

# 4TH GRADE: DIVE DEEP INTO OPINION ESSAYS AND BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

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Fourth grade students have worked on lots of writing this year! They recently completed their opinion narrative/literary analysis essay on the book *Island of Blue Dolphins*. While working on this essay, students learned how to find evidence from the text to support their reasons and claims, and how to analyze themes in literature with a Biblical lens.

Students responded to the following prompt:

In your opinion essay, you are going to be analyzing how Karana's time on the island affects the way she views the world and herself.

We will be looking for answers to these questions:

- How does being alone on the island affect Karana's perspective on friendship?
  - How does being alone on the island affect Karana's perspective of family?
  - In your opinion, does her experience on the island make her more independent, or does it make her need other people more? Support your reasoning with explanations and text evidence.
  - According to the Bible, why do we need relationships? Support your answer with verses from the Bible.
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“The students did a fantastic job supporting their points of view and finding textual evidence to support their opinions,” Mrs. Roseberry said. The students also engaged in many conversations regarding what the Bible has to say about relationships and how that influenced the decisions of the main character in the novel.

Overall, students learned a lot about making a strong opinion, supporting their claim with solid textual evidence, and then explaining how that evidence supports their claim. We are excited to share some of their writing with you, and we are looking forward to seeing what 4th grade writes next!

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