

English 11
The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Reading/Study Guide

Chapter One

1. Define the word “parable”.
2. Identify each of the following characters below by (1) their relationship to one another and (2) what can be inferred by their personalities thus far.
 - a. Kino-
 - b. Juana-
 - c. Coyotito-
 - d. Juan Tomas-
 - e. Apolonia-
3. Describe Kino’s family’s living conditions.
4. What tragic event happens to Coyotito?
5. Why did the townspeople believe the doctor would not come to treat Coyotito?
6. Identify two characteristics that can be inferred about the doctor. (Cite an example supporting each characteristic.)
7. How would you react to the doctor if you were Kino or Juana?

Chapter Two

8. What are Kino and Juana's occupations?
9. What does Kino's canoe **symbolize**? (Cite a textual example supporting your answer.)
10. Why do Kino's people sing songs?
11. What song does Kino hear in this chapter?
12. Analyze Juana's statement: *"It is not good to want a thing too much. It sometimes drives the luck away."* Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not?

Chapter Three

13. According to Juana, *"A town is a thing like a colonial animal. A town has a nervous system and a head and shoulder and feet. A town is a thing separate from all other towns, so that there are no two towns alike. And a town has a whole emotion. How news travels through a town is a mystery not easily solved."*

How does her descriptions compare/contrast to how news spreads at this school? Do you consider this to be a positive/negative quality—explain.
14. Why did Kino suddenly become every man's enemy when he found "the Pearl of the World"?

15. Identify four things Kino hopes the pearl will be able to purchase for his family?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Which of these items do you believe is the ***most important*** to Kino? Explain.

16. What explanation can be given for why Kino heard the Song of the Evil in his head when the Father of the Church came to their brush house? What might this ***foreshadow***?

17. How did the doctor cruelly manipulate Kino and Juana into his treatment of Coyotito's scorpion sting? What motivated him to do so?

18. How has the pearl become a symbol of evil by the chapter's end? A symbol of hope?

19. What do you ***predict*** will happen when Kino tries to sell his pearl to the buyers?

Chapter Four

20. Describe the setting (scene) of the townspeople on the morning Kino decides to negotiate with the pearl buyers.

21. What other day in their lives do Kino and Juana compare this day to?
22. What does Juan Tomas caution Kino about before selling the pearl?
23. Describe the first pearl buyer Kino negotiates with. Why does he refuse to buy the pearl for anything more than 1,000 pesos?
24. What does the first pearl buyer send the young boy for? Why?
25. Briefly describe the next three pearl buyer's responses:
- 1:
- 2:
- 3:
26. Why do both Kino and Juana hear the Song of the Evil after negotiating with the pearl buyers? What is their plan now for the pearl?
27. Who does Kino get into a fight with at the end of the chapter?
28. What can be inferred about Juana and Kino after their dialogue at the end of the chapter?
29. What do you predict will happen in the final two chapters?

Chapter Five

30. What does Juana attempt to do at the beginning of the chapter to the pearl? Why?
31. Why must Juana and Kino go away from La Paz? What would happen if they stayed?
32. What happens to Kino's boat? Cite an example from the text to prove Steinbeck's commentary that *"the killing of a man was not so evil as the killing of a boat."*
33. Why is Apolonia found crying? What does she believe to have happened to Kino, Juana, and Coyotito?
34. Aside from hiding his brother's family in his brush house, identify two other efforts Juan Tomas takes to help Kino, Juana, and Coyotito.
35. If you were Juan Tomas or Juana, how would you respond to Kino's closing statement: *"This pearl has become my soul...if I give it up, I shall lose my soul."*

Chapter Six

36. Why are Kino, Juana, and Coyotito running away? From whom are they trying to escape?
37. Why does Kino begin to lose hope as he says, *"Perhaps, I should let them take me"?*

38. For the first time in this story, Juana refuses to obey Kino—what prompts her to do so?
39. What gives away Kino, Juana, and Coyotito's hiding place in the cave to the trackers?
40. What song provides Kino strength before attacking the trackers?
41. Why does Kino walk away defeated?
42. How had the "Pearl of the World" changed in physical appearance and symbolically over time?
43. What do you supposed would've happened had Kino and Juana decided differently about what to do with the pearl?