

PEARL THEMES summarized by Mc Cullagh king 11

Sample questions and their answers

1. With examples from the novel, discuss how the theme of deceit or dishonesty is portrayed.

Answer

In the novel the pearl the theme of deceit or dishonesty has been captured in a number of ways.

The agents of pearl selling, the pearl buyers, the French doctor, the priest and the robbers are caught behaving deceitfully to one another. So the essay explains the deceitful behaviour of some of the characters in the book.

Firstly, when the doctor gets the news that Kino has found the great pearl, he changes his mind and claims that he is treating Kino's child who is beaten by a scorpion. In actual sense he refuses to treat the same child previously because Kino is poor. He also lies that he is not at home when Kino comes to seek treatment for his child Coyotito.

Secondly, the priest or the Father comes to Kino's brush house to confirm the news which he gets about Kino's great pearl. He fails to marry Kino in his church because he has no money to pay him. But now that Kino is rich with the pearl he comes to tell him that he is a great man or father of the church. He goes on to say Kino's name was written in the books. In true sense the priest labels Kino as a poor man and does not visit him in good faith.

Another one is the robber, when the news gets people in town and the neighbours, the robbers come during night to try to steal Kino's great pearl. Fortunately, Kino senses their presence and goes out to fight them. The robbers fail to snatch the glimmering pearl.

Additionally, the buyers plan to cheat Kino when he comes to sell his great pearl to them. They offer him low prices although they know his pearl is of great value. They go to an extent of saying Kino's Pearl is large and clumsy worth for a museum. They say it is fool's gold yet later on they regret for missing the opportunity and fear their failure to buy it.

Besides that, Kino's enemies come again after failing to sell his pearl to the dealers. They plan to steal Kino's great pearl at dawn in his brush house. They dig the floor in an effort to find it. Meanwhile, Juana has taken it to the beach to try to throw it into the sea. They also fight Kino on his way to the house but he manages to kill one robber.

Furthermore, the agents of pearl dealers disappear with the money when they are sent to the capital to sell pearls for other people. Previously in Kino's village fisher men could trust one person to take their pearls to the capital but these agents end up running away with the money. This is told by Tomas to Kino as a matter of warning him to be carefully with his pearl and that he must not trust anyone on the sales.

Moreover, Juana the wife to Kino dishonestly picks the pearl from its hidden place and walks silently to the beach. She is determined to throw it away to the sea because to her the pearl is evil and it has brought problems to their house. This idea makes Kino to follow her and beats her before she throws it away.

Finally, Juan Tomas a brother to Kino lies to people that Kino, Juana and the pearl have been destroyed in the burning house. This is happening when Kino is hiding in Tomas' house. He tells people different stories to confuse them. He does not want anyone to follow him or know where he is for protection's sake.

In conclusion, different characters in the novel behave deceitfully to one another. Some want to steal property while others are greedy for money. Others are only jealousy of one another.

2. Explain how the following themes have been portrayed in the Novel „the Pearl“?

a. Knowledge is power

b. Greed

Answers (a)

Firstly, Kino understands that real power lies in knowledge, his son will read and opens the books and he will be able to teach his parents once educated that's why he intends to send him to a better school so that once educated the son will remove ignorance from their parents.

In addition, Juana understands far sooner than Kino the danger of possessing the pearl that it will destroy them. And also Juan Tomas realized quickly the danger of possessing the pearl and insists that the pearl to be sold to buy peace but Kino is ignorant of that as a result it leads to the destruction of their properties.

Another point is that Kino is aware that the pearl buyers want to cheat him by offering low prices so he decides not to sell it because he has some knowledge on the value of pearl.

Lastly, Kino has gained more power and has no fear of anyone because of the pearl which he regards more valuable and defends it by killing dangerous people who wants to steal his pearl yet by the time he had no pearl he was afraid of people.

Answer (b)

Firstly when the doctor's servant informs him that Coyotito is in dire need of help, the doctor replies, "I am a doctor, not a veterinary" and refuses to treat Coyotito without payment, which Kino does not have.

Secondly when the doctor hears that Kino has acquired —the Pearl of the World, he claims that Kino is a client of his and goes to visit Kino in his home. He is not concerned about the chance of Coyotito dying, and instead tries to squeeze as much money out of Kino as possible.

Thirdly the priest comes to visit Kino's house after hearing about the world pearl discovery but he's super-condescending because he considers the natives to be children. He flatters Kino and puts in his two cents about how they should donate money to the church.

Lastly The pearl buyer pokes at the pearl and calls it "clumsy" for being too large and finally offers a thousand pesos just to make sure they keep a low price for something which is worth fifty thousand so that they should make more profits out of it.

3. Discuss eight points that show the theme of curiosity in the book "The Pearl".

Answer

Curiosity is the strong desire to know about something in this case the pearl. Almost everyone in the book is curious to know the pearl of Kino which drives some people to come to his house to see this pearl. The book of Pearl has displayed a lot of curiosity from different characters found in the book, it is therefore this essay's reason to offer detailed analysis of the theme of curiosity found in the book of the pearl. In the first place, the pearl divers at the ocean are very curious to know and see the pearl which Kino has just found. This has led them to abandon their work for a while and rush where Kino and his wife are just in order to see the pearl. By this time Kino has not officially informed them but they have enough evidence that Kino has found the pearl due to his shouting for joy.

In addition to that, Kino becomes curious after finding the pearl he looks forward to what it can bring. His life has become ambitious; he thinks of buying new clothes, wedding at church, buying a rifle and sending Coyotito to a good school.

Another point is that, Juana becomes curious for Kino to find the pearl as a result she prays when Kino dives into the ocean so that he can be successful. Even when Kino comes out of the water she becomes curious to know if Kino has really found the pearl from the different Oysters he has collected deep down the sea.

Fourthly, relatives and neighbors of Kino are very curious to see the pearl and they all rush to his brush house to see this pearl. They gather at his house in order to have a look at the pearl and to know what Kino will do with the money after selling the pearl.

Above that, the priest becomes very curious when he hears the news of Kino's pearl which he later visits Kino for the same. He desires to see it and reminds Kino to remember the un-repaired church after the sale of the pearl and thanking God by giving tithe to the church.

Furthermore, the French Doctor becomes curious about Kino's Pearl and visits him. At his house the doctor become curious to know where Kino has hidden the pearl, this made him to have glances at the corner of the house where he thinks the pearl can be hidden. He later asks Kino to give him the pearl so that he can keep it in safe place as Kino in order to avoid was stolen.

The seventh point is that, the pearl buyers are curious to see the pearl of Kino which have shaken the whole area because of its large size. They prepare to give Kino the cheapest price so that they sale it at a higher price.

Lastly, the beggars become curious to see the sudden change of Kino from poverty to prosperity and they wanted to escort the Kino to see how his fortune will become at the market. In this case they are even hopeful to get more from Kino because as he once tested poverty so he will remember his friends still suffering.

This essay have discussed how the theme of curiosity is portrayed in the book of the pearl beginning with the pearl divers, Kino's wife, Kino himself, the neighbors, the priest, the doctor, the pearl buyers and the beggars.

4. Describe the mistakes made by individuals and explain how each mistake would have been avoided in the book, "the pearl".

Answer

Firstly Juana makes a mistake by thinking that the doctor is going to cure her baby. She does not realize that he is the one who made the baby sick in the first place by giving the baby the white powder. This could be avoided by sticking to their tradition medicine rather than involving the doctor who does not have the best interests of the people at heart.

Secondly, Juana makes another mistake by returning the pearl to her husband when she decides to throw it at the sea. The pearl is trouble. This item they thought would make them rich causes them to lose everything. Because of it, their baby dies, and their lives will never be the same and this could have been avoided by throwing the pearl back into the sea when she had the chance.

Thirdly Kino is aware that everybody in the town or the village wants to steal his pearl and faces many attacks in the process. This could be avoided by selling the pearl just to get rid of it and free himself from the attackers when he is offered fifteen hundred pesos.

In addition to that, the Pearl buyers know that the world pearl is worth a lot of money and will give them more profits once they buy it but they offer an acceptable price as low as six hundred pesos which makes Kino not to sell it. This could be avoided by the buyers offering at least a fair price.

Furthermore Kino knows that after the pearl discovery everybody is an enemy because they all eye the pearl to the point of hunting him like an animal. Despite all this, He proceeds to take his wife and a kid on a dangerous journey to sell the pearl and lost the baby on their way. This could be avoided by putting some senses into Juannas head to stay safe at his brother's house.

Kino also makes a mistake by not taking advise from Juana and Juan Thomas that the pearl is evil and he should get rid of it. It later brought troubles like losing their only house and a canoe which could have been avoided by taking the advice.

Another mistake is made by the doctor who refuses to help Kino when his Son Coyotito is beaten by a scorpion because kino has no money. Later The Doctor pays a visit to kino upon hearing that he has found the world pearl and asks for the pearl to keep it safe but is not given. This could have been avoided by being there for Kino when he needed help to gain his trust.

Lastly Juan made a mistake by not listening to Kino when she was told not to follow Kino on his way to sell the Pearl because that's where the son was shot dead. This could have been avoided by staying at Juan Thomas house.

5. With examples from the book, "the pearl" show how the following themes are portrayed:

A) Poverty

B) Exploitation

Answer to (a)

Kinos family lives in a brush house which shows that the family is poor. kino is failing to provide money for the medicine to treat his son Coyotito which also indicated that they are poor. The baby has no crib or cradle. His bed is hung from ropes that extend from the ceiling. This is to prevent any insects or scorpions from hurting the baby.

In addition to that when the story begins, Kino is waking up in the early morning inside his hut on the beach. Juana starts the fire in a fire pit which is where she has to cook the meals and the hut that they live in has no door and the floor is dirt.

After the discovery of the pearl Kino said after he sells he will make a church wedding and send his son to school which shows that he was poor and could not even afford a church wedding and school for his son.

Answer for (b)

Firstly, the pearl buyers want to exploit the poor Kino so that he remains poor by buying his pearl at the cheapest price. They actually have a meeting agreeing on the cheapest price to buy the pearl of Kino in order that he continues to live a miserably life.

In addition, the priest wants to take advantage of Kino by demanding him to thank God in form of paying tithe to church and to repair the church simply because he has the pearl.

Another point is that, the doctor wants to exploit the poor Kino by demanding to keep the pearl on his behalf as if he do not know how to keep. In true sense he wants to steal the pearl from him in this way.

Lastly, the doctor exploits the poor people by not giving them treatment even if they are at a point of death simply because they cannot or they can pay little.

7. Explain eight points that show Kino as a strong character in the book, “the pearl”.

Kino dives in the ocean searching for the pearls and He is able to stay under the waters for almost two minutes which shows that he is strong even in the waters.

Kino also shows a strong character by going to the sea everyday using his canoe to dive for the pearls so he can provide for his family.

Upon discovery of the great pearl, One intruder comes to Kinos house at night in attempt to steal the great pearl. Kino gets smashed on the head, but chases off the bad guy this also shows how strong he is.

Although Kino is pushed by pressure form the surrounding people like Juana n Juan of about the pearl that it is evil, Kino is able to stand still on his idea of having the Pearl to improve his life and family since it is his only hope to become rich after the sales .This shows how strong minded he is.

When the doctor visited Kino's house, he proposed an idea to Kino that he need to keep his pearl at his safe since the house is not safe for valuable things, but Kino rejects the offer and He is ready to defend his pearl against all odds.

Juana seeing that the Pearl is evil and that Kino is rejecting to throw it away, she decides to throw the Pearl back into the ocean but Kino manages to stop her just as she is about to throw the pearl into the water. He wrestles it back, strikes her in the face, and kicks her once she's fallen to the ground.

As Kino makes his way back to the hut, a figure attacks him. He stabs the figure with his knife and leaves him on the ground bleeding while the pearl is knocked onto the ground proving how strong he is once again.

As the trackers follows into the mountain, Kino leaps up and stabs his knife into the man's neck just as the gun goes off. Kino goes nuts on the three men, managing to stab two, steal the rifle, and shoot the other man between the eyes proving even more how strong he is.

8. Discuss eight points that shows the theme of disillusionment.

Kino dives into the sea, and finds the great pearl which He and His Wife Juana believes will bring more money to the family which will be used for medical payment to the doctor for Coyotito's but later Juana discovers that the Pearl is evil and a source of problems into their family.

When Kino is about to sell the Pearl, the buyers quoted that the pearl is useless and far away from what they are expecting as the way people are talking about the pearl and this disappoints Kino. Just like Juana, looking at the situation that has reached of burning Kino's house, Juan Thomas also starts to believe that the pearl is evil and that Kino should throw it away since it is bringing more trouble than expected.

The priest comes to visit, but he's super-condescending because he considers the natives to be children. He flatters Kino and puts in his two cents about how they should donate money to the church after the sells but the great pearl ends back into the sea. After Kino's discovery of the pearl the native Indians believes that the pearl will bring more wealth to Kino and his family but at last they end up realizing that the pearl is not good because of what the buyers say and it leads to the death of their son Coyotito.

The native Pearl divers thinks collecting all pearls together extracted from the ocean and give it to one person to sell it to the capital will earn them more money in attempt to run away from the low prices. Unfortunately the one assigned for the job ends up running away with all the money.

When Kino disagrees with the buyers offer for the pearl, He decides to sell it to the capital thinking he will get better prices there but along the way his son is shot dead and the pearl is thrown back into the sea.

Kino decides he wants to get married to his wife—officially and in the church, now that they can pay for it after selling the great pearl. He looks into the pearl and sees a vision of them at the altar, dressed all spiffy. Then he says he wants a rifle and continues that his son Coyotito will go to school but the great pearl turns out to be an evil thing.

9. With examples from the book “the pearl” show how the following themes are portrayed:

- Violence

Answer

Firstly in chapter 3, we see Kino waking up from his sleep with the song of evil pulsing through him. What follows is a scuffle in the dark with at least one intruder who smashed Kino on the head, but chases off the bad guy.

Secondly in chapter 4 we see Kino going home from La Paz after failing to sell the pearl. While at home as the night grows darker, Kino goes to the doorway, after sensing some danger and when Juana follows she finds him on the ground bleeding from the head after being kicked by the pearl chasers.

Thirdly when Juana is about to throw the pearl into the water, Kino wrestles it back, strikes her in the face, and kicks her once she’s fallen to the ground. This also shows how violent Kino has become because of the pearl.

Lastly in chapter 6 Kino leaps up and stabs his knife into the man’s neck (the trackers) just as the gun goes off and Kino goes nuts on the three men, managing to stab two, steal the rifle, and shoot the other man between the eye.

10, *Explain in eight ways in which symbols have used in the book “the pearl”.*

Answer:

Firstly the pearl is a symbol of wealth which is quite ambivalent in its nature throughout the novel. When Kino first finds the pearl, it is a symbol of hope and salvation. The pearl and what it holds of wealth represents a great potential for the family and so their ambitions grow big.

Secondly, the same Pearl represents all the evil in the world. It seems all the greed and evil surfaces in the presence of wealth.

Thirdly the scorpion is a form of foreshadowing as well as a symbol of the evil that is yet to come into Kino's life. The scorpion sneaks into the family's home in attempts to take away their most valuable possession, their son.

Another symbolic meaning of a scorpion is also foreshadowing of the many town's people who are filled with poisonous envy and evil as they sneak into Kino's home to steal the pearl and poison his life.

Kino's canoe is the tool he uses to provide for his family and is an essential part of his life. Kino's canoe enables him to catch fish and carries him to deeper waters, where he dives for pearls. Steinbeck writes that Kino's canoe was the "one thing of value he owned in the world" and was passed down through generations in his family. Symbolically, the canoe represents Kino's heritage, culture, and family.

Given the fact that Kino planned on escaping the village in his canoe, the destroyed canoe symbolically represents the loss of hope and peace in Kino's life. The Song of Evil surrounds the sunken canoe, and Kino's life takes a turn for the worse. Kino's family, heritage, and peaceful existence are destroyed once his canoe is irreparably damaged.

The village symbolizes oppression of Mexican Indians who are ignorant and poor.

The town and the sea possess certain symbols of way of life and death.

The scorpion is a symbol of evil and foreshadows the evil that is to come in future in the novel.

The pearl is the symbol of beauty, hope, riches and love at first when it is glimmering and attractive but when it has caused problems (evil) to Kino it turns ugly.

11 . OBSESSION

- ✓Kino dives for pearls in attempt to find one with great value
- ✓He would like to pay the doctor for Coyotito's treatment after being stung by a Scorpion. He gets one valuable Pearl.
- ✓Kino considers the pearl as a fulfillment of his dreams for the family. He will acquire new clothes, conduct church wedding with his wife Juana, buy a rifle for himself and pay education expenses for Coyotito.
- ✓Kino kills a man when he is attacked in self-defense.
- ✓Kino savagely beats his wife up when she tries to throw Pearl back into the sea.
- ✓Kino clings to the pearl until their baby dies. His house is burned, Canoe destroyed.
- ✓Kino claims that the pearl has become his soul.
- ✓On the way to the capital he kills three men following them for the pearl.

12. GREED

- ✓The news of Kino's pearl has stirred up evil intention from various people. Greed is evil and has infected both the rich and the poor.
- ✓The doctors, merchants, priest and beggars all think of the pearl in monetary terms.
- ✓Greed makes people in town to conduct acts of violence against Kino is attempting to still the pearl. Blood is shed.

13. CORRUPTION

- ✓Corruption has fueled greed. Thus is seen in the lives of individuals and the society at large.
- ✓The doctor is corrupted by his love of money and fine possession in silk robe. He sits in his beautiful house sipping chocolate from a China cup while he refuses to treat Coyotito, who has been stung by a scorpion. He does this because the baby is an Indian and he says he not a veterinary. He later gives a hand to Kino's pearl.

14. RELIGION

- ✓Religion is portrayed negatively in the Novel. The priest who is supposed to be a strong pillar and a role model seems corrupt and self-serving.
- ✓Kino's life has fallen apart even though he is a religious man. Juana has been offering a protection prayer but little seems to have taken place.
- ✓Based on this religion in the story is not something to be trusted and counted on. It leads to disappointment.

15. PRICE OF WISDOM

- ✓Juana seems to have the understanding of the impact of clinging to the pearl. She says "It will destroy us all" and even our son.
- ✓This has come to pass because their house is burnt, Kino's canoe smashed and their son Coyotito shot dead.
- ✓Juana Tomas too tries to save them from destruction. He says "there is a devil in the pearl". He advices Kino to sell it or throw it back into the ocean in order to pass on the devil.
- ✓Juan believes that if Kino sells the Pearl he will buy a peace for himself but Kino refuses. He clings to it.
- ✓Kino beat his wife for trying to throw the pearl back into the ocean. In the end Kino has come to believe that both Juana and Juan were right.

✓Kino personally returns the pearl to the sea after the death of his son, his house burnt and Cone smashed.

✓This is a terrible price to pay for Kino's acquiring wisdom.

16. IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY

✓The family is indicated as the only institution where one can find warmth. When Kino seems to be troubled he finds warmth from his wife Juana.

✓Juana gives warmth to Kino in the following ways: by her presence to him, she nurses Kino's wound when he gets attached.

✓Kino says when he gets rich, will marry his wife Juan through the church. All this because he is satisfied.

✓Kino is accompanied by his family to the market to sell the pearl with high expectations.

✓Juana and Coyotito seem to enjoy Kino's protection as family head.

✓Juana, Kino's brother and his wife sympathizes what Kino pass through. He advices Kino that he should not be cheated by the pearl buyers, when Kino's house is burnt, he offers him accommodation.

✓The family song Kino hears also symbolizes the significance of the family. All in all Kino enjoys the warmth and this shows that the family is the very important institution ever.

17. WEALTH

✓The story shows that wealth has both advantages and disadvantages. He goodness is that it brings joy and one is able to meet needs and fulfill family needs (obligations)

- ✓Kino feels that once he gets rich will be able to marry his wife through church and send his son to school.
- ✓On the other hand wealth has challenges, for example; Kino has become center of attraction. Various people plot to attack him and his family and away with the pearl.
- ✓Almost everybody wants to cheat Kino in order to get his pearl.
- ✓In the end his house is burnt to ashes, Canoe smashed and his son Coyotito is shot dead because of the Pearl.
- ✓Wealth brings both happiness and insecurity. To addition insecurity perhaps that's why Kino says one of the item he will buy when he get rich is a rifle.

18. GOOD VERSUS EVIL

- ✓Family is good. It brings warmth and comfort one needs in difficult times.
- ✓Greed is evil. It makes people envious and filled with self-serving spirit. For example the priest who thinks of church repair and the doctor who needs Paris and furniture.
- ✓Love is good. It brings consolation of the mind is the best medicine in hard times. For instance Kino beats up his wife because of the pearl, but in the end they reconcile because of the love.

9. GENDER

- ✓Kino by virtue of being the man he becomes family head and Jun respects all decisions made by Kino there good or bad. The same applies to Juan over Apolonia.
- ✓Kino is ultimate speaker of the family and everyone should bow down to him.

10. PRIMITIVE

- ✓ The pearl has changed the man from civilized and to primitive one. He is scared and a protective beast. He declares that everyone is his enemy and is afraid of everyone.
- ✓ When Kino's wife takes the pearl without his knowledge to throw it back into the sea (ocean) he savagely beats her up.
- ✓ Kino goes further by killing a man who wants to attack him for his pearl. He cuts him on the throat.
- ✓ Finally Kino kills the trackers just to protect his pearl.