

**Directions:** As you read, answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper. Your responses aren't contingent on a certain amount of sentences. Instead, answer what is asked of you in complete sentences. If you don't fully respond, you don't fully receive credit—grammar, as always, matters. If you have questions, please email me at [awilliams@tiptonchristianacademy.com](mailto:awilliams@tiptonchristianacademy.com).

1. "And, as with all retold tales that are in people's hearts, there are only good and bad things and black and white things and good and evil things and no in-between anywhere" (Steinbeck).

What do you think John Steinbeck means when he says there are "no in-between" things in stories? Do you agree? Why or why not? Give an example from a story you know to support your ideas.

2. Juana's eyes were open too. Kino could never remember seeing them closed when he awakened. Her dark eyes made little reflected stars. She was looking at him as she was always looking at him when he awakened" (chapter 1).

Based on this description, what kind of person do you think Juana is? What type of relationship do you suppose Kino and Juana have?

3. Based on the references to the Song of the Family and the Song of the Enemy, why do you think Steinbeck would include the songs as a storytelling element?

4. Kino receives news of the doctor's intentions from the villagers. What does this show about life in Kino's village? What effect does the repetition of "He would not come" have on the reader?

5. Kino cherishes the canoe that he inherited from his grandfather. What possession do you prize, and why? Who was the giver of your prized possession?

6. What is Kino feeling the moment he discovers *the pearl*? What will happen now that he has found a precious pearl? Describe a moment when you felt the same level of euphoria as Kino.

7. "For it is said that humans are satisfied, that you give them one thing and they want something more. And this is said disparagement, whereas it is one of the greatest talents the species has and one that has made it superior to animals that are satisfied with what they have" (chapter 3).

Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not? Use evidence from other texts and your own evidence to support your opinion.

8. What are the doctor's motivations as he claims to know about scorpion poisons and portrays concern for Coyotito?

9. "It was a good idea, but it was against religion, and the Father made that very clear. The loss of the pearl was a punishment visited on those who tried to leave their station. And the Father made

it clear that each man and woman is a soldier sent by God to guard some part of the castle of the Universe" (chapter 4).

Kino and his brother discuss the words of a priest here. As the priest does, do you believe that people should not try to improve their lives? Why or why not? What motivation could the priest have for saying this to Kino and his village?

10. Juana tries to throw the pearl back into the ocean. What is Kino's response? What is Juana's response to Kino? Are you surprised by the interaction? Why or why not?

11. What is Kino's reaction upon seeing the broken canoe? Why does he think this was an evil act? What purpose do you think this moment has in the overall story? Why?

12. "This pearl has become my soul," said Kino. "If I give it up, I shall lose my soul" (chapter 5).

Why does Kino say this to Juan Tomás at the end of chapter five? What do you think Kino is feeling at this point, and why?

13. "And the pearl was ugly; it was gray, like a malignant growth. And Kino heard the music of the pearl, distorted and insane" (chapter six).

What happens to the pearl at the end of the novel? What do the villagers think of this situation? What do you think Steinbeck's message in this novel is? Do you agree with this message?

14. Steinbeck leaves the reader believing Kino and Juana might persevere against the trackers, but tragedy ensues. Before the ending, did you think Kino would finally achieve his goal of selling the pearl for his family?

15. What or who is most responsible for the tragedy Kino and his family experience?

16. Throughout the novel, Steinbeck enforces the idea that individuals are inherently greedy. Validate this statement with three examples from the story (include page numbers).

17. Do you believe the pearl is evil? Why or why not?

**Vocabulary:** While reading, find ten words to define. Write the term, part of speech, and its definition at the end of your assignment.

