



Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - Island of the Blue Dolphins

Grade level 5
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 1000L

Table of Contents

Introduction to Book Punch®	1
Printables	1
Text-to-Self.....	2
Evidence and Inference	3
Reading Check.....	4
Curriculum Integration.....	5
<i>Vocabulary</i>	5
<i>Character Exploration</i>	6
<i>Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing</i>	6
<i>Additional Writing Prompts</i>	6
Printable Worksheet Links	7

Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.

Text-to-Self

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1

In the story, we learn that the people who live on the Island of the Blue Dolphins have two names. One name is commonly used. The other is a secret name that is used infrequently. The people believe that the secret name holds magic that can be worn away if it is used too often. Write about a secret name you would choose for yourself.

Text-to-Self Topic 2

In the story, in order to survive, Karana has to make the things she needs. We learn how she makes weapons, a home, shelves, and clothing. Write about an object that you created.

Text-to-Self Topic 3

In the story, Karana lives alone on the island for years and years. Write about an occasion when you were all alone for a period of time. Describe what it was like.

Evidence and Inference

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph. Help students determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1

The meeting of two cultures can be helpful or harmful to one or both groups. Write a paragraph describing what occurs at the beginning of the story when outsiders come into contact with residents of the Island of the Blue Dolphins.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 3.)

1. What group of people comes to the Island of the Blue Dolphins at the beginning of the story? Give the reason they have come to the island.
2. What agreement has been made between the islanders and the people who have come to the island?
3. What causes the fight between the islanders and the people who have come to the island?
4. What is the result of the fight between the islanders and the foreign group?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2

People are capable of incredible achievements when their survival is at stake. In the story, the character of Karana shows how the will to survive can overcome seemingly overwhelming odds. Write a paragraph detailing the ways Karana makes her survival on the island possible.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 12.)

1. Where does Karana decide to build her home?
2. How does Karana protect herself from the wild dogs that live on the island?
3. How does Karana build her shelter?
4. What other item or items does Karana make, and how?

Evidence and Inference Topic 3

Acts of kindness can lead to their own reward. Write a paragraph describing how Karana's acts of kindness towards the wild dog benefit her.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 15.)

1. What does Karana do to scare the wild dogs from their lair? Include a description of how the dogs react.
2. What does Karana do when the lead dog stands his ground and faces her?
3. When Karana returns to the spot where she left the leader, what does she find and what action does she take?
4. What is the result of Karana's actions towards the leader of the wild dogs?

Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic

All human beings thirst for companionship. Write a paragraph to show how Karana satisfies this need even though she is the only human being on the island. Be specific and use examples from the story.

1. What animal, which is at first an enemy, becomes Karana's main source of companionship? Include the name she gives it.
2. What are two other types of animal Karana befriends? You may want to include the names she gives them.
3. Who is Tutok and why does Tutok stay briefly on the island?
4. What relationship eventually develops between Karana and Tutok?

Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from Island of the Blue Dolphins that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
courage	Ability to face danger
family	A group of people who are related
loneliness	Being alone
survival	Continuing to live
tradition	Societal or family practice handed down from generation to generation

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of Island of the Blue Dolphins include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
abalone	Large mollusk
Aleut	A member of a group of people who live in Alaska
carcass	A dead body
cormorant	Type of seabird
cove	Small indentation in a body of water
gorge (verb)	Eat greedily
headland	A point of high land jutting out into water
intruder	Someone entering where he is not permitted
kelp	Type of seaweed
league	A distance of about three miles
mesa	Type of elevated land formation
pelt	Skin of an animal with the fur still on it
profit	Gain
ravine	A valley eroded by water
reef	Ridge of rocks or sand under the surface of water

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets that are included contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book.

Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Karana is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe her to someone who doesn't know her. (What does Karana look like? What kind of personality does she have? What does she like to do?)

Compare and contrast Karana with Tutok or another character in the book.

Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

In the story, Karana jumps off the ship leaving the island to go back for her brother. She knows that they will be left alone on the island. Write about a person for whom you would be willing to give up your other human connections and your daily way of life.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 7)

Additional Writing Prompts

See the Independent Follow-up worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of Island of the Blue Dolphins, and the Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

Life is always changing. Karana eventually leaves the island. Write a paragraph describing the events that lead up to Karana's departure from the island.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the entire book.)

In the story, when Karana finally leaves the island, she looks back and thinks of all her memories and the things she is leaving behind. Write about a place you have left and what you miss about it.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the entire book.)

Printable Worksheet Links

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

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