**Chapter 2**

1. Why do you think a canoe would act as an “insurance policy” against starvation?

2. How is a pearl formed?

3. What does Juana pray for? Why?

4. The Indians think of God or “the gods.” What does this reveal about their religious beliefs?

5. On what two discoveries does Chapter 2 end?

6. Why does Kino howl?

7. Steinbeck tells us that because the mixture of air and water over the gulf creates mirages, the Indians do not trust what they see with their eyes. How could this fit with the theme of “appearance versus reality”?

**Chapter 3**

1. In the opening what is the town compared to? Why do you suppose he makes this comparison?

2. How does the news of the pearl affect:

a) The priest-

b) The shopkeepers -

c) The doctor

d) The beggars -

3. In what sense did Kino become “every man’s enemy”?

4. How is the news of the pearl compared to the poisonous sting of the scorpion?

5. What does Kino say he will do once the pearl is sold?

6. Kino hears “the song of evil” faintly. Who do you think brings it in to Kino’s house? Give a reason for your answer.

7. As the doctor approaches, why is Kino feeling rage?

8. How does Kino feel trapped by his own ignorance?

9. What do you guess the doctor gives Coyotito?

10. What is suggested by the references to the fish and mice?

11. How does the doctor find out where Kino has hidden the pearl?

12. After the intruder is driven off, what does Juana say of the pearl? Why?

13. Why can Kino not do this?

14. Why is Kino afraid of making plans?

**Chapter 4**

1. In the first paragraph how has the wholeness of the town been disrupted?

2. Why is there no longer any real competition among the pearl buyers?

3. Why is this a big day for the entire village?

4. In earlier times how did the pearl divers try to get a better price for their pearls and what happened to their effort?

5. What is suggested by the priest’s sermon ?

6. What might lead Kino and his brother to believe this? What might lead them to be suspicious of the priest’s sermon?

7. How does Steinbeck show us that despite what he says, the pearl buyer is impressed by the size and beauty of the pearl?

8. How does the pearl buyer devalue the pearl?

9. What further strategy does the buyer use to try to convince Kino that the pearl has little value?

10. How is the village divided on Kino’s actions with the pearl buyer?

11. “(Kino) had lost one world and had not gained another.” What world did he lose?

12. Why does it take much courage for Kino to make the decision to go to the city?

13. Why is Kino’s brother afraid for him?

14. Kino’s brother, Juan Tomas, is older and wiser. What insightful comment does he make about their friends?

15. What does Kino say this time when Juana again says they should get rid of the pearl because it brings evil? What is implied in his answer?

16. At this point do you think Kino is right or is he just being stupid and willful?

17. What plans do they make for the next day?

**Chapter 5**

1. What does Juana try to do with the pearl? Why? What does Kino do?

2. What happens on the beach? What happens to the pearl?

3. Given a second opportunity after finding the pearl on the sand, why does Juana not get rid of it?

4. Why will it not matter that Kino killed the man in self-defense?

5. As they head for home, what two discoveries do they make? What does this signify?

6. What is Juan Tomas’ opinion of the pearl at this point?

7. What is Kino’s comment on the pearl on page 65? In what sense might this be true?

**Chapter 6**

1. Why is Kino more convinced than ever that the pearl is of great value?

2. Steinbeck says Kino was being moved by “some animal thing.” What does he mean by this?

3. What awakens him from his sleep?

4. Who does Kino see in the road? Why does he say they will be back?

5. Why does Kino consider letting the trackers take him? What does Juana say that convinces him not to?

6. Why does Juana reject Kino’s plan to separate?

7. How are the mountain pools places of both life and death for the animals in the area?

8. What plan does Kino make to get rid of the trackers?

9. What happens to disrupt his plan?

10. In their return to the village, what is unusual in the manner that they are walking? What might this signify?

11. How is Kino described? How are both described?

12. In Chapter 1 when Kino first looked at the pearl he saw a church wedding for Juana and himself. What does he see in the pearl now?

13. What action do Kino and Juana take at the end of this story? Why?

14. If you assume that Kino threw the pearl back because he felt guilty, then what does the pearl symbolize and what is the lesson that this parable is teaching?

15. If you assume that Kino threw the pearl back out of rage and frustration then what does the pearl symbolize and what is the lesson to be learned?

16. Steinbeck is often associated with a movement in writing called naturalism. Naturalists believed that man does not have free will; rather man’s fate is determined by large social and economic forces he cannot control. If that is the case, what is the lesson to be learned?

17. On the other hand, you may see the pearl as a symbol of something else with a different lesson to be learned. If that is so, write what you think that might be.