



Rising Scholars Academy

8th Grade English Language Arts

Summer Reading

The Pearl

by John Steinbeck

Welcome to 8th grade English Language Arts! Summer is a time where you can relax and have fun. But did you know you may also experience learning loss over the summer months if you do not continue to practice your reading? In order to maintain the literacy skills you gained in seventh grade, you are required to read The Pearl, by John Steinbeck, as your summer reading assignment. Even though this book is a novella (a story that is longer than a short story, but shorter than a novel), there are many layers of meaning of which we will be analyzing and discussing during the first few weeks of school.

Attached is the required assignment for summer reading. You must have the novella and assignment completed by the first day of school. You will take a TEST over the novella within the first week of school. Make sure you have a copy of the novella (either a physical copy, or digital) with you for class. We will discuss the novella and complete assignments pertaining to the novella within the first few weeks of school.

Have a great summer and see you in August!

-RSA English Language Arts Department

***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**
Chapter One: Vocabulary & Discussion Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Vocabulary:

DIRECTIONS: As you read, write down a synonym for the word based on the context in which it is used.

1. pulque
2. bougainvillea
3. alms
4. indigene
5. suppliant
6. avarice
7. indigent

Chapter Questions:

1. Briefly describe the life style of the characters.
2. What is the “song of the family”? What are some parts of this song?
3. What is the “song of the enemy”?

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***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**

Chapter One: Vocabulary & Discussion Questions

4. Why would it be a “remarkable thing” to get the doctor to come to the village?

5. What is the doctor’s opinion of Kino and his people? How do you know?

6. How are the people in the story divided? Give an example of someone from each side.

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Chapter Two: Vocabulary & Discussion Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Vocabulary:

DIRECTIONS: As you read, write down a synonym for the word based on the context in which it is used.

1. estuary
2. mirage
3. bulwark
4. poultice
5. hummock
6. bow
7. stern
8. mangroves

Chapter Questions:

1. In what ways is the canoe valuable?
2. What is meant by “And the people of the Gulf expected all places were that way...”?
3. Why did Juana’s remedy lack the doctor’s authority?
4. Why didn’t Juana pray for Coyotito to be cured?
5. What did Kino find? Why is it so important?

***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**
Chapter Three: Vocabulary & Discussion Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Vocabulary:

DIRECTIONS: As you read, write down a synonym for the word based on the context in which it is used.

1. distillate
2. subjugation

Chapter Questions:

1. Steinbeck writes, “Every man suddenly became related to Kino’s pearl...” Use examples from the text to support this statement as true.
2. List some of the items Kino states he will have when he sells the pearl. Explain your opinion of the items Kino wants.
3. In this chapter, Steinbeck writes that Kino “was trapped as his people were always trapped...” Explain what Steinbeck means by this.
4. How has Kino’s discovery of the pearl affected the main characters?

The Pearl by John Steinbeck
Chapter Four: Vocabulary & Discussion Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Vocabulary:

DIRECTIONS: As you read, write down a synonym for the word based on the context in which it is used.

1. countenanced
2. graft
3. dignity
4. rampart
5. stalwart
6. collusion
7. lethargy

Chapter Questions:

1. What is the goal of the pearl buyers? Are they successful?

2. How would knowledge of the outside have helped Kino when he went to sell his pearl?

3. What are the offers Kino receives for his pearl?

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***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**
Chapter Five: Vocabulary & Discussion Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Vocabulary:

DIRECTIONS: As you read, write down a synonym for the word based on the context in which it is used.

1. leprosy

Chapter Questions:

1. How has Kino's treatment of Juana changed over the course of the book? Give evidence to support your ideas.

2. Kino says, "I am a man." What does he mean? Do you think he is more of a man now or before he found the pearl? Give examples.

3. What does the quote, "The killing of a man was not as evil as the killing of a canoe" mean?

4. Do you feel it is right for Juan Tomas to protect Kino from the law after he committed murder? Support your answer with an explanation.

5. What does Kino mean by, "This pearl has become my soul. "If I give it up I shall lose my soul..." Do you agree with him? Explain.

***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**
Chapter Six: Vocabulary & Discussion Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Vocabulary:

DIRECTIONS: As you read, write down a synonym for the word based on the context in which it is used.

1. cleft
2. escarpment
3. freshets
4. petulant
5. threshed

Chapter Questions:

1. Was it wise for Kino to throw the pearl back into the sea? Why or why not?
2. Should someone have to suffer to gain wealth? How have Kino and his family suffered?
3. Do you think Kino is responsible for Coyotito's death? Is Juana? If both are not, who is and why?
4. What is a lesson that Kino learned from this experience?