

Dear Room 11 Families,

This year 4th graders in Room 11 are responsible for completing 3 book projects throughout the year. Our first book project, *Recycled Art Project w/Literature Response*, will be assigned during the month of September. The remaining two projects have flexible timelines, and may be completed at any time within the remaining two trimesters that work best for your family. Students may choose to complete two of the following four projects:

1. Bottle Doll & 5 paragraph literature response
2. Diorama & 5 paragraph literature response
3. Matchbook Summary
4. Literary Elements Poster

From this point forward, all scholars are required to choose a chapter book for their remaining two book projects and **must bring in their books for approval by Mrs. M prior to beginning their reading.**

Once your child's book selection is approved, (s)he may begin reading, and will be able to choose their project draft packet to complete at home. The draft packet will contain the important information needed to get started on the project - including the outline for the literature response, a graphic organizer for your child's writing, and a description of how to approach the creative component of the project. Upon completion, you may choose to edit this draft packet for your child, or have him/her bring the packet to Mrs. Martinez for editing. *(As a reminder, scholars are encouraged to read their book **and** work on the various parts of their project draft simultaneously. It is not necessary to wait until you have finished your reading to begin your project draft. Some details might need to be revised as your reading progresses, but that's ok! That's why we call it a draft!)*

Once you have completed and corrected your draft, be sure to pick up the final draft packet from Mrs. M to work on at home. Your 4th grader will be completing their final draft and finishing the project at home. ***There are sample final projects both printed at the end of this letter and on our classroom website.***

The following, flexible timeline is designed to help keep students on track:

- Ø Choose book and get approval by **the 1st week of the trimester**
- Ø Complete Draft Packet by **mid-trimester**
- Ø Have editing completed by parent or teacher (ongoing throughout the drafting process)
- Ø Due Date: **the last day of each trimester.** Reminders will be given in class and in ClassDojo updates.

To help keep your child on track during this project process, please encourage 20-30 minutes each night of working on the steps needed to complete this project on time, which includes independent reading and note-taking.

Book Projects are intended to foster book discussions, and are designed to build independence in practicing reading comprehension skills and strategies. While you may definitely help your child with his or her project, please be sure to allow time and space for your child to work independently and creatively.

Final book projects will always be due on the last school day of each trimester, however it is perfectly fine (**and encouraged!**) to complete and hand in the project before the due date! I hope you have fun and enjoy this process as a family. Happy Reading!





Figurative

Figurative Language

Simile: The Island of the Blue Dolphins looks like a dolphin lying on it's side.

Metaphor: The sun was a light in our life.

Personification: Where my hands rested was a deep crevice and in it a fish was hiding, while its long arm reached out and felt it's way around.

READ THIS BOOK!!

You should read *Island of the Blue Dolphins* because it is an amazing, award-winning book about Karana, who was stuck on the island for 18 years before she was saved. Some people will say it's a waste of time reading, but this book is certainly not. Once you start reading it, it's hard to stop! So I definitely recommend this book over others. PLEASE read it!!!!

EVENTS

- Event 1: The Aleuts' comes, and when Karana's family goes, they leave.
- Event 4: There is a very large earthquake.

Author

The author of *Island of the Blue Dolphins* is Scott O'Dell. I think he wrote this book to entertain young people and adults with his writing abilities.

A cause and effect relationship in this story is when Rontu (the wild dog leader) runs away (cause), and almost joins the pack of wild dogs again (effect).

Cause and Effect

Connections

This book makes me think of a picture book I read when I was little about a boy who was stuck on an island with ducks. It brings me back to a day in 3rd grade when a bird flew into the classroom and crashed. We helped it just like Karana helped Rontu. When there is an earthquake in the book, it reminds me of when I slept through a huge earthquake at night.



By Jessica Funk

I am like Karana because we both love adventure and, of course, we are both girls. We're different because Karana is very brave and would do anything to survive. I would try, but Karana did some crazy stuff.

Comparison

Setting

The only setting of *Island of the Blue Dolphins* is the island above, it looks like a blue dolphin.

The climactic event is when white men come and save the girl of the *Island of the Blue Dolphins* after 18 years.

Climax

Character

One of the main characters is the leader of the pack of wild dogs, Rontu. A couple descriptions: "I was bolder because of their legs the thick fur around his neck eyes." "He stood facing legs spread as if he were a yellow eyes narrowed to slits."

Figurative Language

Here are the five types of figurative language that I found when I was reading.

Personification - He looked as brightly as the cloud-ducking and wearing along the way to avoid the dangling area of the housework, the grasping hands of the wicker branches, the spring fingers of various vines...

Metonymy - He was pleased to admire these country walls, their battlements streaked with pink and Cumming, and magnificent Gothic spires.

Metonymy - It was yet another club, a piece of the very strange jagged puzzle, when he was struggling to fit together to make up the picture of Lambury Hall.

Metonymy - His eyes were stuck out on his things when he realized what she was doing.

Metonymy - "And do you know what she had the cheer to do to her?"

My Author ROCKS!

Cherise Hulse is the author of *The Valley of Secrets*, the book I am reading. I chose Cherise as my author because she wrote the book so I can know about her interesting experiences that make you want to stop and think about how the words connect with reality.

Listen to this Cause & Effect...

Deshaun went outside in the ice-cold rain to explore, therefore he was drenched when he returned to the house.

Chelsea Frostick



My Own...

Lambury Hall reminded me of an unfamiliar structure and design the more than I didn't even know.

Deshaun's curiosity reminds me of how when he was a kid around that age.

The reminds me of *The Thing* and how the reminds me of this book in various creatures that appear strange.

I RECOMMEND

I highly recommend this book to others because it's the kind of book that has four stars and is the kind of book that you need a mystery 'legit', a mysterious and undisciplined creature that lurks above through the door. Chris and I have read with Deshaun, both with the 'creatures' and have a great fun of questions as all of the secrets within the pages of this remarkable book.

Connections

Deshaun and I are alike in many ways. We are both intelligent, curious, and like to read. We are both interested in nature, and we both enjoy outdoor activities. Through we are also different in many ways. Deshaun's curiosity leads him through exploring mysteries, while my curiosity gives me answers. I have a faith, but Deshaun doesn't have faith.

The Setting

Lambury Hall, a tall, dark, imposing structure abandoned and deserted by many neighbors, a setting. This mysterious house is where the story takes place. It's a creepy house with some of the secrets, so keep a close eye on it.

Event TRAIL

Deshaun discovers Lambury Hall.

Deshaun finds his Green Chair (Deshaun's place in Lambury Hall).



The house is one that Deshaun had seen in.



Deshaun discovered his Green Chair's journal.



Main Characters are...

The main character of my book is Deshaun. Deshaun had never succeeded at any other subject, but his interest in nature and science was so great that, encouraged by his family, he had become knowledgeable about many aspects of the natural world. He had also known that he had been abandoned as a baby, but with a childhood in a prison, he had learned, through various ways, that his father's name was Deshaun. But no one had ever mentioned his name to him. He's smart, tall, and is very old.