verb, adverb etc), syllables, and thesaurus vocabulary (synonyms)

**Ancestors, advice, befall, spit, serpent, chafing, omen, headland, brackish, ridge, gruel**