

Chapter 2 - The Pearl

- Jot Notes
- Conflict
- Questions

Jot Notes

- Kino, Coyotito and Juana go out in the canoe
- Kino finds a very large oyster (pearl)
- The pearl has a ghostly gleam
- Juana puts a seaweed poultice on Coyotito's shoulder
- The pearl is described as having a perfect curve
- Coyotito's shoulder seems to be healing
- Kino beats his chest and howls like a wolf
- News travels, others come to see what is happening

Conflict

- Kino/Juana vs. the sea in search of the pearl (external)
- Juana vs. the scorpion bite (external)

Important Points

- Pearl Formation...the chapter highlights the contrast between the simple way a pearl is formed and its value to humans in terms of wealth
- Superstitions...Juana and Kino do not want to offend the Gods by hoping for too much. If you ask for more than your fair share, you may end up with even less. The pearl gives off a "ghostly" gleam, which suggests the idea that it is magical.

Chapter 2 Questions

1. Why is Kino's canoe so special to him?

Kino's canoe is so special to him because it is the only thing of value he owned in the world. Also, it was a kind of a family heirloom - passed down from his grandfather. As long as Kino had a canoe, he could get food.

2. What did Juana pray for?

Juana prayed for a pearl large enough to provide them with money to hire the doctor to cure the baby.

3. What did the sea provide as medicine for the baby? Why didn't Juana have as much faith in it as she would in a doctor's remedy?

The sea provided a seaweed poultice. Juana didn't have as much faith in it as she would in a doctor's remedy because the seaweed lacked "authority".

4. What song did Kino always hear when he was diving for pearls?

Kino always hears the "Song of the Pearl that might be" when diving for pearls.

5. Describe the pearl that Kino found.

The pearl that Kino found was...

- The greatest pearl in the world
- As large as a seagull's egg
- Gave off an incandescent (bright, glowing) light

➤ Perfect as the moon.

6. What did Juan believe had caused the baby's arm to improve?

Juana believed that the pearl had caused Coyotito's arm to heal. She thought the pearl had worked some kind of magic.

7. Predict what Kino and Juana will do now that they have found the pearl.

Answers may vary

8. What is the author suggesting when Kino holds the pearl in the same hand that he smashed against the gate?

The author is suggesting the pearl will ultimately be used to prevent any further injustices than what was served by the doctor.