

# ***The Pearl***

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## **UNIT 3**

### **Preview**


#### *Catholicism*


As we have learned the past two weeks, part of the context of *The Pearl* is Spanish colonialism in Mexico. During colonialism, a colonizing country (here, Spain) will often bring with them parts of their home culture and try to get the new country (here, Mexico) and its local people to accept that culture. Sometimes it might be as simple as food, music, or dance—or it might be something more significant, like religion or politics.

Catholicism was, and still is, a major religion in Spain. Catholics, like most Christians, believe in the Christian God and believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God. They believe that Jesus came to earth to forgive people of their sins. In Spain, especially during the era of colonialism, Catholicism told people how to best live their lives in accordance with God. It gave rules for how to marry, have children, and live good lives.

Spanish colonizers brought Catholicism to Mexico, where it continues to be the most widely practiced religion. In this section of the reading, we learn that Coyotito was baptized. This is a common ceremony for all practicing Catholics, where the baby's head is dipped into holy water and signifies that the child has entered the church and is a Christian.

### **Vocabulary**

Nun	 <p>Women who commit their lives to serving god and the Church. Often appear as they are dressed above, but not always.</p>
Dignity (n.)	The state of being worthy of honor or

	respect
Gunpowder	 <p>The substance that makes a gun (the bullet in a gun) explode. Pictured here next to a US quarter for reference.</p>
Solemn	Sad or serious
Benign	Not harmful
Pesos	The form of money in Mexico, both at the time of the story and today.