

Chapter 5 - The Pearl

- Jot Notes
- Conflict
- Questions

Jot Notes

- Juana tries to throw the pearl away. Kino stops her violently and is then attacked
- Kino kills the attacker and then realizes that his house is burning and his canoe has been destroyed.
- Kino stays with Juan Tomas for the day and then decides to go to the capital to sell the pearl

Conflict

- Kino vs. Juana - the physical attack that occurred against Juana (external)
- Kino vs. the attacker - the physical attack that occurred between Kino and the attackers (external)
- Juana vs. Herself - Juana struggles with whether or not to throw away the pearl when she finds it after Kino's attack (internal)
- Juan Tomas vs. Himself - Juan briefly struggles with whether or not he should agree to hide Kino, Juana and Coyotito

Important Points

1. Kino's dream/desire...Kino's dream has challenged the system. Kino is losing everything that connects him to the town. This separation can only mean one thing - destruction. Kino's battle with Juana foreshadows the death of his family. Kino is like the deviant from the system. He is separated from his natural environment. From now on, he will lack the protection of his kin and the strength of his tradition. He is a "free agent", flung into the world, to face the ruthless predators.
2. The canoe...the destruction of Kino's canoe is an immeasurable loss. Not only does it mean the loss of his prized possession and his means of making a living, it also means the loss of a part of his heritage.

*It represents the importance of his culture and something he could pass on.

*The old way of life is over. Kino now becomes like an animal, living only to protect himself and his family.
3. The pearl as Kino's soul...Kino has become so obsessed with the pearl that nothing else matters. Every breath is devoted to making his dream come true, at the risk of placing his family in grave danger. In a material sense, a person dies when his soul leaves his body. If Kino were to throw away his pearl - he would die spiritually as well. His soul - the pearl and his dream - is all that holds him to life.

*The truth is that in keeping the pearl he is losing his soul and only in the act of throwing it away, will save his soul.

4. Kino's attack on Juana...The attack is primitive and savage, the act of an animal rather than of a rational man. He feels if he gives up the pearl he will be admitting defeat and will lose his position as "the man". He will lose his position as the head of the household, if he allows Juana to decide about the pearl.

*The pearl has meant so much to Kino in his dreams that he can not easily sacrifice those dreams.

Chapter 5 Questions

1. a) What does Juana try to do with the pearl?
b) How did Kino react and explain why he behaved so savagely?

Kino follows Juana, Juana runs when she sees him coming. Kino grabs her arm before she can throw the pearl into the sea. Hissing like a snake, he beats her. He behaved so savagely because the pearl is part of his "manhood". By giving up the pearl he will be admitting defeat and lose his position as "a man". It represents his dreams!

2. What does Juana mean when she thinks, "that the old life was gone forever"?

Juana means that her happy, simple life (life before the pearl) was no more...instead her life was full of sadness/worry and complexity (life after the pearl)

3. What happened when Kino left Juana at the beach?

Kino was attacked by more than one person. Kino ends up killing one of the people in self defense.

4. Although Kino reminds Juana several times that his a "man", Juana knows that she is a "woman". What quality of being a woman does she rely on to "save them all"?

Juana is cautious, determined, has a sense of logic. She is patient, has a watchful eye and a sense of preservation.

5. Why does Juana accept her beating so passively?

Juana accepts her beating so passively because she felt she deserved it for disobeying her husband.

*She had gone beyond the boundaries of being a primitive wife.

6. What has happened to Kino's canoe? Why is the damage so devastating?

Kino's canoe was destroyed. The damage was devastating because it was an heirloom, passed down from his grandfather, as well, Kino had planned to use the canoe to travel to the capital to sell his pearl.

7. After the discovery of the damage to the canoe, Kino becomes hardened past all breaking. The old life is over and he is described as an animal. Why is this comparison made?

Kino is now forced to live a life of hiding, attacking. He is living only to protect himself and his family to survive.

8. Why do you think someone burned down Kino's house?

Someone burns Kino's house as a scare tactic, to show that Kino and his family are no longer welcome and also the fire could have been a warning that the conflict wasn't over.

9. a) How does Juan Tomas help Kino's family?

Juan Tomas allows Kino to hide in his house until night when they could leave for the mountains. He gathered items from the

neighbors for Kino to take and he also went among the neighbors spreading the idea that Kino and Juana had fled to escape evil.

b) Discuss the danger for Juan Tomas to become involved.

The danger for Juan Tomas is that he ends up putting not only himself but his family in jeopardy.

10. Why does Kino compare himself to leprosy?

Kino compares himself to leprosy because he felt he was contaminated; contagious with evil that might infect his brother/neighbors, etc.

11. Discuss why Kino says the pearl is his soul. Do you think he should give it up? If you think he should keep the pearl, what words of encouragement would you offer him?