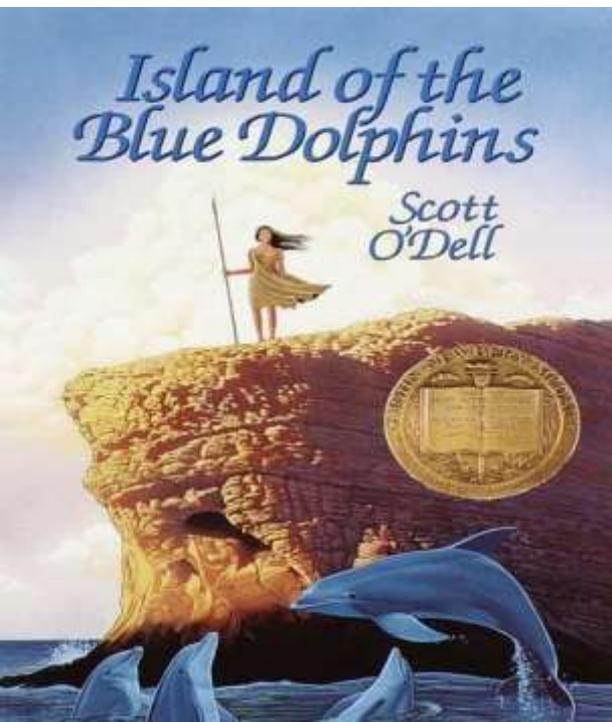


NARRATION AND ECOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW IN
SCOTT O'DELL'S *ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS*
(A YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE)



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INTRODUCTION

- Literature is impossible to directly resolve the problem of ecology.
- Nevertheless, the ability of literary works **to inspire and move** the people's heart, enhances its potential to contribute.





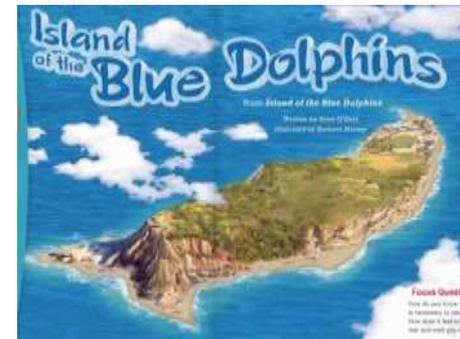
- Worster in Glotfelty (1996): the literary work has the power not only to interpret or reflect, but also **to change the world** through its ability **to arouse the consciousness** of the society.

- The true success of the development environment will a lot depends on the technological progress and the development of environmental science itself, but do not forget that the **role of ecological narratives vocalized through stories IS NO LESS important.**
- The beauty of nature and the stories of sadness about her sung by poetry and novels **have the power TO CHANGE human behavior.**



ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

- A **young adult novel** of Scott O'Dell (1987). It **won at least two awards/the best literature for children/teens** i.e. the Newbery Medal in 1961 and the William Allen White Children's Book Awards in 1963.
- The novel is based on a **true story** of a teenage girl named Juana Maria. It has also been adapted into a movie in 1964



INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THIS NOVEL

- The **THEME** is relevant to real life since decades ago until now and in the future, namely the **relationships between nature and humans.**
- About the **COURAGE** of a teenage persistent **GIRL STRUGGLING** all alone in difficult and **DANGEROUS NATURAL CHALLENGES.**
- An example of **YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE** needed yet not seriously explored.

- Ideally awareness of the importance of preserving nature and the environment **must be nurtured from an early age.**
- Literature for children and adolescents needs to address environmental issues aiming **at raising awareness and respect** for nature.
- The **WHAT AND HOW** to raise awareness is important to learn



ECOLOGICAL ISSUES IN *ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHIN*

- Men's enemies are not nature **BUT THEIR FELLOWS.**
- Men could be very mean and irresponsible to nature. They are greedy to exploit nature without care.
- Those who do not respect nature, who take from nature without care, **are endangering other people and themselves.**



- **Bad animals could learn** and become better ones if people are willing to help. Nature could become men's very **great companion**.

Because of this I was not lonely. I did not know how lonely I had been until I had Rontu to talk to (97).

- **Nature could be a great teacher to human.**



FIRST PERSON TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW IN *ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS*

- **Unreliable** young adult girl as a narrator → make readers **learn the process of gaining understanding**.
- Readers who are **at the same age** as the narrator do not find difficulties in understanding the character's experiences, feelings, anger, fears, anxiety, including the feelings toward the irresponsible Aleut.
- The close relationship between readers and character makes it easy for the author to **draw the readers' sympathy and empathy** for the exploited nature.



- The narrator shares her boredom, her confusion, her decision to leave the island, but then also her awareness on her mistake and her **new understanding** on the meaning of friends: **that the real friends are not necessarily human, but could be the nature in her island.**



- *. “I was not very lonely before they appeared, but now I felt that I had friends with me and did not feel the same. The blue dolphins left me shortly before dusk. They left as quickly as they had come, going on into the west, but for a long time I could see the last sun shining on them. After night fell I could still see them in my thoughts “. (67)*



- Her new view on the meaning of nature to her makes her change her attitude towards nature.
- She is narrated as an objective character which **strengthen the readers' trustworthiness** towards her.



CONCLUSION

- This teenage novel is an effective resource for raising environmental awareness for young generation because:
- It embodies some important ecological issues
- It is narrated using first person point of view capable to make young people think about the importance of nature to human beings.

