

MR. OOKY ANALYSES THE PEARL



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A Critical Analysis of John Steinbeck's Novella "The Pearl"

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CONTENTS

About the author.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	5
Dedication.....	5
The concept in ‘The Pearl’	6
Important quick facts about ‘The Pearl’.....	7
Chapter one analysis.....	9
Chapter two analysis.....	12
Chapter three analysis.....	15
Chapter four analysis.....	21
Chapter five analysis.....	28
Chapter six analysis.....	34
Major songs and music in ‘The Pearl’	41
Symbolism in ‘The Pearl’.....	42
Characters’ traits in ‘The Pearl’.....	44
Major themes in ‘The Pearl’	46
References.....	49

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A Domasi College of Education Graduate, Mr. Ooky was born Steven Chiyaka Phiri to a couple of Boyd Chiyaka Phiri and Dorica Kahinja Phiri.

He was trained in English and Chichewa based on the current Secondary School Curriculum and Assessment Review (SSCAR), hence has analysed this novella having in mind all the important facts necessary for the analysis of any work of fiction, centered on the up-to-date syllabus.

A passionate Poet, Playwright, Story Writer, Play Director and a literature Darling, he loves words so much. The love he had for his students at Athens 3 Private Secondary School, his first place for professional teaching made him write this analysis. Currently, he is a Senior Section English Teacher.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank God for honoring me with the energy and skill to bake this analysis. I have no suitable words to use in thanking my mother, Dorica Kahinja Phiri, for fighting hard and making me who I am today. I also thank my fathers: Boyd Chiyaka Phiri and Gilbert Banda, for all they did.

Since gratitude is the best attitude, I am also very grateful to the following persons: all my lecturers at Domasi College of education; Portia Phillips, my special friend whom I made wait for the release of this book for a long time, but still she understood the delay; Sir Albert Zepete, for word encouragement and a thorough proofreading of this book ; Judith Mikuti, a friend who provided me with a great technical support; Bright Manda, The Cilpar Designs Manager, a friend who offered the beautiful cover design for this book ; my Athens 3 Secondary School work mates and students, for helping me understand what teaching is; Aunt Mary, her family, and Chitsanzo my brother, whom I had to forsake for some long hours just to concentrate on this book, and lastly, all my family and friends who assisted me in various ways.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my sweet mother, Dorica Kahinja Phiri. I love you so much Ama.

THE CONCEPT IN THE PEARL

Have nothing, then you will be no one on this earth. At last have a little something, then everyone will take you as a great someone and be ready to face troubles.

This is the truth in the novella, “*The Pearl*”, by John Steinbeck. When people are poor in life, nobody desires to be near them. Once they start showing signs of getting greater in life, big names start coming to them. In Malawi for example, names like ‘Mtchana’ and ‘Munthu Wamkulu’, among others start to follow them. However, at one point they become blinded, people start feeling envious about them, they begin to bump into distresses and suddenly fall.

Though set in Mexico, the concept in “*The Pearl*” applies to all communities of the world, Malawian inclusive.

Kino was a poor man at first and no one knew him. He was a mere man sleeping on a mat, living in a brush house, eating poorly made corncakes, his wife walking on barefoot and owning an old canoe.

Once he found the great treasure in the name of “The Pearl”, influential people of the society started flocking to him. Again, just like everyone is brought to danger when they accumulate wealth, Kino becomes blindfolded due to his pearl and many disasters befall on him and his whole household.

Kino sacrifices everything just to get riches from the pearl. Sadly, he loses one of his precious things, his son, precious more than his pearl. At last, he regrets but he cannot do anything for it is now water under the bridge. Greed and blind ambition pay him dearly.

This book has been written to be like a series of live lessons. I have written it so as to assist both teachers and students understand and visualize the happenings and literary elements in “The Pearl”. Since Sally Koch once said and I quote: “Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily,” accept this small offer that I render to you.

Enjoy as Mr. Ooky helps you comprehend “The Pearl”, one step after another.

IMPORTANT QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE PEARL

Author: John Steinbeck

Type of Story: Tragedy

Total Time of the Story: Five Days

Meaning of the term 'Pearl'

A precious, expensive, shiny, rounded, stone like substance whose colour varies, found in some organisms called oysters that are found in large water bodies like rivers, lakes, seas and oceans and is used in jewelry making.

Major Characters:

- Kino - Protagonist and Father
- Juana - Kino's Wife
- Coyottito – Son to Kino and Juana

Other Characters:

- ★ Juan Tomas - Kino's Elder Brother
- ★ Apolonia – Wife to Juan Tomas
- ★ Juan Tomas' Children
- ★ The French Doctor
- ★ The Doctor's Servant
- ★ The Priest
- ★ The Pearl Buyers
- ★ The Trackers
- ★ The Beggars
- ★ The Villagers
- ★ The Other Fishermen
- ★ The Shopkeepers
- ★ The Old Man
- ★ The Village Women

Factual Setting:

La Paz in Mexico

Other Settings:

- Kino's House
- The Doctor's Gate
- The Sea
- The Pearl Buyers' Office
- The Mountains
- The Water Pool

CHAPTER ONE

DAY ONE: IN THE HOUSE OF KINO

From a poor brush hut, **Kino** and **Juana** wake up from their sleep. The sun has not yet shone. We can imagine seeing pigs searching for what to eat and birds singing softly. Kino has his Juana, the wife beside him while **Coyottito**, their baby sleeps innocently in a hanging box. It promises to be a sweet day. Kino hears the *Song of the Family*. (Go to page 41 for the meanings of songs and music.) After checking that the baby is safe, Juana goes on to make corncakes on the hut's fire place. Kino goes out to watch the sunrise. While outside, a goat with yellowish eyes comes near and sniffs him. Inside the house, a moth flies around the fire. Juana grinds the corn for breakfast.

It is now sunrise and food is ready. Kino sees an ant escaping an ant lion trap before seeing a thin black dog with yellow spots. All these are bad signs. Juana cleans the baby while singing.

Before going inside, Kino sees two roosters about to fight. Then wild doves fly towards the hills.

KINO EATS BREAKFAST

As Juana grooms herself and combs her hair, Kino eats the prepared hot corncakes. He takes them with an alcoholic drink called pulque. After Kino finishes eating, Juana eats at last. Though they do not verbally speak, a sigh from Kino tells Juana that she has made a sweet meal.

TROUBLES BEGIN: THE SCORPION

Suddenly, Kino and Juana see a **scorpion** moving majestically towards the hanging box where the innocent Coyottito is lying. Kino hears the *Song of Evil* which overtakes the Song of The Family. Juana chants some magic to force the scorpion away. – Is she not superstitious? As Kino nears the scorpion, Coyottito laughs and shakes the scorpion which falls on his shoulder and stings. Though Kino crushes it with bare hands and finishes it with the foot, the baby cries so loudly. So sad right?

As a loving mother, Juana sucks the poison out from the puncture. Can you do this? **Neighbors** have filled Kino's house, among them, **Juan Tomas** who is Kino's brother, his wife **Apolonia** and their **four children**.

Coyottito begins to swell and can die any time soon. Juana tells Kino to call the **French Doctor** in, but due to his lifestyle, he may not come. All the people know about that. At this time Juana never hesitates but takes the baby to the doctor. All the people including her husband follow her. She is a strong and loving woman I tell you.

As they pass through a pleasant looking city, various people including beggars join them. **The beggars** know that Kino and his people are poor just by looking at their dressing. They also know that the doctor is a cruel man who cannot help the baby. Still they go on with them.

AT THE FRENCH DOCTOR'S GATE

At last they are at the doctor's gate. Sweet food smells can be smelt from inside the gate. The compound is a paradise with a beautiful scenery. Kino hesitates to knock on the gate. The doctor is a French and Kino an Indian. These two races hate each other due to racial differences. Kino's race is taken as

animals. At last he knocks but filled with anger and fear. *The Music of Enemy* is heard in his ears, (Refer to page 41 for meanings of music). He has taken off his hat. Then a **servant**, a fellow Indian, attends to him. Surprisingly, he never speaks to Kino in their same language. After he explains his problems, he is told to wait as he goes to inform the doctor about the issue.

INSIDE THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE

The doctor enjoys sweet chocolate, biscuits and drinks using materials made in China. Life is unfair between these two worlds. Hypocritically, religious pictures are all over the walls of his room. His late wife's pictures are also there. He believes that the wife is in heaven since he is a good person and paid masses for her to go there. He recalls the time they had enjoyed while in France.

Though the servant is near the doctor, he never talks to him, waiting for a time that he will be recognised by the doctor on his own - Is the doctor a good person?

After hearing the matter, he grows angry and says that he cannot cure Indians, up to a point of comparing them to animals. He says:

‘I am a doctor, not a veterinary.’ (The Pearl, page 13)

Is that fair like serious? He thereafter sends the servant to check if Kino has money.

BACK AT THE GATE

Sadly, Kino has eight ugly worthless pearls, which he folded in a paper hidden under the blanket he has carried. Do you think they will be assisted? Your guess is as good as mine.

After a moment, Kino is told that the doctor has gone out to attend to a much serious case than theirs. Is this not killing? A baby is about to die due to a scorpion bite but the doctor refuses to help. All the people including the beggars, who guessed right, return to their places leaving Kino and Juana with shame. This is so bad!

★ **Reflection:** If you were Kino, what would you have done?

Finally, Kino wears his hat. Filled with anger, he smashes the doctor's gate heavily and injures his fist. Fresh blood is now oozing from it. This is justifiable I think.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

In this first chapter, Mr. Ooky will not spoon feed you by explaining various character traits. Thus, he will just help you on how to analyse various characters based on what you have read.

The first thing is to **critically reflect on what various characters do** in chapter one. Then **mention their behaviors using suitable adjectives**. Finally, **explain how such behaviour traits have been shown**. It is not difficult, trust me. For instance, explain how the following behaviors are shown by the given characters:

1. KINO

- Violent
- Protective
- Responsible
- Loving

- Grateful

2. JUANA

- Determined
- Responsible
- Dutiful
- Caring
- Strong minded

Then do the same with any other character of your choice. Is that difficult to do? Mr. Ooky thinks no.

THEMES IN CHAPTER ONE

1. RESPONSIBILITY

Juana shows responsibility by waking up early to prepare food for the family. She also bathes the baby. She again sucks the poison from the scorpion sting and takes the baby to the doctor.

2. POVERTY

Kino's family lives in a bad house made from local and indigenous materials. They sleep on a mat instead of on a bed. They also eat poor quality food as compared to the doctor. Juana, Kino's wife walks on bare foot. Lastly, they do not have money to pay to the doctor for Coyottito's treatment.

3. UNITY

All the villagers come to Kino's house to comfort them in their trying time. They also escort them to the doctor's house.

4. ANGER/VIOLENCE

Kino kills the scorpion with a bare hand and foot. He again smashes the doctor's gate and shades blood after he is denied of help.

5. RACIAL SEGREGATION

Kino is in an enmity with the doctor all because of differences in races.

★ Do this for Mr. Ooky

Find and analyse five other themes from chapter one. Mind you a theme should always be a noun or a noun phrase.

CHAPTER TWO

STILL DAY ONE: KINO HUNTS FOR THE PEARL

The same morning he is rejected, Kino goes to search for the pearl in the sea. On the beach and inside the sea, various organisms like crabs, lobsters, seahorses, algae and sea grass are present. Pigs and dogs that cannot be fed properly by their masters are searching for dead fish and sea birds. - What theme is there?

If they find the pearl, they want to sell it and pay for the baby's treatment. Kino relies on an old canoe he got from his late father. The father also got it from his father too. In Kino's community, a canoe is a valuable asset that a man can own. Being very old, it is heavily plastered through a process known only to men and not women. - So traditional and strange right?

GOING ONTO THE SEA

Kino has a rock, a basket and a rope. He lays his shoulder blanket in the canoe on which Juana lays Coyottito and is covered with a shawl to protect him from the sun. On the stung shoulder, Juana puts some crushed sea weed as a treatment. Mind you that the baby may die soon. It is the same Juana who had sucked the poison from the baby's shoulder who at this time prepares this treatment. - Is she not a sweet mother?

Together, they push the canoe into the sea and begin their trip. As a husband and a wife, they paddle the canoe such that it sails faster. At last they arrive at an oyster bed, a place where many oysters are found. Mind you that pearls are found inside oysters. It is by chance that a person can find one.

KINO GOES INTO THE SEA

After taking off his clothes, Kino enters into the water carrying a basket and tying to his body a rock, for fast drowning. He collects many oysters in his basket. Then, he hears *The Song of the Pearl that Might Be*. It foretells that he might find a pearl in one of the collected oysters. In the canoe, Juana is praying for Kino and involves some magic ways. She wants the gods to help Kino find the pearl. Kino also hears *The Song of the Undersea*.

Kino stays in the water for more than two minutes. As he plans of coming out, he finds a big oyster which increases his heartbeat. He holds it very tight and never mixes it with the others.

IN THE CANOE: OPENING THE OYSTERS

As a supportive woman, Juana makes the boat stable so that Kino should get in with no trouble. - Is this not love? Sure it is. Kino puts the big oyster in the canoe and pulls the basket together with the rock too.

Seeing how excited Kino looks due to the finding of the big oyster, Juana pretends to look aside so as to hide her excitement. So lovely right? To these people, it is not good to want a thing too much because it makes one to lose good things. Kino spares the great oyster so as to open it after opening the other small oysters. He does just like that indeed.

After showing some hesitation to open the bigger oyster, Juana is impatient and requests him to break it loose. She does this in a lovely manner, and I am jealous of Kino for having this sugary wife.

She put her hand on Coyottito's covered head. "Open it," Juana said. (The Pearl, page 20)

KINO FINDS THE GREAT PEARL

Slowly, Kino opens the big oyster and boom! He finds a very great pearl that no one has ever seen before. It is perfect like a moon and large like an egg of a sea-gull, just imagine. - How do you think does this family feel at this time? They cannot believe it. Juana cries with happiness as Kino holds the great pearl in the same hand he smashed the doctor's gate with.

THE BABY BEGINS TO HEAL

Do you remember what Juana put on the baby's shoulder? Sea weed right? -Yes of course. She then goes to check on the sick child and begins to cry. - Is the baby dead? Maybe. Kino goes to see for himself and guess what? – The baby is now becoming fine due to Juana's treatment.

It is now a double happiness. Isn't it? Being now happy, Kino holds the pearl tight and screams so loudly. The noise invites other fellow pearl fishermen who come to see why Kino is screaming like that.

Let us wait to see what happens in the next chapter.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. KINO

- Responsible

After being denied of help by the doctor to have the baby treated due to not having money, he goes into the sea to find the pearl for selling and paying for the treatment.

- Strong

He manages to stay in the water for more than two minutes in search of the pearl.

- Caring

He goes to see why Juana is crying after she notices the change in the baby.

- Emotional

He becomes overexcited and screams after a double happiness, the finding of the pearl and the getting well of the baby.

- Hopeful

He hopes that he would find a great pearl after he hears The Song of the Pearl that Might Be. He again plans of opening the great oyster at the end since he hopes to find a great pearl in it.

★ Test Your Brain:

Find other five traits shown by Kino in chapter two.

2. JUANA

- Supportive

She supports Kino in propelling the canoe on the sea. She also helps Kino to get well into the canoe by steadyng it. Juana also prays for Kino as he is down the sea looking for the pearl.

- Careful

She keeps on checking the baby's condition regularly.

-
- Superstitious

She chants some magic as she wishes good luck for Kino. She also believes in not wanting a thing too much since such doing drives the luck away from a person for the decision is in the hands of the gods.

- ★ Mr. Ooky is tired. Help him with other character traits for Juana.

THEMES IN CHAPTER TWO

1. TOGETHERNESS/UNITY/COLLABORATION

Explain these themes based on what Kino and Juana do in this entire chapter.

2. SUPERSTITION

Juana believes in chanting magic to cast away the bad spell from her husband.

3. LOVE

Juana loves the sick baby by checking regularly about his health and putting a traditional medicine on the stung shoulder.

4. THE REWARD OF HARDWORK

Due to his hard working spirit, Kino finds the Pearl.

- ★ Dear reader, add your own themes, Mr. Ooky has to go to chapter three.

- ★ **Health Break:** Take a glass of water first.

CHAPTER THREE

STILL DAY ONE: IN KINO'S HOUSE

Everyone in Kino's society knows that he has '*The Pearl of the World*' as it is called. They all want to benefit from it. Among them are various influential public figures.

PEOPLE HOPING TO BENEFIT FROM KINO'S PEARL

The first person to hear the news is **The Priest**. After hearing it, he thinks of repairing the church. He would also like to baptise Kino's baby, on a fee. He also wants to officially marry Kino and Juana. All he wants is money. - Is what this man of God doing a good thing?

The second persons are **The Shopkeepers**. They hope that Kino will buy from their shops expensive clothes.

Then comes **The French Doctor**. - Do you remember him? He stops treating the old lady and imagines going back to France, in Paris, eating and drinking from expensive restaurants, all from the money that can come after Kino's pearl is sold. - Do you remember what he said in the morning?

The **Beggars** are happy too. They think that Kino will share with them money since poor people share things with others more than the rich do, once they get treasures.

At last, **The Pearl Buyers** start thinking of the cheapest price possible at which to buy the pearl. They are working under one boss who promotes the one who buys the pearls at cheaper prices but sells them at expensive ones.

Though Kino does not know of all this, the fact is that the pearl is dangerous to him and his family.

KINO REVEALS HIS PLANS

Kino hears again the Music of the Family. All the **villagers** are back in his small house including Juan Tomas and Apolonia. When Juan Tomas asks him of his plans, Juana becomes excited and faces aside. She is happily shy I tell you. Kino reveals the following plans to the gathered people:

1. He will officially get married with Juana.
2. His family members will have new clothes.
3. He will have a gun (riffle).
4. Coyottito will be sent to a good school and know how to read.

INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE VISIT KINO

THE PRIEST

As the gathered people plan to go to their homes, the priest comes. In respect, men uncover their heads while women cover their faces with shawls. The old father, the priest himself takes all these people as his children.

He persuades Kino by telling him that his name is taken from the great father of the church who did a lot of good things for the church. He then tells Kino to pay back to God for helping him find the pearl.

Juana assures him that they will do so by getting married officially. Satisfied with the answer, he goes back.

Once gone, Kino starts feeling unsafe. Juana prepares supper for the family. What else can it be if not the usual corncakes? Kino sees a thin dog, hears sounds of crickets, frogs and toads. What can all these symbolise? Bad omen indeed.

★ **Refresher break:** Chew on a snack please.

THE EVIL FRENCH DOCTOR

Once he comes, he is at first denied of entry into Kino's house. He lies to Kino that he was not home in the morning when Kino visited him. - Is this true? In trying to reject him, Kino tells the doctor that Coyottito is fine, but once he is shown his medical bag, Kino allows him in. He even tells him how dangerous the poison of the scorpion can be. - How can you characterise both Kino and the doctor?

Juana refuses giving the baby to the doctor, and only gives him once Kino allows her by nodding his head. That shows the power that men have over women in most communities. Not so?

The doctor tells Kino that Coyottito's eyes have turned blue and makes him see for himself. He is not sure if it is true or not. - This is a great trap. Is that not funny? Kino is trapped.

COYOTTITO IS POISONED

The doctor gives the baby a poisonous powder in a capsule. He then makes the baby drink a certain liquid. He then tells Kino and his wife that had he not come, the poison would have killed the baby in the next hour. He is so skilled at lying I tell you. He then promises to come back to check the baby's condition.

KINO HIDES THE PEARL

It is now evening. Kino wraps the pearl in a rag and puts it in a hole he digs on one corner of the house.

The doctor eats his sweet food as he awaits the time to revisit Kino. The food does not taste sweet to him since his mind is on returning to Kino and possibly inquiring about the pearl.

Contrary to the doctor's sweet food, while outside the house, Kino enjoys a poor dish of corncakes with beans taken with an alcoholic drink called pulque. I hope you can see the unfairness of life there. Then, a thin dog comes near Kino again but he chases it away.

COYOTTITO BECOMES VERY ILL

Due to the poison that the doctor gave to Coyottito, he now has difficulties in breathing, much saliva is coming out of the mouth, and the stomach has developed some contractions. Kino is about to smoke when Juana calls him in. As she cries, Kino suspects the powder that the doctor gave to his kid as a cause for the problem.

Juana sings the Music of the Family to remove danger from the kid as he vomits and twists in her hands. - So sad right? Kino hears the **Music of Evil** at this time that the baby vomits so badly. The Song of the Family has lost its power (See meanings of songs and Music on page 41 of this book).

As expected, the villagers are back in Kino's house. Some say all these problems are due to the pearl. Some say God should be allowed to control over the situation. Some **old village women** are comforting the crying Juana. This is a great supportive character right?

THE EVIL DOCTOR IS BACK

For the second time in one night, the doctor treats the baby, this time by giving him an ammonia solution. He boasts to people that he knows very much on how to treat a person of a poisonous scorpion sting. Kino watches every step of what the doctor does this time to avoid the second evil on the baby by him. Once the baby sleeps, he gives him to Juana and brags again that he has won the fight.

The doctor pretends to know nothing of the great pearl when Kino says that he will pay him after selling it. I salute this doctor a lot when it comes to lying. All the neighbors praise the pearl to confirm to the doctor how great it is. The doctor persuades Kino to give it to him for safe keeping but Kino denies his offer.

Cleverly, the doctor knows where Kino has hidden his pearl by looking at the direction in which his eyes are looking. He then knows that he has hidden it in one corner of the house. Before he leaves the house, he warns Kino to be careful so that people should not steal it from him. Then he goes back to his house.

KINO CHANGES THE PEARL'S POSITION

To protect his pearl from the doctor whom he suspects, Kino transfers it from the corner and hides it in a hole under his mat. Kino is a careful character right? Juana knows that her precious husband fears some danger. Kino tells his sweet wife that he indeed fears everyone.

★ **Refresher break:** Take another half glass of water.

SLEEPING TIME FOR KINO'S FAMILY

Kino's family sleeps together this time, with Coyottito beside them and not in the hanging box. I hope you know why? Kino has his first dream. **He dreams that Coyottito is reading from a book, big like a house with big letters like dogs. The letters are playing on the page. Suddenly, in the dream, darkness and the Music of Evil come. Kino tries to fight in the dream as Juana watches him. Abruptly, he wakes up to see what is in the house.**

FIRST ATTACK ON KINO

Someone strange is in the house towards the corner where he had first hidden the pearl. Whom do you think he is? Juana warns Kino by using her hand. Kino gets his knife which he uses to stab the person with. He misses the target for the first time and strikes through the cloth for the second time. Badly, Kino is heavily smashed and falls to the ground. He is in a pool of blood oozing from his forehead. So bad right?

★ **Reflection:** What could you do if you were Juana?

JUANA NURSES KINO

As an affectionate wife, she lights the fire quickly and cleans Kino's wound with her head shawl. Would you do this? Mind you Kino's forehead has blood all over. – Is Juana not a good example of a wife?

After seeing this trouble, Juana tells Kino that the pearl is **evil**. She says it is like a sin which will destroy them and suggests the following to Kino:

- They should throw it away.
- They should break it between stones.
- They should bury it and forget the place.
- They should throw it back into the sea.

Kino disagrees by saying that the pearl is their only chance and through it, their son will become educated and bring a difference to their household. He warns Juana not to say that the pearl is evil anymore. He says that once they sell it the following morning, all the troubles will evaporate. He still has a knife in his hand that is smeared with blood.

DAY TWO BEGINS

Though still dark, day two starts as Kino takes the pearl from the hole he had put in and watches it. It is beautiful and gives hope to him. At this point, they are filled with promise, delight, comfort and security. Kino reflects on what happened under the sea as he listens to the Music of the Undersea. He is finally happy and forgets his pain. Juana looks at her smiling husband and because they are one flesh, she cannot resist but smile together with him. - I can see you smiling too. This second day of the story starts with hope. I am jealous of the smile that Juana gives to Kino, aren't you?

Chapter three ends here. Look forward to chapter four as Mr. Ooky takes you there.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. KINO

- Ambitious/Visionary/Hopeful
He has many hopes that the pearl will do to his family. He tells people of the four things that he will do once he sells the pearl. For the things he says, go to page 14 of this book.
- Careful
He hides the pearl on the corner of his house as a way of not letting the people find it. He transfers the pearl from the corner to under his mat after suspecting that the doctor or other people might have known where the pearl is. He closely watches the doctor as he treats the baby for the second time to avoid him giving the baby the same poisonous white powder.
- Protective
He fights the man who comes to attack them so as to protect his family and the pearl. He denies the doctor an entry into the house in the first place saying that his son is fine. He protects his pearl by not giving it to the doctor who wants to keep it for him.

2. JUANA

- Dutiful
She prepares corncakes for the family's supper.

- Protective
At first, she never wants to give the baby to the doctor for treatment until Kino gives her a signal to do so.
- Superstitious
She sings the Song of the Family to remove the danger from the child.
- Foresighted
She knows that the pearl will bring danger to the family since it is evil, hence she suggests various ways to get rid of it.
- Caring
She nurses Kino's wound by wiping out the blood oozing from his forehead.
- Careful
She never leaves the baby in the hanging box but sleeps with him in her arms to avoid another danger on him, this time may be much worse than a scorpion.

3. THE FRENCH DOCTOR

- Clever
He pretends to know nothing of the pearl that Kino has. He deliberately gives Coyottito a poisonous capsule so as to cure him later on. He shows Kino a medical box so as to weaken his reason and be allowed to treat his baby and it indeed happens like that.
- Observant
He observes the eyes of Kino to see in which direction they are looking so as to know where the pearl has been hidden.

- Food for thought
- ★ Whom do you suspect comes to attack Kino in his house that night? Justify your answer.
 - ★ Analyse the following characters based on what they do in chapter three:
 - The Priest
 - The Beggars
 - Juan Tomas
 - The Shopkeepers
 - The Villagers
 - The Pearl Buyers
 - The Old Village Women

I know you have done them effectively. Congratulations for that.

THEMES IN CHAPTER THREE

1. AMBITION/VISION/HOPE

Kino hopes to live a good life once he sells his pearl. For example, he hopes of having new clothes, marrying Juana officially, having a gun and sending Coyottito to school. Though he is smashed heavily, Kino hopes to sell the pearl the next morning and hopes to see all the troubles vanishing. Juana also has a vision that the pearl may bring danger to the family after seeing how her husband is hurt. The Priest, doctor, beggars, shopkeepers and all the villagers

have hope that Kino's pearl will benefit them in a certain way. (Refer to page 15 for what these people want)

2. SUPERSTITION

Juana believes in singing the Song of the Family so as to remove danger from the ill Coyottito. To add on that, sounds of different organisms, various smells and appearance of weird animals like dogs all symbolize evil things for Kino's family.

3. LOVE

Juana nurses the injured Kino with her head shawl and suggests possible ways of getting rid of this evil pearl, according to her. Is that not love dear reader?

- ★ Continue this list with other five themes from chapter three. As you do that, Mr. Ooky will be waiting for you in chapter four.

CHAPTER FOUR

DAY TWO: THE PEARL SELLING DAY

On what day are we? Day two right? Let us move on then.

Everyone in La Paz, Kino's nearby city knows that he is to sell his pearl on this day. Apart from the fellow **pearl fishermen, the Chinese grocery owners, the church members, the altar boys, the nuns, the beggars, all the villagers and the pearl buyers** are all geared as well for the day. The buyers meet in advance to discuss the cheapest price at which to buy the pearl. The one who buys it much cheaper than the others gets promotion from their boss.

Just imagine how important this day is. No one is going into the sea to search for the pearls as they all want to escort Kino. In their houses, fellow villagers discuss what they would have done if the pearl was theirs. They say

1. They would have given it as a gift to Pope in Rome. ('Would give it as a present to the Holy Father in Rome,' The Pearl, page 43)
2. They would buy masses for their family members for one thousand years.
3. They would distribute the money they would have realized from its selling to the poor people in La Paz.

The villagers then suggest that the pearl will destroy Kino and his whole family. They should be jealous of him right? We are yet to see.

PREPARING FOR THE PEARL SELLING JOURNEY

To Kino and Juana, this day is very great compared only to the birthday of Coyottito. As such, Coyottito is dressed in clothes suitable for his baptism day. Juana wears her marriage clothes as Kino puts on clean white clothes though ragged. It is indeed a big day, not so?

They believe that their poverty ends on this day since they will get their pearl sold. All the neighbors are again readily dressed to join Kino on this life defining journey. To them, escorting Kino means friendship. Juana puts Coyottito in her shawl and is let to be seeing all what happens on this day. This she does so that Coyottito should be remembering what happens on this day once he grows up.

Kino wears his hat and sandals. He wraps the pearl in an old, soft piece of a deerskin and puts it in a leather bag. As if that is not enough, he puts the bag in the pocket of his shirt. Finally he covers the side where the pearl is with his shoulder blanket. What can you say of him?

The journey starts with Kino in front, Juana second and Juan Tomas third. Except Juan Tomas, Kino's brother, no one is allowed to walk near Kino. Everyone in the village go with Kino to sell the pearl as seen from the sentence:

The houses belched people, the doorway spewed out children. (The Pearl, pages 44 - 45)

ON THE WAY TO SELL THE PEARL

Juan Tomas warns Kino to be careful with the prices he can sell the pearl at. They remind each other that in the past, the pearls had to be given to one person to sell for a group of people and bring them money. However, some people were not returning with either the money or the pearls, hence making Kino and his people not to entrust any man at all with the pearl selling task but to go single-handedly.

Kino says God was not happy with this practice of sending one person, since he wants every person on earth to be doing their part and not heavily banking on others. This was preached by their priest he says. Kino is at this point religious.

No one is allowed to speak or make noise and not even to cough. Any child who does so is silenced by the elders. The day is very serious I tell you. Just imagine, **an old man** is carried on the shoulders of his nephew since he cannot walk. All he wants is to witness how Kino will sell the pearl, is that not funny? I die of laughter when I read this part. As they enter the town, the beggars, and shops' customers and owners join them.

★ **Wait first:** Have a two minutes break, please.

IN THE OFFICE OF THE PEARL BUYERS

Once they notice that Kino is approaching, they get prepared. Kino enters and meets a **stout buyer**. Kino tells him that he has a pearl. This does not please Juan Tomas who feels like Kino would have done better in emphasizing how great the pearl is.

The buyer says that he expects people who come to sell the pearls to bring with them a dozen of the same and not a single one. He orders Kino to show him the pearl.

Kino proudly takes out the pearl and puts it in a tray of the buyer. - How do you think will the buyer react? Ironically, there is no sign on his face that he is touched with the greatness of the pearl. However, he misses the coin he is tossing behind his desk. He again curls his fist with much astonishment. All these show that he is desperate for Kino's pearl though he does not openly show it.

He picks and closely looks at it. Kino and the villagers are eagerly waiting for what he will say next. After a moment, he inspects it as he tosses it back and forth. Children are all over the windows and some are watching the scene through in between the legs of their elders. No one wants to miss this scene and hear his speech hence everyone is noiseless.

FIRST DISSAPOINTING ANSWER

To the surprise of everyone, the buyer smiles in a rude manner. Then he tells Kino and all the people that the pearl is nothing but 'a fool's gold', which means it is rubbish and no one can buy it. - Dear reader, is this fair? Kino tries to justify the greatness of his pearl by saying:

"It is the 'Pearl of the World'. No one has ever seen such a pearl."(The Pearl, page 41)

Sadly, the buyer insists that it is worthless. He even tells Kino that if he wishes, he can buy it at **One Thousand Pesos** and give it to a museum of seashells. - Is that what we expected?

Kino becomes angry and tells the buyer that his pearl is worth Fifty Thousand Pesos and that he cannot be cheated. All the villagers agree with him through their noisy murmuring. The buyer becomes afraid and tells Kino that he will invite in other buyers to inspect the pearl.

Guess what now? The villagers start to believe that the pearl is indeed worthless. They wish that Kino would have just accepted the one thousand pesos since he has nothing at this time. - Are they good friends?

On the other side, Kino is stranded. He hears the Music of Evil. The other buyers enter and everyone is silent. Kino becomes weak due to this poor start and only becomes strong again after looking in Juana's eyes. - This is sweet love right?

The other buyers now come in. Cleverly, they do not face each other to avoid being suspected of having discussed already on the prices of the pearl.

SECOND DISSAPOINTING ANSWER

The first invited buyer looks at the pearl and tells the people that he cannot talk on the price of the pearl because it is very much bad. He excuses himself by saying:

“Do not include me in the discussion...”(The Pearl page 51)

THIRD DISSAPOINTING ANSWER

The second invited pearl dealer says that the pearl is of low quality and it will soon lose its looks. He uses a magnification glass to cheat Kino, who sees the magnified surface of the pearl that looks very strange this time. Another trap there for this ignorant Kino.

FOURTH DISSAPOINTING ANSWER

The third invited buyer takes the pearl and tells Kino that if he buys it, he will sell it to his client. This time worse than the first offer, he offers to buy it at **Five Hundred Pesos**, exactly half way down than the first offer, and says that he would sell it at Six Hundred Pesos. - It is too much a disappointment I tell you.

KINO REFUSES TO SELL THE PEARL

With anger and pity, Kino snatches the pearl from the man and puts it back into his shirt. The first man who welcomed Kino reminds him of his first offer of One Thousand Pesos which he says is better than that offered by others. Kino denies it and tells them that he is not a person to be cheated. He will sell it to the capital.

After a quick discussion, the first man offers **1500 Pesos** for the pearl. They are afraid of their boss who cannot entertain this failure. This is too late because Kino is already on his way to his home as all the others follow him. It has been a fruitless journey

- ★ **Reflection:** If you were among the villagers with Kino on this unsuccessful long trip, what could you do?

BACK HOME

The neighbors discuss the long fruitless trip of the morning. Some suggest that Kino could have just accepted all the prices he was offered since he is poor. Some support his denial to sell it and his decision to sell it to the capital. Some think that Kino has started troubles for himself by such a denial. We are yet to see who is true. - Are you proud of Kino's action yourself?

In his house, Kino thinks of his oncoming long journey to the capital, over one thousand miles away. He has some fear since he begins to realize that many people may turn against him. Despite all that, he is ready to do everything for his family.

KINO HIDES THE PEARL AGAIN

As Juana nurses and cleans Coyottito, she sees her husband burying the pearl under a stone of the fire hole. He is a careful man. Juana prepares the corncakes for supper.

JUAN TOMAS VISITS KINO

Later that night, Kino's brother praises Kino for standing strong to act against the corrupt structure of the buyers. He tells him that their race has been under oppression since birth. However, he warns him that since his pearl is of great value, he is yet to face a lot of problems.

Kino tells the brother that he will go to the capital the next morning. Juan Tomas warns him that he will have no friends, nor relatives there hence he needs to be careful. Kino cries and tells the brother that he has no option but to go for the sake of his family's happiness. Juan Tomas wishes Kino God's guidance and protection. Kino wishes the same to his brother when he goes back to his house by saying:

“Go with God.” (The Pearl, page 54)

KINO FEELS INSECURE

Once Juan Tomas goes back to his house, Kino hears a dark *Music of the Enemy*. Every sound is now strange in his ears. Every smell and sight are again bad. At this time, he feels so insecure. Juana knows that her sweetheart is not normal and as a loving wife, she never talks to him since that is the only way she can help.

Juana hears the Song of Evil but as a strong woman, she tries to send it away by singing The Song of the Family. This song is very important in this story for it signifies safety, warmth and wholeness of the family. She sounds very strong as she sings to Coyottito in an attempt to keep the evil away. – I personally love Juana, judge me not.

Kino never wants to eat his supper and Juana does not force him. Suddenly, something is moving outside the brush house. Without delay, he gets his knife and goes out. Juana thinks of stopping him but she does not.

★ Let us break a bit.

SECOND ATTACK ON KINO

Shortly after going out, Juana hears a sound of a blow on someone. Without fear, she carries a stone and goes to see what it is. Sadly, Kino lies flat on the ground, failing to speak, move or rise. The people who have hurt him cannot be seen.

JUANA TURNS INTO KINO'S NURSE AGAIN

Juana holds Kino tightly and brings him into the house. He is in much blood oozing from a deep cut extending from his ear to chin. - So terrifying right? He is half naked. Juana wipes the blood with her skirt. She then gives him pulque to drink, but sadly, he cannot drink.

With a sad face, she asks of who attacked him. Kino does not know the person. Love still rules as Juana washes the deep cut with water. While crying, she asks Kino if he can hear her and in a faint voice he says yes. Juana repeats to him the same things she had told him about the pearl on the first attack. – See page 18 of this book if you happen to forget.

KINO FORSAKES JUANA'S ADVICE

Kino hates it when Juana says that the pearl is evil. He assures her that he has to fight and protect it since it is their only way to prosperity. He embraces her shoulder and assures her that he is a man hence he fears nothing. His plan is to go to the capital using his canoe in the following morning.

Juana tells Kino that even a man can be killed and requests him to let it go. At this, Kino becomes angry and commands her to be quite.

“Hush,” he said fiercely. “I am a man. Hush,” and she was silent, for his voice was command.
(The Pearl, page 56)

Finally, he speaks softly to Juana so as to make her not worry anymore. He romantically caresses her cheek which makes her give in to Kino's demand – Close your eyes and imagine the feeling. She is no longer afraid now. Then they sleep waiting for the morning to go and sell the pearl.

Do you think that Juana will indeed sleep? Just wait as we find out in chapter five.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. KINO

- Confident
He walks confidently from his house on his way to sell the pearl to the buyers. He proudly walks into the office of the buyers and is confident to say that his is ‘*The Pearl of the World*’.
- Careful
He carefully hides his pearl in a deerskin which he puts in his pocket. He then covers his shoulder with his blanket. All this is to keep it safe. He later on hides his pearl under a stone of a fireplace in his hut.
- Strong
He denies selling the pearl to the crooked buyers at a lower price. He even snatches it from them. He goes outside the house at night with no fear so as to see what is moving around and definitely protect his family.
- Determined
Though he is badly cut, he never listens to Juana when she tells him to let go of the pearl. All he wants is to sell the pearl and have money.
- Emotional
He cries when speaking to his brother due to his heartbreak. He also becomes angry at Juana and orders her to be quite once she talks of the pearl as being evil.

- Loving

He suddenly changes and becomes romantic to Juana when he caresses her so as to calm her down.

2. JUANA

- Supportive

She stands by Kino all the time like by going with him to the pearl buyers. She also supports him to get into the house after he is brutally injured.

- Caring

She nurses Kino's wound with her skirt and water. - Can you do that yourself?

- Understanding

She never talks to Kino when she sees that he is upset and not in the mood of talking. She also never forces Kino to eat because she understands that he is not in the mood.

- Strong

She goes out of the house to see who attacks Kino though being at night and her being a woman.

- Cautious/Foresighted

She knows that the pearl will bring disasters to the family and tells Kino to let it go though he refuses everything.

3. JUAN TOMAS

- Supportive

He stands with Kino as he goes to sell the pearl. Then he comforts the brother when they come back from the unsuccessful pearl selling trip.

- Religious

He wishes Kino God's guidance on his journey to the capital by telling him to 'Go with God'.

- Cautious

He warns Kino to be careful of the prices at which to sell the pearl. He also warns Kino about the oncoming danger that is yet to affect him due to his pearl.

He also tells him to be careful when he goes to the capital since he will have no relations there.

4. THE PEARL BUYERS

- Crooked/Clever

They try to crook Kino by giving him well planned reasons to convince him that his pearl is of poor quality. They do this only to buy it at a cheaper price.

- United/Professional

They meet in advance as a group so as to agree on the lowest price at which to buy the pearl.

5. THE VILLAGERS

- Supportive

They all go with Kino to sell the pearl.

- Desperate

They lose hope with the action of Kino by not selling the pearl.

THEMES IN CHAPTER FOUR

1. IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Kino feels secure with the presence of his wife, Juana and his brother, Juan Tomas who support him in everything. In addition to that, Juana is made not to fear anything since her husband, Kino, promises to provide her security.

2. VIOLENCE

Kino is violently attacked at night and is heavily injured as he is cut from ear to chin.

3. HOPE

Kino hopes to have the pearl sold at all cost once he arrives at the pearl buyers' offices. Though he becomes unsuccessful at the selling of the pearl and is then attacked, he hopes to have it get sold at the capital.

4. ASSURANCE

Juan Tomas assures Kino that things will work out for him though it will not be a smooth ride. Kino also assures Juana that though he is attacked, he will sell the pearl in the morning to come at the capital.

5. COURAGE

Kino courageously goes out of the house at night and attacks the person who is against his family. Juana also picks up a stone and goes to help the treasured husband at night. She shows much courage by doing this, a thing that most women cannot do. Am I lying?

6. TRUE LOVE

Juana nurses the wound of Kino with her skirt. Kino caresses the cheek and shoulder of his dear Juana.

★ End of chapter reflection :

Does the love shown in this chapter between Juana and Kino exist in your community?
Justify by providing examples.

CHAPTER FIVE

DAY THREE

This is the shortest chapter of “The Pearl” and takes place from the dawn to the night of the third day.

JUANA DOES A DANGEROUS THING

Though they have agreed to sleep and sell the pearl at the capital on this approaching morning, Juana does the opposite. She wakes up in the dark dawn and gets the pearl from where Kino had put it. Kino sees Juana going out of the house. Before she goes out, she checks that the baby, Coyottito, is safely asleep.

With great fury, Kino starts to run after Juana who breaks into a speedy running as well. - Where do you think is she going with the pearl? Yes, to throw it back into the sea, a thing that Kino has been refusing to do. What will happen if he catches her?

KINO BEATS UP JUANA

As she raises her arm to throw the pearl into the sea, Kino jumps on her and snatches it from her. I hope you can visualize what happens. He strikes her in the face such that she falls down to the stones and gets injured. Kino is not yet done. He kicks her again. This is strange right? Kino beating up Juana for the first time, all because of the pearl.

With much anger, he hisses at her like a snake. Juana never fears nor hides her face from him. She faces her husband directly without fear and intimidation though she knows that he can kill a person at this time. - What could you do being Juana? She is like a sheep ready to be slaughtered. Kino goes back leaving the injured Juana alone on the spot. - Is he a good husband? Has he already forgotten all what Juana has done for him just a few hours ago? Mr. Ooky cannot judge.

THIRD ATTACK ON KINO AND HIS FIRST MURDER

As he goes back, strangers who are after the pearl attack him. They beat him up and he falls to the ground. This makes him displace the pearl. For the first time, Kino kills one of them. Yes, you heard me well, Kino has killed a person. What will follow? Let us wait and see.

JUANA FINDS THE PEARL

Juana washes her bruised face with the salty sea water before starting to go home. Her clothes are wet. Surprisingly, she has no dislike and grudge against Kino. She still has much love for him, just imagine.

On the way, she finds the pearl lost by Kino. She is in a dilemma whether to go back and throw it in the sea or give it to Kino. So tricky right? What could you do if you were Juana?

As she continues going home, she finds that two bodies are lying in the path. One is Kino and the other one is the person he has killed. The dead man has blood oozing from the throat. She knows that Kino has invited great trouble by killing this person. She pulls the dead body and hides it on a certain bush. Characterise her please.

JUANA NURSES KINO FOR THE THIRD TIME

Despite being heavily smashed and abandoned just some few minutes ago by this same Kino, she cleans his bruised face with her wet skirt again. Would you do this?

Kino cries that he has lost his pearl instead of crying for killing a person. So complicated is this man. Juana calms him down by giving him back the pearl.

“Hush,” she said. “Here is your pearl. I found it in the path...” (The Pearl, page 61)

She reminds him of having killed a person, a thing that Kino justifies by saying that he wanted to save his life. She thereafter suggests that they have to run away to a far place since the pearl dealers, those that they have killed one of their men, may seek revenge. Kino agrees to this brilliant proposal this time.

KINO'S DOUBLE MISFORTUNE

Kino sends Juana to go to the house and get the baby and some basic items so as to carry when they are running away. He goes to ready the canoe. Sadly, he finds his canoe with a big hole on it such that it cannot sail on water. Mind you he relies only on this asset for survival.

Kino rushes towards the house with only his pearl and the knife. It never rains but pours for Kino since he meets Juana who tells him that their house is on fire. Juana has managed to save Coyottito and Kino's shoulder blanket only. She says the house was torn up and Coyottito's sleeping box was turned out too. They both do not know who has done that.

Kino asks, “who?”

“I don't know,” she said, “the dark ones.”

Hiding by the fire shadows, Kino takes his family into Juan Tomas' house without the owners noticing them since they are busy putting out the fire. Outside the house, the neighbors are crying for they believe that the family of Kino has been burnt to ashes.

HOUSE ARREST FOR KINO'S FAMILY

On this morning of day three, Apolonia, the wife to Juan Tomas, goes to her house to change her dressing. - Guess what? Kino tells her to stop crying for they are not dead. Is this not a comedy? Do not laugh alone please. Apolonia finds this scene too much confusing to be true.

Juan Tomas is called into the house. He orders the wife not to allow anyone come in.

“Apolonia, see to the door, and do not let anyone enter.” (The Pearl, page 64)

Everyone respects what he says.

Kino explains to his brother the three life-threatening matters which have happened so speedily.

1. He has killed a person as he tried to defend himself.
2. His canoe has been broken.
3. His house has been burnt to ashes.

Juan Tomas says all this is due to the pearl. Is he lying? Just like Juana, he says there is a **devil** in the pearl and Kino should let it go if he wants peace.

Since they will leave tonight, Kino is allowed to spend the whole day in Juan Tomas' house. This decision is risky since once discovered, both families, Kino's and Juan Tomas' are in danger. - Do you see the importance of family there? Kino compares himself to a leprosy hence he never wants to bring harm to his brother. Juan Tomas orders Apolonia not to tell anyone that Kino is in the house.

Outside the house, they can see people searching for their bones and sharing news of their death and how their canoe has been broken. So funny but sad.

Juan Tomas shows love by making sure that people do not suspect that Kino is in his house. Thus he says:

- Kino may have escaped towards the south along the sea coast.
- Kino may have used another boat to sail on the sea.
- Kino may have drowned if he went on the sea by another boat.
- Apolonia is crying terribly due to the death of Kino, her brother in-law and Juana, her sister in-law, together with the baby, Coyottito.

PREPARATION FOR THE DEPARTURE TO THE CAPITAL

Juan Tomas and Apolonia prepare some beans, dried pepper, salt and rice for Kino's family to carry. Kino is given a long knife, eighteen inches long, heavy like an axe, for protection and he is very happy. Do you remember what weapon Kino wants to have? Remind yourself please.

It is night time when Kino tells Juan Tomas that they will go to the cities of the north. He is told to avoid using the shore route since he may be easily caught. Once he is asked if he still has the pearl, he agrees. He says that he would have given it to him as a farewell gift but he cannot since it is as a misfortune that has to remain with himself. He also says it is his life, just imagine.

As Coyottito starts to cry, Juana speaks some magic words to silence him. Juan Tomas assures Kino that their footprints will not be seen if they are to be followed since the night is windy.

KINO DEPARTS FOR THE CAPITAL

The night has now fallen. The moon has not yet shone. Coyottito is on Juana's back-wrapped in a shawl. Juana covers her nose with the same shawl to protect herself from evil air of the night. What character can you give to her? I heard you saying, 'she is superstitious.' Congratulation for that, it is true. As a farewell, Juan Tomas kisses Kino on both cheeks as he repeats the same wish of "Go with God."

When Kino is asked if at all he will give up the pearl, despite all these troubles he is facing, he says:

"This pearl has become my soul . . . If I give it up, I shall lose my soul." (The Pearl, page 66)

This shows that he is not ready to lose the pearl regardless of what complications may come his way. He finally wishes for Tomas God's protection when he says, "Go though also with God". (The Pearl, Page 66)

At last they leave the house and are on their way to the capital.

-
- ★ Food for thought
 What will happen on their way?
 Will they sell the pearl at the capital?
 How long will it take for them to reach there?

Wait for the answers to these and other more questions as Mr. Ooky takes you to chapter six.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. KINO

- Violent
He defies his deep cut and runs to the sea where he hits Juana so hard.
He kills a person on his way back from the sea.
- Ungrateful/Unthankful
He never appreciates the good things that Juana has just done on the same night that he beats her up hard.
- Protective
He kills a person in an attempt to protect himself and not lose the pearl.
- Careful
He walks behind shadows as he goes to hide in Juan Tomas' house after his house gets burnt.
- Determined
He never wants to give up the pearl though he has suffered a lot. This is seen when he is asked by his brother.

2. JUANA

- Humble
She never reacts when Kino beats her up at the sea.
- Courageous
She takes the pearl and wants to throw it back into the sea though she knows that Kino may do anything terrible once he finds out.
- Foresighted
She tells Kino to run away to avoid being killed by the men of the city since he has killed one of them.
- Forgiving
She forgives Kino after being beaten up such that she never returns to throw back the pearl into the sea when she comes across it.
- Superstitious
She believes that some dark figures have set their house on fire.
She speaks some magic words so as to make the baby stop crying.
- Caring
She nurses Kino's bruised face once he is attacked by the strangers at night. She uses her wet skirt.
Before leaving the house on her way to the sea, she checks that the baby is safe and fine.
- Strong
She manages to rescue the baby, Coyottito and save Kino's shoulder blanket from the burning house.

3. JUAN TOMAS

- Loving
He accepts to keep Kino's family in his house though it is dangerous.
- He gives a lot of items to Kino so that they should use on their long journey to the capital.
- Authoritative
He orders Apolonia to close the door to avoid people noticing that Kino is in their house.
- He tells Apolonia not to tell anyone that Kino is in the house.
- Pretending
He cooks up many stories just in pretending so as to make the people believe that Kino is indeed dead.
- Religious
He wishes God's guidance for Kino and his family on their long trip.

4. APOLONIA

- Submissive
She respects every order that Juan Tomas and Kino give her.
- Faithful
She remains faithful to Kino's family by not revealing to anyone that they are hiding in their house. If she did so, it would have been betrayal.

Do this for Mr. Ooky:

- Find other traits for:
 - Kino
 - Juana
 - Juan Tomas
 - Apolonia
- Analyse the character traits shown by the villagers.

THEMES IN CHAPTER FIVE

1. VIOLENCE

Kino violently beats up Juana that she is badly injured. Kino is attacked on his way back from the sea such that he kills one person. Kino's canoe is violently broken by unknown people. Kino's house is dug, torn up and finally set on fire.

2. FORGIVENESS

Juana forgives Kino who has just beaten her so badly such that when he is injured, she nurses him. She even returns the lost but found pearl to him.

3. IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Kino is helped by Juana when he is injured on his way back home from the sea. If Juana was not there, none would nurse his wounds. Juana, Kino's family member, recovers the lost pearl for Kino. If she was not there, it would be lost forever. Juana gets the baby safe from the burning house. If the baby had no family nearby, he would die. Kino and Juana relies on the family of Juan Tomas for hiding and receives from them items to carry on their long trip.

4. MURDER

Kino kills a person by stabbing him on the throat in an attempt to protect himself.

5. FADED DEATH

The villagers mourn the fake death of Kino, Coyottito and Juana.

Do this for Mr. Oooky:

- Some scholars blame Juana's action for all the misfortunes in chapter five. Argue for and against this claim using well explained points.

CHAPTER SIX

DAY THREE, FOUR AND FIVE

This is the longest chapter of this book.

KINO AND JUANA WALKS AT NIGHT

It is still night of day three. For the whole night, Kino and Juana silently walk at the same pace and no one notices their passage through the city, going to Loreto. Despite being such a night with a harsh windy weather, they still move on.

After getting far from the city, the wind dies down, and there is fear that their footprints can be recognised. Though coyotes - keep this name for use in the later part of this chapter- which are animals like dogs, owls and other dangerous animals are met with on the way, but still they continue.

DAY FOUR BEGINS

KINO'S FAMILY TAKES A REST

It is now day time of the fourth day.

Kino finds a place and hides his family. He sweeps their footprints away from the road to avoid being traced. Then, a wagon speedily passes by and removes the footprints which pleases Kino.

With love, Juana gives him some corncakes to eat before she sleeps. Kino then sees ants moving on the ground. He tries to block them with his foot but they climb over it. What can this symbolise? It symbolises that he cannot be stopped by anyone despite meeting any obstacles. We are yet to confirm if it will be so indeed.

After Juana wakes up from the sleep, an interesting conversation takes place. Kino tells her to be careful of the things that she already knows. Surprisingly, she listens with a smile and never stops him. I like this part. Kino tells her the following:

- Not to touch a certain tree which can lead her into being blind once she touches her eyes with that same hand thereafter.
- Not to break a certain tree which is believed to have red blood and brings evil luck.

When Juana asks him if they may be followed, Kino agrees. Juana then suggests that the pearl is of no value as the buyers had suggested in the morning. Kino disputes that as he holds and looks at it. He says that people would have not attacked him if it had no value, though he does not know who attacked him.

KINO SEES EVIL IN THE PEARL

Once he looks inside the pearl, those good visions are now substituted by the following evils:

1. He sees a bloody dead body of the man he killed yesterday when coming from the sea.
2. He sees Juana failing to walk after being heavily beaten up by him, at the sea.
3. He sees Coyotito very ill from the doctor's poisonous medicine

After seeing these strange things, he puts the pearl back into his shirt. The Music of the Pearl now turns into The Music of Evil.

It is now Kino's turn to sleep and Juana guards him. This family has love I tell you. Flies are all around Juana's swollen mouth. Do you know why she is swollen? Remind yourself please. As Coyottito wakes up, she plays with him and the baby smiles with this loving mother. She then gives him some water.

KINO HAS A HORRIBLE DREAM

As he is sleeping, **he dreams that someone is attacking him. He fights back in the sleep and suddenly wakes up from the terrible dream.**

After being asked of what is happening by Juana, he silences her. She gives him a corn cake to eat and he eats it slowly as he tries to listen to any strange sound.

THREE TRACKERS FOLLOW KINO

Hiding behind a thorny tree, he sees **three people** following them. One is on a horse back and has a gun, being led by two others, on foot. These are experts at tracking people's feet.

Kino plans to kill the horse man and get his gun, a thing he has been wanting so much. As the men approach, Coyottito makes noise and Juana breastfeeds him.

KINO IS ALMOST CAUGHT

At last, the three men are very near to Kino and he sees their feet. They inspect the place closely since they see broken tree-twigs and leaves, things that tell them that Kino is just around. Will they not find him? Wait and see. He is filled with fear and holds his breath before the trackers begin to go away after a long time. They may be back soon, Kino knows that.

Completely disturbed, he goes to Juana and narrates the story. He suggests to Juana of giving himself up to the trackers. Juana cries and says that he will be killed even if he gives up the pearl. Kino is now weak.

★ **Put your thought:**

What should Kino do at this time?

KINO MOVES TO A HIGHER PLACE

In an attempt to protect the family, Kino takes the family further in the mountains. Mind you that they have luggage with them. Kino clears the way as Juana follows him. With the hot sun and the rocky paths, the going is now becoming tough. The Music of Evil continues to ring in his mind.

As they rest, Juana feeds water to Coyottito. Kino notices that the trackers cannot be seen at this time.

JUANA SAYS NO TO KINO

After checking Juana's feet, he notices that they are cut and scratched. He then tells her to hide around this place and let him continue with the journey. According to him, once the trackers go past where Juana will be hiding in an attempt to follow Kino, she should go to Loreto or Santa Rosalia, cities in Mexico, where Kino would find her. - Do you think Juana will agree to this?

Without being shaken, Juana says no to Kino's idea. Though Kino says that she may put the baby in danger, she insists to go with him. Characterise her?

This courage from his lady gives Kino great strength. They then continue to go together. Kino does not walk in straight route but in zigzags so as to mislead the trackers. He is clever right?

AT A WATER POOL

They now have no water. Luckily, they arrive at a water pool. Juana washes Coyottito's face before feeding him water. Kino drinks too. As Kino looks from a distance, the trackers are again following them. He then hides his family in a cave. Kino supports Juana as they go towards the cave.

LIFE IN THE CAVE

While in the cave, Kino says that they will go to the lower areas once the trackers have gone past them. He warns Juana not to allow the baby cry. She assures him that he will not cry since the baby himself knows everything that they are passing through. – Just imagine.

TRACKERS ARRIVE AT THE POOL

Kino is no longer safe. The trackers have arrived at the same pool that he had been with his family. They eat and smoke. Coyottito makes noise but Juana uses her shawl to stop him. Down there, two are sleeping and one is awake with a gun guarding.

Take a break and think over this.

- ❖ You know that Kino wants a rifle. What should he do now to get it that it is near him?

KINO MAKES A DANGEROUS PLAN

Kino tells the dear Juana of his great plan.

He plans to go and kill the leader of the three trackers using his long knife, get his gun and use it to kill the other two.

Juana warns him that he may be seen since he has worn white clothes, but he disputes. He says that he will go before the moon rises. If it happens that he gets killed, Kino tells Juana to run to Loreto the following morning. She holds his hand tightly as in not wanting him to go but Kino insists to go. At last, she allows him and wishes him God's guidance. Kino touches the baby's head, possibly for the last time while the baby is still alive. Why? Let us wait and see. Then, he caresses Juana's cheek and goes into the darkness. What a farewell! So romantic right?

KINO GOES DOWN TO ATTACK

Following Juana's warning, he takes off his white clothes and puts on ragged ones. He carefully puts his knife around his neck. Coyottito is sleeping. As usual, Juana prays and chants a mixture of magic and religious prayers, all in wishing good for her lovely Kino.

Slowly, he moves towards the men and never lets the knife hit any rock. He never makes any noise. The Music of the Enemy is heard though what is heard much louder is the Song of the Family. This song gives him strength.

It takes him many minutes to reach the bottom of the mountain. He opens his mouth very wide so as to avoid his breath from making any panting sound. He lets sometime to pass so as to go back to his normal breathing pattern.

He is now near the man with a gun. The moon is about to rise and he may be seen. The baby can also cry after waking up from the sleep. What kinds of conflicts are these? – Refer to a book entitled “Analyse a Short Story with Mr. Ooky” for more on these and other types of conflicts.

THINGS GET HORRIBLE

As he starts to go and attack, the moon rises. He now sees the man clearly. He wants to jump and kill the gunman before he is noticed, as the two others are sleeping.

Unfortunately, Coyottito cries. The gunman wakes up his friend and asks him of what the cry could be. The sleepy friend suggests it to be of a coyote, a dog like animal. Things are not good now. Coyottito cries again which makes the gunman suspect it of being a human cry. He wants to shoot so as to silence the crying coyote. Is this safe? We are yet to see.

★ Break time.

Chew on some nuts please. Having a five minutes break is again a good idea.

KINO TURNS INTO A DEADLY WEAPON

As the man shoots, Kino attacks him but it is too late. Though he jumps high and holds the gun, the bullet is already gone straight to the cave where his family is. What will follow? I do not know too.

Using his knife, Kino kills the gunman and grabs the gun from him. He then uses the gun to kill the other tracker after crushing the head of the other one.

THE SADDEST EVENT

Yes he has killed the three men, but sadly, Kino finds Juana crying in the cave. Coyottito has been shot dead by the bullet from the gunman. It is too much since the top of his head has been shot away. The innocent Coyottito, never knowing what is happening, loses his life. So unfair I tell you. I am about to cry right now, aren't you?

THE FRUITLESS RETURN

Back in La Paz, Kino's city, everyone is waiting for their return. The return happens on the last day of this story, day number five.

They arrive in the late afternoon as the sun is setting. Among all the things he had told the villagers that his pearl will help him have, what do you remember? He has a gun finally. He still has the pearl but has lost the baby. As they arrive, no one speaks to them.

They are weak and walk like dolls. No one believes what they see. They see Juana carrying a dead baby body, full of thick blood. So sorry is this image right? The family hears the Song of the Family which is now not sweet as before.

HOW THE PEARL IS LOST

They go straight to the sea. Why do you think? To throw back the pearl indeed. Is it not too late? Kino drops the gun and takes out the pearl. He looks into it for the usual visions. Sadly, this time he sees:

- The dead man he had killed in the pool
- The dead Coyottito without the top part of his head

These things show that the pearl is no longer beautiful and pleasant as Kino used to claim it is.

Finally, he gives the pearl to the strong Juana for her to throw it back into the sea. She cannot accept this nonsense. She says that Kino should be the one doing the deed.

Powerfully, he throws it back into the sea. Once he does this, the Music of the Pearl is no longer heard and peace is retained to the family.

Hey dear reader, but what is peace after all, when someone innocent has lost his life? I find this ridiculous.

You can cry at this story but do not do it that louder.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. KINO

- Brave/Determined/Strong

He walks at night through the city all the way to the mountains without fearing anything and anyone. That is to say, despite the city people, coyotes, owls and other dangerous animals that make them less secure, he strongly guides his family. Again, he goes on with the journey despite the unfriendly weather of the night.

- Caring

He makes sure that his family is safe by finding them a place to rest and a cave to hide in. He warns Juana about trees that can endanger her life. (see page 33 for more) He feels sorry for Juana when she gets tired and cracked such that he tells her to rest and let him carry on with the journey. This but she denies. He supports Juana to climb up the stony mountains.

- Careful/Cautious

He clears their footprints to avoid being tracked easily by other people. He also makes sure that the little Coyottito is kept noiseless to avoid the trackers noticing where they hide themselves.

He moves from the cave to the bottom of the mountain so as to attack the men in a very silent and careful manner. He also takes off his white clothes to avoid being noticed. Finally he carefully carries the knife and makes sure that it never hits against any rock.

- Violent

He violently kills the three men using his knife and a gun.

- Ambitious

He still sees himself fulfilling his aim of owning a gun and achieves it in the end.

2. JUANA

- Strong/Brave/Determined

Despite being a woman, she walks together with Kino during the night without fearing anything. She does also not accept the mercy shown to her by Kino to rest and let himself go on with the trip. Instead she insists to go together with Kino. She also carries the dead body by herself for a longer distance. Other ladies would not do this.

- Obedient/Submissive

Though she knows all about what Kino tells her about the evil trees, she submissively obeys. Not only that, but also she obeys Kino's order that she should make sure that the baby never cries.

- Cautious/Careful

She warns Kino of not putting on white clothes for he may be noticed.

- Religious

She wishes Kino God's guidance as he begins to go and attack the three men.

- Superstitious

She chants some magic to wish Kino good luck and gods' help as he goes to kill the three men.

- Desperate

Juana seems to have lost hope when she tells Kino that the pearl is worthless after she sees how they are suffering.

3. THE TRACKERS

- Ambitious/Hardworking

They have a goal of finding Kino and getting the pearl from him. Through their hard work, they follow him all the way up to coming face to face with him.

- Skillful

They are skilled at tracking people's footprints such that after realizing that they have missed the way of Kino, they recover it so quickly and finally finds him.

- Careless

Two of them sleep leaving only one awake though they are in a dangerous place.

- Ignorant

They do not agree on one thing about what the cry they hear from the cave would be of.

THEMES IN CHAPTER SIX

1. IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Each member of Kino's family finds refuge and support from another. For example, when Juana sleeps, Kino guards her and she does alike when he sleeps too. Kino even finds shelter twice for his family.

2. VIOLENCE

Kino violently kills the men using a gun and a long knife. One of the trackers violently shoots and kills the innocent Coyottito and destroys the top part of his head.

3. OBEDIENCE

Juana obeys what Kino tells her though she knows the facts already. She also obeys Kino's command not to let the baby cry.

4. AMBITION

Kino is driven by his strong ambition to sell the pearl and sees nothing to stop him. Kino still goes by his ambition of owning a gun and at the end kills a person to get it. The trackers have an ambition of finding Kino and snatching the pearl from him. They indeed find him though they do not get the pearl.

5. DESPARATION

Kino loses hope once he sees the trackers keeping on following them. Kino trembles with fear when the trackers are near where he is hiding and he can see their legs. When Coyottito finally cries, out of loss hope, Kino jumps on the man and kills them. Later, he loses hope of finding both people alive in the cave. Once Kino loses his son, he loses hope in the pearl and throws it back into the sea.

6. BRUTAL DEATH

The baby is brutally shot by the tracker. Kino brutally kills the three trackers using a knife and a gun.

➤ Try this one

Whom do you blame for the death of Coyottito? Justify.

MAJOR SONGS AND MUSIC IN THE PEARL

In Kino's society, people believe much in what various songs and music communicate. Such songs and music have great deep meanings attached to their historical and cultural roots. Let us look at five songs and music from the story and what they mean.

1. *Song of the Family*

This is the major song that is heard right from chapter one through to chapter six. It means both good and bad things. Firstly, it signifies how important the family is to Kino and all his family members. He gets strength, safety, warmth and oneness once he hears this song.

On the other side, the song warns Kino of the oncoming danger. For example, when the scorpion is about to bite, The Song of the Family is heard. This means that this song depends on the situation at hand.

2. *The Song of Evil*

As its name sounds, this song signals any bad thing for Kino's family. Every time it is heard Kino seems to be hopeless, he is filled with anger, or there is a visible sickness or suffering. This dangerous song is mostly associated with darkness in the story.

3. *The Music of the Enemy*

John Steinbeck firstly presents this song together with the Song of Evil but they are different. The Music of Enemy tells us that Kino is in an enmity with various people. After the scorpion is seen, this music is heard. Thus, his first enemy is the scorpion. Later on, this music appears to present several enemies like the French Doctor, the Pearl Buyers and some village people.

This music also tells us how Kino is made disconnected from various people like his child, Coyottito. No one is his friend including his own wife and the village people.

4. *The Song of the Pearl that Might Be*

A song full of promises and hope giving. On the good side it gives Kino big hope that he may find a great pearl in one of the oysters he collects from down the sea. That pearl will make him rich and bring happiness to his family.

On the negative part, the song warns Kino of the danger in finding the pearl since gods cannot be happy with his success. This is seen when we see him suffering because of his pearl and some people mocking him for it.

5. *The Song of the Undersea*

Though not spoken of a lot, the song comes simultaneously with The Song of the Pearl that Might Be. It shows us that Kino feels so safe and comfortable after the hope of finding a great pearl comes into him. In short, it promises him good things.

SYMBOLISM IN THE PEARL

Literature without symbolism is no literature, so believes Mr. Ooky. In “The Pearl”, John Steinbeck presents several things and persons to mean something else. One item can mean several things. Let us look at some and not all of them.

1. *The Pearl*

It symbolises wealth that leads to disaster. It also symbolizes evil that can come due to one's wealth in the world. Again, the pearl symbolizes hope that a person can have after finding a precious thing in life.

2. *The Scorpion*

It symbolises the troubles that Kino is yet to face in the story. Outside the book, it means the suffering that innocent people face in their daily lives as seen from the attack on the innocent Coyottito.

3. *The Canoe*

It symbolises how strong tradition is. Kino got the canoe from his late father who also got it from his late father. It tells us that family is important than anything else in someone's life.

4. *Coyottito, the baby*

As a human, this baby symbolizes how innocent people suffer due to other people's mistakes and foolishness. Coyottito never deserved to die but does due to his father's greed.

5. *The Priest*

He is a true representative of the world's terrible hypocrites. He pretends being a good man of God while in real sense he is a devilish person who dreams about how to get money from other people.

6. *The French Doctor*

He symbolises racism. His race, French, hates Kino's race, Indian, though both are in a foreign country, Mexico. He also symbolises crooked doctors we have who are there for money and not helping sick people. Do you know one? Who?

7. *Hungry Pigs and Dogs*

They symbolise poverty in Kino's community. Their search for food in the name of dead fish and other types tells us that their masters are poor thus cannot provide food for them properly.

8. *Juana, the Wife to Kino*

Mr. Ooky's favourite in the whole book, she symbolises all strong, persevering, supportive and loving women. Despite all ill treatments from Kino, she never gets angry nor fights back. Again, she stands strong both as a mother and a wife who looks after a sick child and repeatedly nurses an injured husband respectively.

9. *The Pearl Buyers*

They symbolise a corrupt system that had been oppressing Kino and his people from time immemorial. Nowadays, they symbolise crooked businessmen who enjoy buying commodities and produces of poor people at cheaper prices.

10. *The Black Dog*

This together with other bad things that Kino sees and hears in the story symbolise cautions for various bad things for him.

- **Do you have other symbols from ‘The Pearl?’ Explain them please.**

CHARACTERS' TRAITS IN THE PEARL

Mr. Ooky has just listed the traits for various characters from the book, "The Pearl". Try to expand them on your own. Follow the instruction given on chapter one's character analysis section. You can also refer to the book: 'Analyse a Short Story with Mr. Ooky', on the Character Section.

1. KINO, JUANA'S HUSBAND

- Violent/Short-tempered
- Caring
- Careful
- Strong
- Heartless
- Ambitious/Hopeful
- Greedy
- Selfish
- Supportive

2. JUANA, KINO'S WIFE

- Loving/Caring
- Strong
- Forgiving
- Superstitious
- Religious
- Submissive/Obedient
- Dutiful/Responsible
- Supportive

3. COYOTTITO

- Innocent

4. JUAN TOMAS, KINO'S ELDER BROTHER

- Supportive
- Religious
- Loving
- Pretending
- Authoritative

5. APOLONIA

- Submissive
- Supportive
- Secretive
- Pretending

6. THE FRENCH DOCTOR

- Evil
- Money hungry/Greedy
- Clever
- Skilled in speaking
- Jealous
- Heartless
- Inconsiderate
- Ambitious

7. THE DOCTOR'S SERVANT

- Submissive
- Pompous

8. THE PRIEST

- Greedy/Money hungry
- Opportunistic
- Hypocritical
- Skilled in speaking
- Ambitious/Hopeful

9. THE TRACKERS

- Hardworking
- Ambitious
- Skillful
- Careless
- Jealous

10. THE PEARL BUYERS

- Crooked
- Skilled
- Ambitions
- Shortsighted
- Jealous
- United

11. THE VILLAGERS

- Supportive
- Jealous
- Ambitious
- United
- Hopeful

12. THE PEARL FISHERMEN

- Unsupportive
- Hopeful
- Over expectant

13. THE SHOPKEEPERS

- Hopeful
- Ambitious

14. THE BEGGARS

- Knowledgeable/Wise
- Hopeful/Ambitious

This far, I have tried to mention some of the important traits of different characters from the book. Explain them. We are good to move on to the next section.

MAJOR THEMES IN THE PEARL

In this section, I present to you ten fundamental themes portrayed in “The Pearl”. Try to develop each point under one theme into well-formed paragraphs. Find them of great use.

1. IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

A family provides security for Kino and his members. He himself finds help from his wife, Juana in various ways and vice versa. Juana sleeps in the mountains under the guard of Kino and he does the same too.

When the baby is stung by the scorpion, Juana firstly sucks out the poison and later on puts some sea weed on the affected shoulder.

Again, Kino's family finds refuge in the house of Juan Tomas, his brother.

Lastly, Kino has a canoe given to him by his late father. I am tired, add your own examples please.

2. VIOLENCE

From chapter one, Kino violently kills the scorpion with bare hands and feet. Thereafter, he smashes the doctor's gate and gets injured.

Later on, we see him being violently attacked twice on different nights. Kino also violently beats up his dear Juana at the sea.

Then he violently kills a person on his way back from the sea in an attempt to save himself and the pearl.

We also find his canoe being violently broken by unknown people, just before his house is violently set on fire.

Sadly, his innocent son is violently killed in the process of violently killing the three trackers who have been following them. Are those examples not enough?

3. MISFORTUNATE FORTUNE

By finding the pearl, Kino thinks it will bring him luck and end all his sufferings. Contrary to that: his house is burnt, his canoe is broken, he beats up his wife, he is attacked and gets injured, he kills a person, he kills the three trackers, and he loses his only son through death.

4. AMBITIOUS DREAMS

Kino has several dreams after finding the pearl. He thinks of buying a gun, having new clothes, getting married officially, and getting Coyottito educated.

Do you still remember where and when Kino openly says all these? If not then be ashamed of yourself.

5. THE POWER OF GREED

Many people in the story are controlled by a selfish and excessive desire for wealth. Kino wants to become rich and this makes him stubborn.

The doctor, priest, shopkeepers, beggars, pearl buyers, trackers and villagers all have a greedy feeling to become rich through Kino's pearl. Do you remember that? I hope so.

6. SUPERSTITION

On several instances, Juana and Kino believe in songs that tell them of various situations at hand.

Juana also believes in magic whenever she wants to get things done.

She again believes that the gods are the controllers of Kino's finding of the pearl.

7. UNITY

The villagers, Juan Tomas and Apolonia are all united with Kino in both frustrating and successful times. For example, they gather to comfort the family after the scorpion bite. They then escort them to the doctor.

As if that is not enough, they go with them to the pearl buyers.

Though funny, at one point, they work together in search for the bones of the alleged dead Kino and his family members. They also mourn them. I hope you remember this part.

8. THE POWER OF MEN OVER WOMEN

Kino's speech is what Juana follows though not at all times. He makes the family go on a long footing journey to the capital and Juana just follows.

In Juan Tomas' house, Apolonia, his wife, respects every word said by him. All these show that men are superior to women. Is this fair though?

9. EVILS OF POVERTY

All the suffering that Kino and his family are met with is due to poverty. On the other side, the doctor enjoys himself in a fenced house with all sweet food and drinks.

10. THE SUFFERING OF THE INNOCENT

Juana and Coyottito suffer because of Kino's mistakes. When she intends to throw back the pearl out of good and innocent will, Kino beats her up hard.

In addition to that, she is made to walk a long journey at night through a harsh weather as they try to save their lives though they are innocent. The innocent Juana gets cracked in her feet all in the name of supporting Kino.

On a very sad note, Coyottito is the sweetest innocent soul in the whole story. He dies due to the wickedness of his father.

-
- ★ Explain the following themes on your own
1. Racism
 2. Hypocrisy
 3. Brutal deaths/ Murder
 4. Jealousy
 5. Hope
 6. Love
 7. Determination
 8. Brotherliness
 9. Religion
 10. Desperation

Here we end this analysis. Mr. Ooky thanks you a lot for finding it of great importance.

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A passionate Poet, Playwright,
Story Writer, Play Director and a literature darling,
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The love he had for his students at
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