

SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - The Pearl

Chapter 1

1. What, in general, happens in the first chapter?
2. Notice that the townspeople follow Kino. What does that tell you?
3. Why did the doctor refuse to treat Coyotito?
4. What does that tell you about the doctor's personality?
5. What are the conflicts in the story so far?
6. What is the Song of the Family?
7. What is the Song of Evil? When does it first appear?

Chapter 2

1. Why did Steinbeck include the first section about the life in the Gulf waters?
2. The canoe is mentioned quite often. Is it a symbol for something?
3. What is the main event of this chapter?
4. Do you think it is coincidence that everything goes well on the water, or is Steinbeck trying to show something?
5. To what new Song are we introduced?

Chapter 3

1. To what does Steinbeck compare the town?
2. The news of Kino's pearl spread quickly across town. What did each person think of when he heard it?
3. What would Kino do with his riches?
4. Why does the doctor come? What does he do?
5. What bad thing happened to make Juana want to throw away the pearl?

Chapter 4

1. In the description of the pearl buyers, what do we find out about the market in Kino's village?
2. What happened when Kino went to sell his pearl?
3. 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?
4. Again at the end of the chapter, Juana wants to throw away the pearl because it is evil. What evil thing happened?

Chapter 5

1. Where did Juana go early in the morning?
2. What did Kino do when he figured out where she went?
3. What happened to Kino up the beach through the brushline on the path?
4. What happened to their hut while they were away?
5. Why did they leave the village?

Chapter 6

1. What "songs" does Kino hear on the first part of their journey?
2. What made the music of the pearl become "sinister in his ears, . . . interwoven with the music of evil?"
3. What happens to Coyotito?
4. What happens to the trackers?
5. What happens to Kino and Juana?
6. What do they do with the pearl?
7. What does the return of Kino and Juana and