

## Chapter 4 - The Pearl

- Jot Notes
- Conflict
- Questions

### Jot Notes

- Kino goes to sell his pearl
- All canoes are lined up on the beach - historic day
- There was a whole village procession to the pearl buyers (solemn)
- The pearl buyers reaction to the pearl

Buyer 1	Buyer 2	Buyer 3	Buyer 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- dropped coin when he saw the pearl</li><li>- fool's gold</li><li>- too large and clumsy</li><li>- museum might take it for show</li><li>- 1000 pecos</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- rolled it between thumb and forefinger</li><li>- tossed it back in the tray</li><li>- no offer</li><li>- a monstrosity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- says the pearl will lose its color and die in a few months</li><li>- magnifying the pearl</li><li>- laughed softly</li><li>- said pearl was soft and chalky</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- offers 500 pecos, hopes to sell it for 600 pecos</li></ul>

- Kino takes the pearl back and says he will sell it in the capital
- Back home that night Kino is attacked

## Conflict

- Kino is scared to going to the capital (internal)
- Kino has defied the whole structure, gone against the priest's sermon (internal)
- Kino vs. Juana - she wants to throw it away (external)
- Kino vs. the pearl buyers (external)
- Kino vs. the second attacker (external)

## Important Points

- Kino is going to sell the pearl...the group of pearl buyers in the town work for one man. They already know what price they will offer Kino. The fact that the coin slips and falls into the pearl buyer's lap symbolizes his obsession with money, his trickery, his dishonesty and amazement when he sees Kino's pearl.
- Priest's sermon...each year the priest delivers a sermon that he says is a message of God that each person is meant to maintain his or her position in life, whatever it might be. We can conclude the priest uses it to manipulate the Indians. There is a strong political and social component - God wants you to stay in your place. The Indians are expected to obey.
- Juan Thomas...shown as someone to who Kino turns for advice - a symbol of Indian wisdom. Juan is afraid for Kino because he had defied the structure of their society. Kino, in defying the pearl buyers, has defied all those who dominate the Indians. Kino is trying to win against the system and Juan Tomas feels he will be punished.
- Relationship between Juana and Kino...It is clear that Kino has deep love and respect for his wife. She is loving, strong

and secure. Kino turns to her for strength. According to their heritage, Kino is the man and therefore, head of the household. It is he who makes all of the decisions; Juana knows this and respects it. Even though Juana is frightened by the pearl, she goes along with Kino's wishes. When Kino and Juana are walking into town to sell the pearl, Juana walks behind Kino.

## Chapter 4 Questions

1. Who goes with Kino to sell his pearl? How do we know that this is an extremely important event?

The following people went with Kino to sell the pearl...Juana, Juan Thomas, Coyotito, All the neighbors and townspeople.

We knew it was an extremely important event because all the canoes lay lined up upon the beach, the fisherman did not go out to dive for pearls. The beach was deserted. (also, it was an historic event, sign of un-friendship if they didn't go)

2. What do the pearl buyers tell Kino about the pearl?

Buyer 1	Buyer 2	Buyer 3	Buyer 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- dropped coin when he saw the pearl</li><li>- fool's gold</li><li>- too large and clumsy</li><li>- museum might take it for show</li><li>- 1000 pecos</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- rolled it between thumb and forefinger</li><li>- tossed it back in the tray</li><li>- no offer</li><li>- a monstrosity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- says the pearl will lose its color and die in a few months</li><li>- magnifying the pearl</li><li>- laughed softly</li><li>- said pearl was soft and chalky</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- offers 500 pecos, hopes to sell it for 600 pecos</li></ul>

3. Explain the literary device used to describe Kino's feelings when the pearl buyers reject his pearl. (page 65 or page 50)

"He felt the creeping of fate...he heard in his ears the evil music".

The literary device used in the above quotation is a metaphor. The metaphor explains how Kino feels when the pearl buyers reject his pearl. \*Kino feels as if evil surrounds him.

4. How did Kino surprise the dealers?

Kino surprised the dealers when he reached quickly and snatched the pearl from his hand. He wrapped it in the deerskin and thrust it inside his shirt. He told them that he knew he was being cheated, so he would take his pearl to the capital to sell.

5. a) Discuss the different feelings of the townspeople towards Kino's decision.

The townspeople felt the following...(i) Kino should have taken the 1500 pesos as it was a great deal of money, more than he has ever seen. He is a pigheaded fool. He might go to the capital and never find a buyer. (ii) Now that he has defied the buyers, they will not want to deal with him at all. (iii) Kino is a brave man and a fierce man, he is right. They were proud of Kino.

b) Explain Juan Tomas's fear about what is happening to Kino.

Juan Tomas's fear about what was happening to Kino was that Kino would end up being punished for defying the "whole structure" (the order of things)

6. What do the following statements mean?

a) "He had lost one world and not gained another."

This quote refers to how Kino had lost the simple life as a poor pearl fisher in the village of La Paz. He was terrified. He had not yet broken the barriers to allow him to enter the world of the rich. However, it was a fight he could not back down from. At this point, Kino was in "limbo" - aimlessly wandering to find his place in the whole structure.

b) "I am a man."

This quote emphasizes Kino's status as the head of the family. He has made a decision and it is one he must hold to. A "man" does not make promises he can't keep. \*He is determined to defeat the structure to give his son a chance. It will help prove his dignity and honour.