

8th Grade Summer Reading Questions: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

Directions: On a separate sheet of lined paper, neatly answer the questions below in complete sentences. You will be graded on neatness and quality of the answers.

1. Who are the three important characters? Describe each using 2-3 details.
2. Describe how Kino's life is symbolized in "songs". What contrasting songs are emphasized at different times?
3. Describe Kino and Juana's community and way of life.
4. What is the difference between the "city of grass huts" and the "city of stone"?
5. Why does Kino want to save one oyster to open last?
6. What cures Coyotito's scorpion bite?
7. In selling the pearl, what disadvantages and advantages did Kino have? Include at least one for each.

Disadvantages:

Advantages:

8. By the end of Chapter 4, what decision had Kino reached concerning what to do with the pearl? Was he right or wrong to do what he did? Why?
9. List the reasons the pearl dealers give Kino for offering him such a low price for the pearl?
10. By the end of Chapter 5, the pearl has become a moral issue to Kino. How does he express it? How do you explain it?
11. How does the author explain Kino at the beginning of chapter 6?
12. What was Kino's final action? Why?
13. Now that you have finished reading the book, explain why the foreword says this story might be a parable (fable/tale)?

