

Chapter 3 - The Pearl

- Jot Notes
- Conflict
- Questions

Jot Notes

- The doctor visits Kino and his family
- The doctor gives Coyotito something which makes him very sick
- The doctor now expects to be paid for supposedly "saving" Coyotito.
- Everyone crowded in/around Kino's hut to hear about what he was going to do/get with the Pearl
- Someone tried to steal the pearl
- Kino has decided that he will sell the pearl the following day
- Kino was still suspicious of the doctor after he "supposedly" healed Coyotito
- Juana told Kino that the pearl would destroy them all
- The priest came to visit Kino and his family

Conflict

- Kino vs. the doctor - Kino was filled with hatred, rage and fear over whether he should let the doctor treat Coyotito. However, he did not want his son to suffer (internal)
- Kino vs. the intruder - someone breaks into the hut in the middle of the night and tries to steal the pearl, there was a struggle and Kino was hurt. (external)

- Kino vs. Juana - Kino wants to hang on to the pearl to fulfill his dreams. However, Juana sees the pearl as evil and wants to get rid of it. (external)

Important Points

- Theme of wholeness...with the comparison of the village to the colonial animal (an animal that is part of a colony), Steinbeck presents his idea that each person is part of a larger whole. No event happens in isolation. The procession of villagers to the doctor's prepared us for this idea.
- Greed and Envy...the pearl causes a sinister change in the town. Kino has become a "have" in a world of "have-nots". As a result, he is seen as an outsider, as an enemy. The pearl has planted the seeds of many dreams in the minds of people who have been deprived of too much for too long.
- Symbols...Rifle - a symbol of Kino's intention to cease being exploited by people of Spanish descent. Education - knowledge will eventually free the Indians from the bonds of ignorance and will keep them from being exploited
- Kino, the Priest and Religion...Kino believes his future is vulnerable to attack because he has spoken openly of his plans. In fact, Kino feels threatened by the priest. Although the priest appears to be concerned that Kino do the right thing, his major interest is the pearl. The priest, like the others, is interested in what the pearl can do for him
- Animal Imagery...in the description of the estuary at night, there is the sound of big fish eating little fish - a symbol of the relationship between the Spanish and the Indians, between the rulers and the oppressed

- Doctor as a Predator...the doctor is one of the first to prey upon Kino. He appears helpful and concerned. Kino is not fooled but cannot take the chance that Coyotito might become sick again.

Chapter 3 Questions

1. Describe what the news of Kino's pearl made each of the following characters think about.
 - The priest
 - Shopkeepers
 - The doctor
 - The pearl buyers
 - The beggars
 - The priest wondered whether he had baptized Kino's baby, married he and Juana and he thought of how certain repairs were needed in the church
 - Shopkeepers saw Kino finding the pearl as an opportunity to sell clothes that had been there for a while
 - The doctor saw himself as having enough money to move away to Paris
 - The beggars giggled with pleasure, knowing there was no almsgiver (one who gives a donation) like a poor man who is suddenly lucky.
 - The Pearl Buyers see Kino finding the pearl as freedom from the "Big Boss" - only one person who had control over all the pearl buyers
2. Using a metaphor, what animal does Steinbeck compare the town to, early in the chapter? Explain why you think this is a good comparison.

The animal Steinbeck compares the town to early in the chapter was a snake.

"The poison sacs of the town began to manufacture venom..." This is a good comparison because like a snake the town is manufacturing venom, which is greed. Everybody wants something from the pearl; some people are wanting to attack Kino and will stop at nothing.

3. Describe Kino's numerous plans for the money he expects to get from selling the pearl.

The things that Kino expects to get from the selling of the pearl...

- Fine clothes and shoes (for all three of them)
- A wedding for he and Juana in the church
- An education for Coyotito
- A new harpoon
- A Winchester rifle

5. a) Why does Kino allow the doctor to treat Coyotito?

Kino allows the doctor to treat Coyotito because he could not take a chance - not with the life of Coyotito.

- b) How does the doctor trick Kino and Juana into believing that his medical skills are very powerful?

The doctor tells them the poison may still be in Coyotito's body. Kino and Juana don't know enough about it, so they let the doctor give Coyotito medicine that makes him sick. The doctor says he will come back in an hour since he knows the white powder will strike b then. The doctor returns, Coyotito is sick and he gives a

few drops of ammonia in a cup of water. This calms Coyotito and makes him better.

6. At the end of the chapter, what does Juana say about the pearl? What has happened to make her feel this way?

Juana says the pearl is evil and it will destroy all of them. She tells Kino to get rid of it after an intruder tries to steal the pearl and Kino gets injured. Juana realizes that more evil is happening than good.