

Holy Cross Class of 2020 - Summer Reading

Required reading:

1. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

The novel and a packet have been provided. Review the vocabulary terms.

Follow guidelines for answering questions. Discussion and testing on the novel will occur in September.

Guidelines for answering questions

- Use theme paper or type your answers.
 - Answer in complete sentences.
 - Include the question in the answer.
 - Include specific details from the text and your notes. Answers should be very thorough.
 - Pronouns must have antecedents.
2. Read at least **two** books of your choice. Keep a note book listing the books that you have read and details about each. Remember that reading is fundamental in improving vocabulary.

Questions: The Pearl

Chapter 1

1. Briefly describe the songs Kino hears in Chapter 1. What is the significance of the songs?
2. Describe Kino and Juana's morning routine. What do they eat? What do they talk about?
3. Describe how the scorpion attacks Coyotito.
4. According to the servant, why can't the doctor treat Coyotito? What is the real reason?
5. Setting plays an important role in *The Pearl*.
 - a. Describe the physical setting of the story. What is the village located and how, roughly, is it laid out?
 - b. Describe the social setting of the story. Who are the two main social groups in Chapter 1? What are some of the differences in the way members of each group live?
6. Conflict – a struggle between opposing forces- is a key element in any novel. Describe the conflict between Kino, Juana, and the doctor.
7. The story is told from the omniscient point of view. This allows us to learn about the thoughts of all the characters. How might the story be different if it were told in the first person from Kino's point of view?
8. Compare and contrast Kino and Juana. In what ways are they similar, in what ways are they different? (You will gain some insight by examining closely what each does in the moments after Coyotito is stung.)

Chapter 2

1. Describe the setting of Chapter II. What is the beach like? What is the atmosphere over the estuary like? What are the villagers doing?
2. Describe the "secret little inner song" that Kino hears.
3. Why is the canoe important to Kino?
4. Describe the way a pearl is created.
5. How does Kino find the large pearl? What two similes does the narrator use to describe the appearance and size of the pearl?
6. Early in the chapter the narrator says Juana's homemade poultice is probably a better treatment for Coyotito's illness than what the doctor could come up with. Yet, Juana prays that she and Kino can get enough money to pay the doctor the treat Coyotito. What point do you think the writer is making about Juana's feelings about herself and about money? What do these feelings reveal about the ways the Europeans control the Indians?
7. Near the end of the chapter, as Juana and Kino examine the pearl, the narrator reminds us of what happened to Kino at the end of Chapter 1. Why do you think the narrator reminds us of the earlier event?
8. Do you think a stroke of good fortune, such as winning a lottery or finding something very valuable, has to change a person's life?

Chapter 3

1. The news that Kino has found the Pearl of the World spreads quickly in the village. How do the following characters react to the news.
 - a. The priest
 - b. The doctor

- c. The beggars
 - d. The pearl buyers
2. How do Kino and Juana feel about their future right after the pearl is found? What does Kino plan to do with the money after he sells the pearl?
 3. How does Kino feel about the visit of the priest?
 4. Describe the first and second visits of the doctor. From evidence in the chapter, can you tell for sure whether the doctor, on his first visit, gave Coyotito something to make him sick?
 5. What happens in the family's home in the night?

Chapter 4

1. Describe the way the pearl buyers do business.
2. Juan Tomas tells Kino a method used in the past by the villagers to get more money for their pearls. What was this method? How did the priest explain its lack of success?
3. What do the buyers say about Kino's pearl? Describe the contrasting reactions of Kino and Juana.
4. What happens to Kino in the evening? Describe the contrasting reactions of Kino and Juana.
5. As the plot of *The Pearl* unfolded in the first three chapters we learned about the basic situations of the characters. We also saw how Kino became involved in conflicts after finding the great pearl. In Chapter 4 a major complication develops in the plot. What is the complication? How must it change the course of the story?
6. Juan Tomas can be seen as symbolizing traditional ways in the village. Kino can be seen as representing a desire for change. How does their discussion after Kino's experience with the pearl buyers demonstrate the contrast? Which character do you agree with?
7. What does the description of the stout pearl buyer's trick with the coin suggest about his motives and personality? How does this foreshadow the result of his meeting with Kino?

Chapter 5

1. Why is Juana attempting to do as the chapter opens? How does Kino stop her?
2. What happens to Kino as he returns from the beach?
3. Juana gives Kino first aid, and they make a decision. Why can't they act on the decision?
4. Why do Kino and Juana go to Juan Tomas's house? How does Juan Tomas help them?
5. In Chapter 3 the narrator said a town was like a colonial animal, with all parts very closely tied to each other. What three major events in Chapter 5 break Kino's ties with the town and make him an outsider? Do you think he could become part of the town again in the future?
6. Explain in your own words why Juana has no anger for Kino, despite the way he has treated her. Do you agree with her attitude?
7. Did the violent conflict between Kino and Juana in this chapter surprise you? Or did passages in earlier chapters suggest that it might occur? Explain your answer.
8. At the end of the chapter Kino says, "This pearl has become my soul. . . . If I give it up I shall lose my soul." Explain what he means. Does the statement represent a change in Kino's feelings from earlier chapters?

Chapter 6

1. Describe the first part of Kino and Juana's flight. Where do they stop to rest?
2. As they rest, what vision does Kino see in the pearl?
3. Describe the trackers. Why are they following Kino and Juana?
4. What route do Kino and Juana take to try to lose the trackers? Where do they decide to spend the night?
5. Where do the trackers camp, and what happens to them?
6. What happens to Coyotito?
7. Describe Kino and Juana's return to La Paz.
8. Why do you think Juana and Kino throw the pearl back into the sea?
9. Foreshadowing is when a writer hints at what will happen later in the story. Identify two passages in this chapter in which Coyotito's fate is foreshadowed.