

1 Text-Based Comprehension

Directions: Read the following passage. Use information from the passage to answer the question below. Click the circle next to the best answer.

Island of the Blue Dolphins

by Scott O'Dell

The Island of the Blue Dolphins was my home; I had no other. It would be my home until the white men returned in their ship. But even if they came soon, before next summer, I could not live without a roof or a place to store my food. I would have to build a house. But where?

That night I slept on the rock, and the next day I began the search. The morning was clear, but to the north, banks of clouds hung low. Before long they would move in across the island, and behind them many other storms were waiting. I had no time to waste.

I needed a place that was sheltered from the wind, not too far from Coral Cove, and close to a good spring. There were two such places on the island—one on the headland and the other less than a league to the west. The headland seemed to be the more favorable of the two, but since I had not been to the other for a long time, I decided to go there and make certain.

The first thing I found, which I had forgotten, was that this place was near the wild dogs' lair. As soon as I drew near to it the leader came to the opening of the cave and watched me with his yellow eyes. If I built a hut there I would have to kill him and his pack. I planned to do this anyway, but it would take much time.

The spring was better than the one near the headland, being less brackish and having a steadier flow of water. Besides it was much easier to reach, since it came from the side of a hill and not from a ravine as the other one did. It was also close to the cliff and a ridge of rocks which would shelter my house.

The rocks were not so high as those on the headland and therefore would give me less protection from the wind, yet they were high enough, and from them I could see the north coast and Coral Cove.

The thing that made me decide on the place to build my house was the sea elephants.

The cliffs here fell away easily to a wide shelf that was partly covered when the tide came in. It was a good place for sea elephants because they could crawl halfway up the cliff if the day were stormy. On fair days they could fish among the pools or lie on the rocks. . . .

On this morning the tide was low and most of the animals were far out, just hundreds of specks against the waves, yet the noise they made was deafening. I stayed there the rest of the day, looking around, and that night. At dawn when the clamor started again I left and went back to the headland.

There was another place to the south where I could have built my house, near the destroyed village of Ghalas-at, but I did not want to go there because it would remind me of the people who were gone. Also the wind blew strong in this place, blowing against the dunes which cover the middle part of the island so that most of the time sand is moving everywhere.

Part A: The narrator compares several places when deciding where to build her house. Which place does she finally choose?

- A near the village of Ghalas-at
- B on the headland
- C on the beach
- D near the wild dogs' lair

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Part B: In which sentence from the passage does the narrator reveal that choice?

- A "I needed a place that was sheltered from the wind, not too far from Coral Cove, and close to a good spring."
- B "The first thing I found, which I had forgotten, was that this place was near the wild dogs' lair."
- C "At dawn when the clamor started again I left and went back to the headland."
- D "Also the wind blew strong in this place, blowing against the dunes which cover the middle part of the island . . ."

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Part A: How does the narrator respond to the challenge of finding a place to build a house?

- A She is determined and cautious.
- B She is lazy and careless.
- C She is fearful and hesitant.
- D She is eager and reckless.

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Part B: Which sentence from the passage does **not** support your answer to question 3?

- A "If I built a hut there I would have to kill him and his pack."
- B "I stayed there the rest of the day, looking around, and that night."
- C ". . . since I had not been to the other [place] for a long time, I decided to go there and make certain."
- D "The cliffs here fell away easily to a wide shelf that was partly covered when the tide came in."

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Part A: What factor proved to be most important to the narrator in choosing a place for her house?

- A a source of drinking water
- B a degree of peace and quiet
- C protection from the wind
- D closeness to Coral Cove

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Part B: Which sentence from the passage best supports your answer to question 5?

- A "The spring was better than the one near the headland, . . ."
- B ". . . from [the rocks] I could see the north coast and Coral Cove."
- C ". . . yet the noise [the sea elephants] made was deafening."
- D "The rocks . . . would give me less protection from the wind, . . ."

7 Vocabulary

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Part A: Based on context clues, what does the word "lair" mean in the following sentence?

"The first thing I found, which I had forgotten, was that this place was near the wild dogs' lair."

- A sly, nasty glance
- B rough, rocky shoreline
- C supply of food
- D den of a wild animal

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Part B: Which context clue from the passage helped you answer question 7?

- A "the leader"
- B "yellow eyes"
- C "the cave"
- D "a hut"

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Part A: Which meaning of the homograph "spring" is used in the following sentence?

"The spring was better than the one near the headland, being less brackish and having a steadier flow of water."

- A season between winter and summer
- B small natural stream
- C a leap or jump
- D metal coil

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Part B: Which phrase from the passage is the best clue to the meaning of the homograph "spring"?

- A "near the headland"
- B "side of a hill"
- C "from a ravine"
- D "flow of water"

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The first thing I found, which I had forgotten, was that this place was near the wild dogs' lair. As soon as I drew near to it the leader came to the opening of the cave and watched me with his yellow eyes. If I built a hut there I would have to kill him and his pack. I planned to do this anyway, but it would take much time.

The spring was better than the one near the headland, being less brackish and having a steadier flow of water. Besides it was much easier to reach, since it came from the side of a hill and not from a ravine as the other one did. It was also close to the cliff and a ridge of rocks which would shelter my house.

The rocks were not so high as those on the headland and therefore would give me less protection from the wind, yet they were high enough, and from them I could see the north coast and Coral Cove.

The thing that made me decide on the place to build my house was the sea elephants.

The cliffs here fell away easily to a wide shelf that was partly covered when the tide came in. It was a good place for sea elephants because they could crawl halfway up the cliff if the day were stormy. On fair days they could fish among the pools or lie on the rocks. . . .

On this morning the tide was low and most of the animals were far out, just hundreds of specks against the waves, yet the noise they made was deafening. I stayed there the rest of the day, looking around, and that night. At dawn when the clamor started again I left and went back to the headland.

There was another place to the south where I could have built my house, near the destroyed village of Ghalas-at, but I did not want to go there because it would remind me of the people who were gone. Also the wind blew strong in this place, blowing against the dunes which cover the middle part of the island so that most of the time sand is moving everywhere.

Part A: Which word is a synonym for the word "clamor" in the following sentence?

"At dawn when the clamor started again I left and went back to the headland."

- A uproar
- B odor
- C feeding
- D interaction

12 **Vocabulary**

Directions: Read the question below and click the circle next to the best answer.

Island of the Blue Dolphins

by Scott O'Dell

The Island of the Blue Dolphins was my home; I had no other. It would be my home until the white men returned in their ship. But even if they came soon, before next summer, I could not live without a roof or a place to store my food. I would have to build a house. But where?

That night I slept on the rock, and the next day I began the search. The morning was clear, but to the north, banks of clouds hung low. Before long they would move in across the island, and behind them many other storms were waiting. I had no time to waste.

I needed a place that was sheltered from the wind, not too far from Coral Cove, and close to a good spring. There were two such places on the island—one on the headland and the other less than a league to the west. The headland seemed to be the more favorable of the two, but since I had not been to the other for a long time, I decided to go there and make certain.

The first thing I found, which I had forgotten, was that this place was near the wild dogs' lair. As soon as I drew near to it the leader came to the opening of the cave and watched me with his yellow eyes. If I built a hut there I would have to kill him and his pack. I planned to do this anyway, but it would take much time.

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On this morning the tide was low and most of the animals were far out, just hundreds of specks against the waves, yet the noise they made was deafening. I stayed there the rest of the day, looking around, and that night. At dawn when the clamor started again I left and went back to the headland.

There was another place to the south where I could have built my house, near the destroyed village of Ghalas-at, but I did not want to go there because it would remind me of the people who were gone. Also the wind blew strong in this place, blowing against the dunes which cover the middle part of the island so that most of the time sand is moving everywhere.

Part B: Which word from the passage helped you choose the synonym in question 11?

- A animals
- B hundreds
- C noise
- D dawn

13 **Writing – Constructed Response**

Directions: For the following activity, write your response on a sheet of paper.

Island of the Blue Dolphins

by Scott O'Dell

The Island of the Blue Dolphins was my home; I had no other. It would be my home until the white men returned in their ship. But even if they came soon, before next summer, I could not live without a roof or a place to store my food. I would have to build a house. But where?

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I needed a place that was sheltered from the wind, not too far from Coral Cove, and close to a good spring. There were two such places on the island—one on the headland and the other less than a league to the west. The headland seemed to be the more favorable of the two, but since I had not been to the other for a long time, I decided to go there and make certain.

The first thing I found, which I had forgotten, was that this place was near the wild dogs' lair. As soon as I drew near to it the leader came to the opening of the cave and watched me with his yellow eyes. If I built a hut there I would have to kill him and his pack. I planned to do this anyway, but it would take much time.

The spring was better than the one near the headland, being less brackish and having a steadier flow of water. Besides it was much easier to reach, since it came from the side of a hill and not from a ravine as the other one did. It was also close to the cliff and a ridge of rocks which would shelter my house.

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There was another place to the south where I could have built my house, near the destroyed village of Ghalas-at, but I did not want to go there because it would remind me of the people who were gone. Also the wind blew strong in this place, blowing against the dunes which cover the middle part of the island so that most of the time sand is moving everywhere.

Based on the information in the passage from the selection *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, write a paragraph about the narrator's choice of location to build her house. Do you agree with her plan or not? Why?

State your opinion and support it with reasons. Use your own ideas as well as details from the text. Conclude with a sentence that restates your opinion. Remember to check your writing for correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

14 **Writing – Extended Response**

Directions: For the following activity, write your response on a sheet of paper.

You have read two texts about courageous, resourceful young women.

- *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
- *Thunder Rose*

Compare and contrast the two main characters in the texts, the narrator in *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and Rose in *Thunder Rose*. Write an essay in which you tell how the characters are alike and how they are different. Introduce the topic and then develop it with facts, details, and examples from the selections. Provide a concluding statement that sums up your main points. When you have finished, read your paragraph carefully and correct any errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.