

## Chapter 6 - The Pearl

- Jot Notes
- Conflict
- Important Notes
- Questions

### Jot Notes

- Juana and Kino left town
- They are followed by trackers
- Once in the mountains, Kino asks that Juana hide while he continues; Juana refuses
- Kino asks that Juana hide out with Coyotito in shallow cave - she agrees
- Trackers hear a "murmuring cry". As a result one tracker ends up firing rifle in the direction of the cry
- Kino struck the tracker that shot Coyotito with a rifle
- Kino hit the seated tracker in the head with a rifle
- Kino shot the third tracker
- Upon returning Juana walked next to Kino; Juana was carrying Coyotito in her shawl
- Kino offers Juana the chance to throw away the pearl, she declines, replying "No, you"
- Kino throws the pearl back into the sea with all his might

### Conflict

- Kino wants to give himself up - Juana encourages him to go on (internal)
- Kino vs. the trackers (external)

- Kino/Juana vs. the mountains (external)
- Kino/Juana vs. the heat (external)
- Kino/Juana vs. sandy road (external)

## Important Points

1. Kino's vision...Throughout the novel, Kino has seen visions in the pearl. In Chapter 6 he looks into the pearl to see his former vision of the future, but he only sees pictures of the past - the dead man, Juana's beaten face and Coyotito's illness. Kino hears the Song of Evil intermingled with the Song of the Pearl.
2. Ant Imagery...In Chapter 1 Kino does not interfere with the ants. Now he makes the ants climb over his foot, a difficult task for an ant. Kino feels much like the ants do - in that obstacles have been put in his way by some higher power.
3. Animal Imagery...In several parts of Chapter 6 Kino is compared (likened) to an animal. The trackers are compared to dogs. When Kino feels threatened by the trackers, he does as all animals do - he heads to the high ground. The trackers are also compared to "swarming ants".
4. Juana's and Kino's relationship...At the beginning of the novel, their relationship was such that Kino was "the man" and Juana would follow him and do whatever he said. Juana would walk behind him to show respect and he was head of the household. By the end of the novel, after all

they had been though they walked side by side back into town.

\*Juana walks beside Kino as his equal.

5. Why does Kino throw the pearl away?

- a) He feels guilty about the death of his son. His greed caused Coyotito's death and all the suffering his family has gone through.
- b) He feels angry about the death of his son. He is angry because he is a Mexican Indian and as such he is not allowed to change his standing.
- c) It was a fate; Kino was working against fate and in the end he gives in and throws away the pearl
- d) The pearl has brought a curse of evil upon the family and Kino wants to get rid of the evil by disposing of the pearl.
- e) Since Coyotito is dead, they have no further need for the money.
- f) Kino feels he has been too greedy - so throwing away the pearl is renouncing his desire for wealth.

## Chapter 6 Questions

This chapter can be divided into 3 parts...

- The fight
- The confrontation
- The return

1. Why was it a good thing that the wind was blowing on the night that Kino and Juana left the village?

It was a good thing that the wind was blowing on the night that Kino and Juana left the village because the blown sand would cover their tracks.

2. What did Kino see when he looked into the pearl and thought of all the things he wanted?

When Kino looked into the pearl for a vision of his rifle, he saw the man he had killed lying on the ground with blood dripping from his throat. When he looked into the pearl for a vision of marriage he Juana with her beaten face crawling home through the night. When he looked into the pearl for a vision of education he saw Coyotito's face thick and feverish from the medicine.

3. In chapter 1, Kino did not interfere with the ants as they tried to escape sand traps, despite his godlike position. What does he do to the ants in this chapter? Give an explanation for his behavior.

Kino makes the ants climb over his foot, a difficult task for an ant. Kino feels much like the ants do - in that obstacles have been put in his way by some higher power.

4. Why did Juana feel it would be a mistake for Kino to give himself up?

Juana felt it would be a mistake for Kino to give himself up because the trackers would not bring them back alive just to say that they had stolen the pearl. Kino and Juana would be killed anyway

5. Briefly describe the confrontation by the stream.

Kino leaped, the gun crashed to the ground; he swung and the knife crunched hollowly. The knife bit through neck and deep into the chest of the first tracker. Kino grabbed the rifle as he wrenched free his knife; he whirled and struck the head of the second tracker like a melon. The third tracker scrambled away like a crab, slipped into the pool and began to climb up the cliff. Kino shot him with the rifle. The tracker ended up falling backwards into the pool; Kino aimed and fired between the eyes.

6. What did one of the trackers do when he heard a cry the second time?

When one of the trackers heard a cry for the second time, he shot his rifle towards the sound of what he believed was a coyote.

7. Why did Kino and Juana walk back into town side by side, rather than in single file?

Kino and Juana walked back into town side by side because with everything that they were through they were now equals and each decision will be a decision made by the two of them. Kino now respects Juana as his equal.

8. When Kino and Juana return home, they throw the pearl back into the sea. Provide at least 3 reasons for this decision.

a) He feels guilty about the death of his son. His greed caused Coyotito's death and all the suffering his family has gone through.

b) He feels angry about the death of his son. He is angry because he is a Mexican Indian and as such he is not allowed to change his standing.

c) It was a fate; Kino was working against fate and in the end he gives in and throws away the pearl

d) The pearl has brought a curse of evil upon the family and Kino wants to get rid of the evil by disposing of the pearl.

e) Since Coyotito is dead, they have no further need for the money.

f) Kino feels he has been too greedy - so throwing away the pearl is renouncing his desire for wealth.

9. A parable, is a short simple story from which a moral lesson may be drawn. It is usually on the subject of good and evil. Explain how "The Pearl" is a parable.

In this story, the pearl is a symbol of "worldly gain" and is therefore bad, for it causes men to seek wealth. This characteristic will destroy all good human qualities, thus finally

destroying the man. In the case of Kino's people, whose main values are those of survival, the conclusion to be drawn is that this "Pearl of the World" must be lost so that the "Pearl of the Soul" may be gained.