

*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?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Question	It Says	I Say	And So
	<i>Find evidence from the text that helps you answer the question. You may paraphrase what the text says or use direct quotes. Include the page number(s).</i>	<i>Think about what you already know based on your reading and personal experiences.</i>	<i>Combine the quotes from the text with what you already know to answer the question.</i>
Why did Karana consider leaving her cave when the Aleuts set up camp on the mesa?	<p>The Aleut's camp was "less than a half league from my cave" (page number*)</p> <p>Karana was afraid that the Aleut girl would find her cave because lots of different foods grew in the ravine near it (page number)</p>	<p>Karana hates and fears the Aleuts because they killed her father and many other men in her community.</p> <p>The Aleuts have guns.</p> <p>Half a league is approximately 1.5 miles—about a half-hour walk.</p>	Karana considers leaving her cave because she is afraid the Aleuts will find her. Their camp is near her cave, and the Aleut girl might find it when she is looking for food.
While Karana was hunting the devilfish, she was thinking about Rontu. How was she feeling? Why is she feeling that way?			

Although the wild dogs do not seem to notice Karana approach, she is certain that Rontu has seen her. Why?			
Why doesn't Karana stop the fight between Rontu and the wild dogs? What does this tell you about her attitude toward him?			
How does Rontu act after the fight? Be sure to include what he does immediately following the fight as well as what he does after returning to Karana's house.			

\*Page numbers have been omitted from the examples because pagination varies between editions.