

Lesson 2: The Scorpion

☐ Getting Started

Today you will begin reading *The Pearl*. As you read the first chapter, pay close attention to Steinbeck's descriptive language, particularly his strong verbs and vivid adjectives.

In your journal, keep track of some descriptive phrases that you find particularly effective.

Stuff You Need

- *Handy Guide to Writing* by Moving Beyond the Page
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- colored pencils
- journal
- laminated "Parts of Speech Cards" page

Ideas to Think About

- How do people's ability to control their environment affect their success/happiness in life?

Things to Know

- In grammar, a phrase is a group of two or more words that is missing a subject, verb, or both.

☐ Reading and Questions

Read Chapter 1 and then answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. If you could select just one word to describe Kino's life as presented at the beginning of Chapter 1, what word would you choose and why?

2. How does the author describe Kino's physical appearance?

3. Why would the doctor not care for Coyotito?

4. How does Kino's life change from the beginning of Chapter 1 to the end of the chapter?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Phrases and Parts of Speech

In this unit, you'll review the basic parts of speech and learn about different types of phrases and how they function in a sentence. Refer to the "Parts of Speech" page if you need to review the definitions, types, symbols for, or examples of the nine basic parts of speech.

A phrase is a group of two or more words that is missing a subject, verb, or both. Two common grammatical phrases are noun and verb phrases:

- A noun phrase contains the noun and all the words (such as articles, adjectives, and prepositional phrases) that modify it. *A thin, timid dog came close.*
- A verb phrase is a verb and all of its helping verbs. Do not include adverbs or other modifiers in the verb phrase. *Kino could never remember seeing them closed.* (*Never* is an adverb.)

In *The Pearl*, Steinbeck uses strong combinations of clear, powerful verbs and a variety of adjectives and adverbs to color his sentences. Use the sentences from *The Pearl* found on the "Labeling Parts of Speech" (Option 1 or 2) sheet to practice labeling noun and verb phrases and some basic parts of speech. Ask your parent which option to complete.

NOTE: For more information about parts of speech and phrases, refer to the *Handy*

*Guide to Writing.*Option 1

Follow the instructions on the "Labeling Parts of Speech" (Option 1) page.

Option 2

Follow the instructions on the "Labeling Parts of Speech" (Option 2) page.

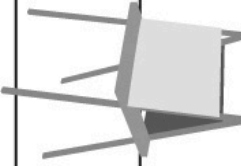
Wrapping Up

Today you saw Kino's family's lives change in an instant. You can also see the social and economic divides that exist between the natives in the village and those who live in the town.

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PARTS OF SPEECH

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Part of Speech	Function or "Job"	Sample Words	Sample Sentences	Symbol
verb	shows action or links the subject to words that describe it	work, sing, is	Pablo is an artist. He paints murals.	large red circle
noun	person, place, thing, idea	Jan, boat, freedom	Jan lives on a boat . 	large dark blue triangle
adjective	describes a noun or pronoun	good, red, three	The three kittens are playful .	green triangle
article	a special type of adjective that introduces a noun	a, an, the	An elephant ate the peanuts.	small light blue triangle
adverb	describes a verb, adjective, or adverb (tells when, where, how)	quickly, very, really 	My dog eats very quickly .	small orange circle
pronoun	replaces a noun	I, you, them, some, those	She is beautiful. Those are my shoes.	tall light blue triangle
preposition	begins a prepositional phrase	to, at, after, on	We went to the play on Monday.	orange crescent
conjunction	joins words, phrases, or clauses	and, but, when	I like dogs and cats. He likes dogs, but he doesn't like cats.	pink rectangle
interjection	short exclamation	oh!, ouch!, so, well	Ouch! That hurts! So , how are you?	yellow keyhole

LABELING PARTS OF SPEECH

PART I

Directions: In the following sentences, use a black pencil to underline each noun, pronoun, or noun phrase and a red pencil to underline each verb or verb phrase.



1. She combed her black hair and braided it.
2. A baby could easily die from the poison.
3. They could hear the splashing water and the singing of caged birds.

PART II

Directions: Use the laminated parts of speech symbols to label all nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in the following sentences.

Note: If you prefer, you can draw the parts of speech symbols with colored pencils instead of using the laminated symbols. Refer to the "Parts of Speech" page for symbol shapes and colors.

1. Juana sang softly an ancient song.
2. But the stinging pain of the bite was going away.
3. Kino could see the green coolness of the garden and little splashing fountain.



LABELING PARTS OF SPEECH

Directions: In each sentence below, do the following:

- Underline each noun phrase and then use the laminated parts of speech symbols to label each word in the phrase. Also label any nouns and pronouns that are not in a phrase.
- Next, use a red pencil to underline each verb phrase. Remember not to include adverbs or other words in the verb phrase. Label all verbs and verb phrases using the parts of speech symbols.
- Finally, label all adverbs.

Note: If you prefer, you can draw the parts of speech symbols with colored pencils instead of using the laminated symbols. Refer to the "Parts of Speech" page for symbol shapes and colors.

1. A thin, timid dog came close and laid its chin delicately on the pile.

2. That was the only breakfast he had ever known.

3. Kino's hand went forward very slowly, very smoothly.

4. The glaring sun threw the bunched shadows of the people

blackly on the white wall.

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Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How do people's ability to control their environment affect their success/happiness in life?



Things to Know

- In grammar, a phrase is a group of two or more words that is missing a subject, verb, or both.

⦿ Skills

- Model an understanding of conventional written and spoken expression by applying the parts of speech to clarify language usage. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

As your child reads the chapter today, she will record examples of descriptive language that she finds particularly powerful and revealing.

Before you begin today's lesson, you or your child should cut out the squares on the laminated page, "Parts of Speech Cards," and place them in a ziploc bag. If you previously used the Moving Beyond the Page unit for *Tuck Everlasting*, you may already have precut cards available. (If you do not already have the laminated page, you can purchase one through Moving Beyond the Page or have your child use colored pencils to draw the symbols on the activity pages.)

Reading and Questions

1. If you could select just one word to describe Kino's life as presented at the beginning of Chapter 1, what word would you choose and why?

Answers will vary but might include peaceful, predictable, content, easy, worry-free, happy, complete, etc.

2. How does the author describe Kino's physical appearance?

He is young and strong with black hair, and his eyes are warm, fierce, and bright.

3. Why would the doctor not care for Coyotito?

Coyotito's parents were poor, so the doctor felt he would be wasting his time working and not getting paid.

4. How does Kino's life change from the beginning of Chapter 1 to the end of the chapter?

At the beginning, his life is peaceful and predictable, and he is content. By the end of the chapter, he is scared for his son and angry about the doctor.

Activities

Activity 1: Phrases and Parts of Speech

In this lesson, your child will label noun and verb phrases and identify some basic parts of speech. Your child can use the laminated parts of speech cards or draw the symbols herself using colored pencils. You may want to suggest that she try both labeling methods to see which one she prefers. A parts of speech review sheet is provided if your child needs to brush up on any of the parts of the speech during this unit.

There are two options for this activity. The sentences for Option 1 are shorter, and the labeling tasks are divided into more manageable chunks than Option 2.

Option 1

If your child seems to be struggling with labeling the parts of speech, suggest that she break it down into more manageable steps. For example, she could first find all of the nouns, next locate the verbs, and then label the adjectives and adverbs.

Answer Key:

Part I (nouns, pronouns, and noun phrases should be underlined in black and verbs and verb phrases underlined in red)

1. She [pronoun] combed [verb] her black hair [noun phrase] and braided [verb] it [pronoun].
2. A baby [noun phrase] could easily die ["could die" is a verb phrase] from the poison [noun phrase].
3. They [pronoun] could hear [verb phrase] the splashing water [noun phrase] and the singing of caged birds [noun phrase]. (It's fine if your child labeled the last two noun phrases as one big noun phrase.)

Part II

1. Juana [noun] sang [verb] softly [adverb] an ancient [adjective] song [noun].
2. But the stinging [adjective] pain [noun] of the bite [noun] was going [verb or verb phrase] away [adverb].
3. Kino [noun] could see [verb or verb phrase] the green [adjective] coolness [noun] of the garden [noun] and little [adjective] splashing [adjective] fountain [noun].

Option 2

Answer Key:

Check your child's underlining of noun and verb phrases and labeling of the following words noted below:

1. A [art] thin [adj], timid [adj] dog [noun] came [verb] close [adv] and laid [verb] its [adj] chin [noun] delicately [adv] on the pile [noun].
2. That [pronoun] was [verb] the [art] only [adj] breakfast [noun] he [pronoun] had ever [adv] known. ("had known" is the verb phrase)
3. Kino's [adj] hand [noun] went [verb] forward [adv] very [adv] slowly [adv], very [adv] smoothly [adv].
4. The [art] glaring [adj] sun [noun] threw [verb] the [art] bunched [adj] shadows [noun] of the [art] people [noun] blackly [adv] on the [art] white [adj] wall [noun].

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- How are the social classes portrayed in the story? (The natives live in a rustic village and have very few resources or modern-day conveniences. The townspeople live in homes, have money, and have food to eat.)
- Would you say that Kino is a rich man or a poor man? Why? What makes a person rich or poor? (Answers will vary. Discuss what it means to be rich and that people can be rich in ways other than monetarily.)
- By the end of this chapter, Kino feels that he cannot keep his family safe or provide for them. How does feeling out of control affect Kino's perspective? (Before the scorpion, Kino was happy and content with his life. Now Kino is feeling powerless, shamed, and angry.)

Things to Review

Have your child read aloud the descriptive words and phrases from *The Pearl* that she recorded in her journal.

Ask your child to give you an example of a verb phrase and to explain what is and is not included in a verb phrase. (It includes a verb and its helping verbs but not adverbs or other words.)