

*“The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island”*

**Resource Summary:** After watching *The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island*, students will create a poem or narrative based on the experiences of Juana Maria/Karana. Students will use the “blackout poetry” technique to express what Juana Maria/Karana may have thought or felt, or write a short story in which they describe how their life would change if they were isolated in their hometown.

**Subject Areas:** English Language Arts

**Grade Level Range:** 7-12

**Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-Writing 7-12 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

**Resource Provided By:** Deanna Jones, ELA/ELD, El Camino Jr. High, Santa Maria Bonita School District

**Resource Details:**

-Prior to watching “*The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island*”, ask students if they are familiar with “*Island of the Blue Dolphins*” by Scott O’Dell. Have a short discussion about what they recall from the book. Ask if students know whether the story is true or fictional.

-View “*The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island*”.

-Discuss the video, asking students to talk in groups about the following questions. Allow 10-15 minutes for discussion. Students should be expected to share their responses to these questions.

-What do you think Juana Maria/Karana’s thoughts were during the first few weeks after all of her family members were taken off the island?

-If you had to describe Juana Maria/Karana’s experiences using only 1 word, what word would you choose? Why?

-What would life be like if you were abandoned in your home town, with NOBODY to talk to or help you obtain resources? (Mechanized equipment such as gas stations, power stations would not operate without specialized training)

-What would be the most dangerous thing you might encounter if you were abandoned alone in your hometown?

-Are there any other similar characters that have been isolated from society for long periods of time? How did they survive? (Students may recall movies or books such as Castaway, I am Legend, The Martian, Robinson Crusoe, Swiss Family Robinson, Hatchet, Touching Spirit Bear)

-Let students know that they have 2 options. They may either write a poem or a narrative.

Option 1: Construct a blackout poem describing the life experiences of Juana Maria/Karana. Focus on how she might have felt, things she may have said, or things she may have done during her isolation on the island.

Option 2: Create a short story describing how you would live/act if you were abandoned alone in your hometown with no way to escape, and no way to rely on technology. You should write in 1<sup>st</sup> person point of view, and give your readers some information as to how you were abandoned in your town, what you might feel like as the only human in the area, or how your daily routine has changed.

**Additional Resources:**

**Blackout Poetry Technique:** <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/john-depasquale/blackout-poetry/>