

Lesson 5: Songs

☐ Getting Started

At the end of the previous chapter, Kino made the discovery of a lifetime when he found the outstanding pearl. Today you will find out how Kino's life is changed by this discovery.

Stuff You Need

- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- journal
- musical instrument* (Activity 2 - optional)

Ideas to Think About

- How do the songs of a culture reflect the important elements of the culture?
- What is a human's natural response to change?
- How can poverty or wealth change a person's life, character, and perspective?
- How do people's experiences shape and change their circumstances and perspectives?

Things to Know

- A **stylistic device** is the use of any of a variety of techniques to give meaning, idea, or feeling to a written work.

☐ Reading and Questions

Read Chapter 3 and then answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. In the first sentences of the third chapter, Steinbeck uses a simile that compares the town to a colonial animal. A colonial animal is a collective lifeform consisting of individual organisms. Coral is an example. Pieces of coral and coral reefs are made of small, individual organisms called polyps. Describe what Steinbeck means by this simile.

2. Why do you think Kino became "every man's enemy" upon discovering the pearl?

3. Why do people suddenly become interested in Kino?

4. What does Kino say he will do with the money from the pearl?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Editing Sentences

Copy these sentences in your journal, correcting any grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors:

- News seem to move faster then small boys can scramble and dart to tell it faster then women can call it, over the fences.
- And Juan Tomás who squatted on Kinos right hand because he was his brother asked "What will you do now that you have become a rich man"?

☐ Activity 2: Songs

In the novel, the author often alludes to songs and the importance they play in Kino's culture and in Kino's own life. Steinbeck writes, "Kino's people had sung of everything that had happened or existed. They had made songs to the fishes, to the sea in anger and to the sea in calm, to the light and the dark and the sun and the moon, and the songs were all in Kino and in his people — every song that had ever been made, even the ones forgotten."

In Chapter 1, when Kino awakens, he has a song floating in his head, clear and soft. He would call it the "Song of the Family." When he sees the scorpion approaching Coyotito, he hears the "Song of Evil." Then when Kino is hoping to find a pearl to pay the doctor so he will treat Coyotito, Kino hears the "Song of the Pearl that Might Be."

Write the words for "The Song of the Family" that Kino hears in his head, for the "Song of Evil," or for the "Song of the Pearl that Might Be." Your song does not have to rhyme, but the words should reflect the culture and lives of Kino's people.

Consider how the beat and melody of songs may differ based on what the song is about. Your song should include 5-10 lines (repeated lines count as only one line). Remember to include some **stylistic devices** in your song — alliteration, simile or metaphor, rhyming patterns, symbolism, imagery, etc.

If you play a musical instrument or have a keyboard, you can add a beat and music to your song.

☐ Activity 3: Stylistic Devices Log

Steinbeck uses many **stylistic devices** in his story — symbolism, similes and metaphors, imagery, and irony to name a few. In your journal, write "Stylistic Devices found in *The Pearl*." As you read the remainder of the book, jot down examples of choices in language that Steinbeck uses. Select phrases and sentence that you feel are meaningful and effective. Skim today's chapter and locate at least three examples.

Similes use "like" or "as" to compare two unrelated things.

Metaphors make a comparison between unrelated things, but do not use "like" or "as."

Imagery is the use of language to appeal to the reader's senses.

Irony signals a difference between the appearance of what something looks like and what it actually is. In situational irony, actions have an exact opposite effect of what is intended or what they should have. In verbal irony, statements convey a meaning exactly opposite of the literal meaning.

Wrapping Up

Kino's life will never be the same upon the discovery of the pearl. The irony of his discovery is that the pearl has brought jealousy, rage, and fear into Kino's life; rather than the wealth and happiness he had hoped for.

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✿ Ideas to Think About

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- How can poverty or wealth change a person's life, character, and perspective?
- How do people's experiences shape and change their circumstances and perspectives?



Things to Know

- A **stylistic device** is the use of any of a variety of techniques to give meaning, idea, or feeling to a written work.

⦿ Skills

- Respond to expressive materials that are read, heard, and/or viewed by generating a learning log or journal. (LA)
- Analyze the purpose of the author or creator by understanding the effects of the author's craft on the reader. (LA)
- Analyze the effects on texts of such literary devices as figurative language and irony. (LA)

Ask your child to predict how Kino's discovery of the pearl will change his and his family's life.

Reading and Questions

1. In the first sentences of the third chapter, Steinbeck uses a simile that compares the town to a colonial animal. A colonial animal is a collective lifeform consisting of individual organisms. Coral is an example. Pieces of coral and coral reefs are made of small, individual organisms called polyps. Describe what Steinbeck means by this simile.

A town is independent in itself and no two towns are alike. News travels through a town like impulses through the nervous system. The people of the town make up the town that functions as a whole.

2. Why do you think Kino became "every man's enemy" upon discovering the pearl?

Answers will vary but might include that everyone is jealous of Kino, that people do not like to see others prosper, or that everyone wants what Kino has.

3. Why do people suddenly become interested in Kino?

They know he will have money to spend once he sells the pearl, and they want him to spend some on them.

4. What does Kino say he will do with the money from the pearl?

He and Juana will get married in the church, they will have new clothes, he will buy a rifle, and his son will go to school.

Activities**Activity 1: Editing Sentences**

Here are the suggested sentence corrections. (Changes from the original are underlined.)

- News seems to move faster than small boys can scramble and dart to tell it, faster than women can call it over the fences.
- And Juan Tomás, who squatted on Kino's right hand because he was his brother, asked, "What will you do now that you have become a rich man?"

Activity 2: Songs

Your child will write the words for one of the songs described in the book.

When he is finished, ask your child to sing the song as Kino would have heard it in his head. Discuss how the beat, tempo, and rhythm of the song reflect the song's mood. Discuss how the words reflect Kino's culture. Ask your child how the "Song of Evil" might be different from the "Song of the Family."

Activity 3: Stylistic Devices Log

Check to see that your child included at least three examples of stylistic devices Steinbeck uses in his language choice from Chapter 3.

Some examples might include:

"...the nerves of the town were pulsing and vibrating with the news..."

"...it [the news] washed in a foaming wave into the town of stone and plaster."

The pearl symbolizes dreams and wishes for the future in this chapter - "...Kino's pearl went into the dreams, the speculations, the schemes, the plans, the futures, the wishes, the needs, the lusts, the hungers of everyone.."

Ironically, Kino finds the "Pearl of the World" which should bring him joy and wealth, but which makes him "curiously everyone's enemy."

"... the song of the family came behind him like the purring of a kitten."

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- Why do you think the priest comes to visit Kino? (He wants Kino to give some of the money from the sale of the pearl to the church.)
- Why does the doctor come? (He wants to get money from Kino.) Do you think the doctor is telling the truth when he says that sometimes people suffer some time after the sting of the scorpion? Why or why not? (No, he knows that Kino will not know better and knows the only way he can get money from Kino is to pretend to treat Coyotito.)
- Why is it so important to Kino that Coyotito go to school? (Kino knows that knowledge gives a person power and that if Coyotito can read, write, and do math, then no one can take advantage of him.)
- Why do Kino and his people always feel trapped by the more educated? (Because they do not have the knowledge to know when they are being misled or lied to, which causes much risk.)
- Juana believes the pearl is evil. Do you agree? Why or why not? (Answers will vary.)

Things to Review

Review the vocabulary words for the story. Read through your log of language devices found in the story. Think about how each example affects the reader.