

PEARL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

SECTION



A

(1)What happen when Kino tries to attack while his wife was hiding in the cave? Provide an example of animal imagery used in this chapter.

Answer: Right before Kino lunges toward the trackers, they hear Coyotito and shoot him. Then Kino rages and kills all of the trackers. Scrabbles away like a crab, Kino moved like a slow lizard.... and the baby sounded like a coyote”.

(2)What tragedy strikes the family? Why is Coyotito’s name significant?

Answer: Coyotito is killed by the trackers gun and it devastates his parents. “Coyotito” means like coyote in Spanish, and ironically the trackers think his cries are a small coyote’s and that’s why he is shot.

(3)How has Kino’s visions about the pearl changed? What does he see now?

Answer: Because of his fear and the feeling the pearl is bringing them bad, he now sees negative things such as a dead body, Juana with a beaten face and Coyotito who is sick.it is like almost like evil music is taking over the pearl.

(4)How did the pearl buyers get satisfaction out of their job?

Answer: by buying the pearl at a price as low as they want.

(5)How did the family prepare themselves for their trip into town to sell the Pearl?

Answer: by dressing up in nice clothes and bought a leather bag to keep the pearl in.

(6)How does Kino's conversation with Juan Tomas about the value of pearls further demonstrate their naivety (innocence) of their people?

Answer: by saying that they don't know the prices of pearl in other places and that they don't know if the price they have been offered is fair.

(7) Explain what happens in the first chapter?

Answer: Kino and Juana wake up, and prepare for the day. The scorpion strikes Coyotito. They call for the doctor, but the doctor refuses to come. They go to the doctor, but he refuses to treat Coyotito because they have no money to pay for it.

(8)Notice that the townspeople follow Kino. What does that tell you?

Answer: It tells us two things: the people were curious and the people liked Kino and his family.

(9)Why did the doctor refuse to treat Coyotito?

Answer: To the doctor, Coyotito was an Indian "animal." Also, Kino could not pay the doctor well for his services.

(10)About the Doctor refusing to treat Coyotito, What does that tell you about the doctor's personality?

Answer: The doctor is not a caring individual. He is materialistic and cold-hearted. He is a doctor for the title, social position and money, not at heart.

(11)What are the conflicts in Chapter 1?

Answer:The conflicts are man vs. man, man vs. society, and man vs. nature.

(12)What is the Song of the Family?

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Answer: The Song of the Family is a song of happiness, of being "whole." It is a song of peaceful existence, of being together in harmony with the family.

(14)What is the Song of Evil? When does it first appear?

Answer: The Song of Evil is a song of disruption, of evil, of the breaking of happiness. It first appears with the scorpion.

(15)Why did Steinbeck include the first section about the life in the Gulf water

Answer: This section shows the natural world of which Kino is part of it. It shows the old way of survival of the fittest.

(16)The canoe is mentioned quite often, what does it symbolise?

Answer: Yes. It symbolizes the old way of life, tradition. It was Kino's grandfather's canoe. It shows the continuation of the tradition how it was passed on from one generation to another.

(17)To what new Song are we introduced to after the Pearl's discovery?

Answer: We are introduced to the Song of the Pearl that might be.

(18)To what does Steinbeck compare the town where Kino wants to sell the pearl?

Answer: He compares it to a living being.

(19)The news of Kino's pearl spread quickly across town. What did each person think of when he heard it?

Answer: Each person thinks of how he personally could benefit from the riches of the pearl.

(20)What would Kino do with his riches?

Answer: Kino would marry Juana, buy new clothes, a harpoon and a rifle, and send Coyotito to school.

(21) Why does the doctor come? What does he do?

Answer: The doctor comes because he, too, has heard that Kino has a great pearl. He wants to get some money from Kino, and we are led to believe that he has ideas of stealing the pearl for himself.

(22) What bad thing happened to make Juana want to throw away the pearl?

Answer: Someone comes to steal the pearl. Kino knifed him, but he got knocked over the head with something.

(23) In the description of the pearl buyers, what do we find out about the market in Kino's village?

Answer: The market is fixed. The buyers get together and set prices to cheat the village men.

(24) What happened when Kino went to sell his pearl?

Answer: The pearl buyer told him it was a curiosity, not a valuable pearl. He offered Kino 1,000 pesos. When Kino disagreed, three other buyers were brought in; each one said it was of little value. It is made obvious to the reader that the buyers had arranged their prices earlier. Kino says he will go to the capital instead of dealing with these buyers.

(25) Juan Tomas says to Kino, "You have defied not the pearl buyers, but the whole structure, the whole way of life. I am afraid for you." What does he mean?

Answer: one of the village men had ever gone against the buyers. No one had "taken on city hall," so-to-speak. It was not Kino's place to try to do better. He was just a lowly village man; that was his station in life. Now, he was trying to improve his station and would have to have a major conflict in order to do so. Juan Tomas thinks this goes against the laws of nature and that bad things happen when you go against the laws of nature. As I heard it put once, "Little fish don't eat big fish."

(26) Again at the end of the chapter, Juana wants to throw away the pearl because it is evil. What evil thing happened?

Answer: Kino is attacked again. This time he is hurt worse than the first time.

(27) What did Kino do when he figured out that his wife sneaked out with the pearl?

Answer: He went after her, took the pearl away, and (in the process) beat and kicked Juana.

(28) What happened to Kino up the beach through the brushline on the path?

Answer: He was attacked again. This time he was badly injured, and he killed a man. He thought he lost the pearl, but Juana found it again in the path.

(29) Why did Kinos family leave the village?

Answer: They left the village because Kino had killed a man. They did not think that, given Kino's recent upsetting of authority, anyone would believe the man was killed in self-defense.

(30) What "songs" does Kino hear on the first part of their journey?

Answer: He hears the music of the pearl and the quiet melody of the family.

(31) What made the music of the pearl become "sinister in his ears, . . . interwoven with the music of evil?"

Answer: Kino looked at Coyotito's face. We assume that means he thought of the evil of the scorpion and his distrust of the doctor.

(32) What does the return of Kino and Juana and their throwing away the pearl mean symbolically?

Answer: It means that Kino has given up his dream, his hope for a better future for himself and his family. He has lost in his conflicts with man and nature. It appears as though Juan Tomas was right

SECTION B

Explain how the following themes have been portrayed in the book ‘the Pearl’?

a. Knowledge is power

b. Greed

Answers (A)

Firstly, Kino understands that real power lies in knowledge, his son will read and open 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 in possessing the pearl that it will destroy them and Juan Tomas realized quickly the danger of possessing the pearl who insist 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 Kinos 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.

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 essays 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 have 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 neighbours 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 becomes 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 been 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 neighbours, the priest, the doctor, the pearl buyers and the beggars.

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. Superstition aside, Juana is right about one thing. 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 havebeen avoided by throwing the pearl back into the sea when she had the chance.

Thirdly Kino is aware that everybody in the town /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 knows that the world pearl is worth alot 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 atleast 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 proceed to take with him 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 brothers house.

Kino also makes a mistake by not taking advise from Juana nd 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 havebeen avoided by taking the advise.

Another mistake is made by the doctor who refuses to hep Kino when his Son Koyotito 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 ask for the pearl to keep it safe but is not given . This couldhavebeen 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 the Pearl because thats where the son was shot dead. This couldhave been avoided by staying at Juan Thomas house.

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 want 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 want 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.

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

Kinno 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 kinos 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 eyesproving even more how strong he is.

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 coyotitos 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 dissapoints Kino.

Just like juana, looking at the situation that has reached of burning kinos 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 he sells but the great pearl ends back into the sea.

After Kino's discovery of the pearl the native Indians believe 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 think 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.

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

a-Betrayal

b-Violence

Answer for (b)

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 Juanna 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.

Explain in eight ways symbols 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 Like wealth, 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 a 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.

With examples from the book “the pearl” discuss how the following themes have been used:

A)corruption

B)jealousy

Discuss the following themes:

1-Ambition

2-tradition

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SECTION 3

QUOTATIONS EXPLAINED

"And, as with all retold tales that are in people's hearts, there are only good and bad things and black and white things and good and evil things and no in-between. If this story is a parable, perhaps everyone takes his own meaning from it and reads his own life into it."

Found within the prologue, this quote reveals how *The Pearl's* plot is not entirely original to Steinbeck. In fact, it is a known story that is often told, perhaps like a folk legend. And as with most parables, there is a moral to this story.

"When Kino had finished, Juana came back to the fire and ate her breakfast. They had spoken once, but there is not need for speech if it is only a habit anyway. Kino sighed with satisfaction—and that was conversation."

From Chapter 1, these words paint Kino, the main character, and Juana's lifestyle as unembellished and quiet. This scene depicts Kino as simple and wholesome before he discovers the pearl.

"But the pearls were accidents, and the finding of one was luck, a little pat on the back by God or the gods both."

Kino is diving for pearls in Chapter 2. The act of finding pearls represents the notion that events in life are not actually up to man, but rather chance or a higher power.

"Luck, you see, brings bitter friends."

These ominous words in Chapter 3 spoken by Kino's neighbors foreshadow how the discovery of the pearl can harbor a troublesome future.

"For his dream of the future was real and never to be destroyed, and he had said, 'I will go,' and that made a real thing too. To determine to go and to say it was to be halfway there."

Unlike the deference to the gods and chance in an earlier quote, this quote from Chapter 4 shows how Kino is now taking, or at least trying to take, full control of his future. This raises the question: is it chance or self-agency that determines one's life?

"This pearl has become my soul... If I give it up, I shall lose my soul."

Kino utters these words in Chapter 5, revealing how he is consumed by the pearl and the materiality and greed it represents.

"And the music of the pearl drifted to a whisper and disappeared."

Kino finally escapes the siren call of the pearl, but what does it take for him to change?

The ants were busy on the ground, big black ones with shiny bodies and the little dusty quick ants. Kino watched with the detachment of God while a dusty ant frantically tried to escape the sand trap an ant lion had dug for him.

The quotation from Chapter 1 occurs during the idyllic opening description of Kino and Juana's life. Kino's

detached attitude toward nature suggests that he is a part of nature but also above it, like God. The description of the ant caught in the sand trap is a subtle instance of foreshadowing, as it mirrors Kino's eventual experience as a helpless prisoner of his own ambition.

He watched the ants moving, a little column of them near to his foot, and he put his foot in their path. Then the column climbed over his instep and continued on its way, and Kino left his foot there and watched them move over it.

The quotation from Chapter 6 describes Kino after the pearl has corrupted him. He is no longer detached from nature, and therefore he is no longer like God. Yet, as he becomes more animal-like, he aspires to be more like God by trying to affect the ants' behavior when he places his foot in their path. He does not succeed in changing nature, however; rather, nature simply renders him insignificant, as the ants methodically ignore him and climb over his shoe. As Kino's greed brings him from his initial human dignity to a plane closer to that of animals, he loses something essential to his humanity, as well as the easy, simple relationship with nature he enjoys early in the novella.

"But the pearls were accidents, and the finding of one was luck, a little pat on the back by God or the gods or both."

This short quotation is from Chapter 2, when Kino prepares to make the dive on which he finds the Pearl of the World. The narrator contends that certain occurrences that shape human life are accidents willed by a divine power, events over which human beings have no control. It becomes clear that the discovery of pearls is a function of such seemingly arbitrary divine fate. Kino's eventual downfall can thus be seen as not entirely his own fault.

"In the pearl he saw Coyotito sitting at a little desk in a school, just as Kino had once seen it through an open door. And Coyotito was dressed in a jacket, and he had on a white collar and a broad silken tie. Moreover, Coyotito was writing on a big piece of paper. Kino looked at his neighbors fiercely. "My son will go to school," he said, and the neighbors were hushed. . . .

Kino's face shone with prophecy. "My son will read and open the books, and my son will write and will know writing. And my son will make numbers, and these things will make us free because he will know—he will know and through him we will know. . . . This is what the pearl will do."

This passage from Chapter 3 describes the moment of Kino's pivotal decision to direct all his energies toward using the pearl to obtain an education for Coyotito. Kino's ambition constitutes an attempt to shake the foundations of his society by placing his son on a level with the natives' European oppressors. The vehemence with which Kino reacts to his vision, as well as the hushed silence with which the neighbors hear it, is a testament to the improbable nature of Kino's plan not only to improve his son's lot but to break "free" of a centuries-long cycle of oppression. From this moment forward, Kino remains obsessed with his goal, which he can achieve only by making a great deal of money from his pearl

And the evils of the night were about them. The coyotes cried and laughed in the brush, and the owls screeched and hissed over their heads. And once some large animal lumbered away, crackling the undergrowth as it went. And Kino gripped the handle of the big working knife and took a sense of protection from it.

This quotation from Chapter 6 demonstrates how Kino's relationship with nature has changed, symbolizing his personal and moral downfall. In general, Steinbeck portrays the natural world positively in *The Pearl*, using

beautiful language and images of sun-drenched scenery. This scene reverses that trend, as Steinbeck illustrates the dark and frightening aspect of nature. We sense that the universe itself opposes Kino's course of action. Kino himself reveals an adversarial relationship with nature by his defensive gripping of his knife handle to reassure himself. Where Kino earlier lived in harmony with nature, his ambition has made him nature's enemy.

To be continued.....