

Lesson 8: Escape

☐ Getting Started

Kino and Juana set forth on their journey to sell the pearl. They must escape those who are pursuing them to steal the pearl and those who want to capture Kino for killing the man who tried to steal his pearl.

Stuff You Need

- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- journal
- colored pencils

Ideas to Think About

- How do people's ability to control their environment affect their success/happiness in life?
- What role do power and wealth play in a society?

Things to Know

- A **verbal phrase** begins with a verbal and is followed by one or more words -- together, the whole phrase functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb in a sentence.
- The three types of verbal phrases are gerund phrases, infinitive phrases, and participial phrases.

☐ Reading and Questions

Read the last chapter of the novella and then answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. At the end of the previous chapter, Kino says, "The pearl has become my soul...if I give it up I shall lose my soul." Does Kino lose his soul because he gives up the pearl? Explain.

2. How does the setting of the story keep the action of the story going?

3. Why do you think Kino and Juana return to the village? Why don't they keep running?

4. Kino's quest for wealth and opportunity leads to the destruction of his family. Can you think of examples in history where the quest for wealth and power has led to death and destruction?

Add examples of effective stylistic devices from the final chapter to your log.

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Verbal Phrases

A verbal is a word that is made from a verb but functions like a noun, adjective, or adverb in a sentence. (*Swimming is a fun sport. The frustrated shopper left the store.*) A **verbal phrase** begins with a verbal and is followed by one or more words — together, the whole phrase functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb in a sentence.

There are three types of **verbal phrases**:

- A gerund phrase starts with a gerund (a verb form ending in *-ing*). Gerund phrases always function as nouns in a sentence. (*Singing in the shower is fun.*)
- An infinitive phrase starts with an infinitive (the word *to* + the basic form of a verb). Infinitive phrases can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs in a sentence. (*The parents want to see the new playground.*)
- A participial phrase starts with the present participle form of a verb (*skipping, trying*) or the past participle form (*worried, thrown*). Participial phrases always function as adjectives. (*Balancing on its hind legs, the dog walked across the room.*)

While gerund phrases do not require commas, some **verbal phrases** do require them. For example, an infinitive phrase needs a comma only when it functions as an adverb at the beginning of a sentence. *To get the female bird's attention, the male bird puffed out its chest.* Participial phrases may or may not need commas:

- A participial phrase needs a comma when it starts a sentence. *Running toward the door, I tripped on my shoelace.*
- When a participial phrase appears in the middle of a sentence and supplies extra information, commas are needed. *The church, constructed in the Middle Ages, is a popular place to visit.* If the participial phrase provides information important to the meaning of the sentence, you do not need commas. *The team earning the highest score will win the tournament.*
- You typically do not need a comma when the phrase comes at the end of the sentence. *I saw Alex talking to his sister.*

Here are some tips for working with **verbal phrases**:

- Gerunds and some participles both end in *-ing*. You can tell the difference because gerund phrases always function as nouns, and participial phrases always function as adjectives.
- It can be challenging determining the part of speech of some infinitive phrases. It may help you to determine what question the phrase answers. Who? or What? = noun. Which type? = adjective. When?, Where?, Why?, or How? = adverb.
- Be aware that although the past participle of most verbs ends in *-ed*, the ending may differ for irregular verbs. Words like *built, drawn, eaten, known, and sung* could begin a participial phrase.
- A verbal phrase may also include prepositional phrases. *Standing at the top of the steps, my sister shouted to us.* The underlined participial phrase also includes two prepositional phrases -- "at the top" and "of the steps."

Use the "Verbal Phrases" sheet to practice recognizing and labeling **verbal phrases**. Ask your parent which option you should complete.

Option 1

Use the "Verbal Phrases" (Option 1) sheet to practice labeling verbal phrases.

Option 2

Use the "Verbal Phrases" (Option 2) sheet to practice labeling verbal phrases.

Wrapping Up

Although Kino owns the pearl, it never empowers him. He is still controlled by the subjugation his people have faced for generations. It keeps him from being able to be paid fairly for the pearl and will also keep him from having a fair trial. In his quest to keep the pearl, Kino loses everything that is dear to him. His life will never be the same and no wealth can bring back the life of his son, Coyotito.

Verbal Phrases

Part I

Directions: Underline the verbal phrases in the following three sentences and then identify each one as a gerund phrase, infinitive phrase, or participial phrase.

1. Juana, considering the matter, threw caution to the winds.

Type of phrase: _____

2. The poison sacs of the town began to manufacture venom.

Type of phrase: _____

3. Juana carried Coyotito on her back, covered and held in by her head shawl.

Type of phrase: _____

Part II

Directions: For the next two sentences, label how each underlined phrase functions in the sentence, either by placing laminated grammar symbols over the phrase or using colored pencils to draw the appropriate symbol (noun = large dark blue triangle, adjective = smaller green triangle, adverb = orange circle).

4. The neighbors, watching Kino's door through the crevices in their brush

houses, were dressed and ready too.

5. He kept these agents in separate offices to give a semblance of competition.

Part III

Directions: For this section you will write two sentences of your own. Try to write sentences that relate to the book. Your first sentence should contain a participial phrase and your second sentence an infinitive phrase. Underline each phrase and tell how it functions in the sentence (as noun, adjective, or adverb).

6. _____

7. _____

Verbal Phrases

Part I

Directions: Underline the verbal phrases in each of the following sentences. Label how each phrase functions in the sentence, either by placing laminated grammar symbols over the phrase or using colored pencils to draw the appropriate symbol (noun = large dark blue triangle, adjective = smaller green triangle, adverb = orange circle).

1. Juana, considering the matter, threw caution to the winds.
2. To determine to go and to say it was to be halfway there.
3. The neighbors, watching Kino's door through the crevices in their brush houses, were dressed and ready too.
4. But the evil was all about, hidden behind the brush fence, crouched beside the house in the shadow, hovering in the air.
5. Juana carried Coyotito on her back, covered and held in by her head shawl.
6. One end of the shawl came across Juana's nose to protect her from the evil night air.

Part II

Directions: For this section, do ONE of the following (in your journal or on the back of this page): either find two sentences in Chapter 6 of *The Pearl* that contain verbal phrases or write a few sentences of your own about what happened in the chapter, being sure that you include three verbal phrases.

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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?
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Things to Know

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⦿ Skills

- Identify, use, and understand the function of infinitives and participles. (LA)
- Identify, use, and understand the function of adverbial and adjectival phrases in the context of reading, writing, and speaking. (LA)
- Recognize and use commas after introductory words and phrases. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

Ask your child to predict whether or not Kino will be caught. Discuss whether or not Kino has any other options. Ask your child what fate might await Kino if he doesn't run and what his fate might be if he does run away with the pearl and his family.

Reading and Questions

1. At the end of the previous chapter, Kino says, "The pearl has become my soul...if I give it up I shall lose my soul." Does Kino lose his soul because he gives up the pearl? Explain.

No, Kino loses his family and his life is torn apart because he so desires to keep the pearl. He would have been better off to give up the pearl. At the end of the book, he gives up the pearl to show he is defeated and no wealth on Earth can ever bring back his happiness.

2. How does the setting of the story keep the action of the story going?

The rocks, paths, and caves make it challenging for Kino and Juana to escape their pursuers and create an environment of suspense.

3. Why do you think Kino and Juana return to the village? Why don't they keep running?

Answers will vary.

4. Kino's quest for wealth and opportunity leads to the destruction of his family. Can you think of examples in history where the quest for wealth and power has led to death and destruction?

Answers will vary.

Activities

Activity 1: Verbal Phrases

This section covered the three types of verbal phrases. There are two options for this activity. Option 1 is more basic, and Option 2 is more advanced. Tell your child which option she should complete.

Option 1

Answer Key

Part I: Your child should have underlined each phrase and identified the phrase type.

1. Juana, considering the matter, threw caution to the winds. (participial phrase)
2. The poison sacs of the town began to manufacture venom. (infinitive phrase)
3. Juana carried Coyotito on her back, covered and held in by her head shawl. (participial phrase)

Part II: Your child should have labeled how each underlined phrase functioned in the sentence, either using the laminated grammar symbols or drawing the symbols with colored pencils.

4. adjective (smaller blue triangle)
5. adverb (orange circle) [it is an adverb because it answers the question "Why?"]

Part III: Your child wrote his own sentences and labeled how the phrases functioned in the sentence.

7. Sentence contains a gerund phrase. Should be labeled as a noun (large black triangle).
8. Sentence contains a participial phrase. Should be labeled as an adjective (smaller blue triangle).
9. Sentence contains an infinitive phrase. May be labeled as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

Option 2

Answer Key

Your child should have underlined the verbal phrases and marked how they function in the sentence (noun = large dark blue triangle, adjective = smaller green triangle, adverb = orange circle).

1. Juana, considering the matter [adjective], threw caution to the winds.
2. To determine to go and to say it [noun] was to be halfway there. (Your child may have labeled the phrase as three individual phrases: "to determine" & "to go" & "to say it")
3. The neighbors, watching Kino's door through the crevices in their brush houses [adjective], were dressed and ready too.
4. But the evil was all about, hidden behind the brush fence [adjective], crouched beside the house in the shadow [adjective], hovering in the air [adjective].
5. Juana carried Coyotito on her back, covered and held in by her shawl. [adjective] (Note that the phrase modifies "Coyotito." Also, your child may have labeled "covered" & "held in by her shawl" separately.)
6. One end of the shawl came across Juana's nose to protect her from the evil night air [adverb].

For Part II, your child should have written sentences that contain verbal phrases or located sentences in Chapter 6 that contain verbal phrases. Check the sentences to make sure that they contain verbal phrases.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- Do you think Kino and Juana should have thrown the pearl back into the ocean? Why or why not?
- What does the pearl symbolize at the end of the story? Explain. (Answers might include loss, regret, tragedy, etc.)
- How would you describe Juana and Kino at the end of the story? (Answers might include regretful, in pain, mournful, grief-filled, resigned, defeated.)
- What do you think the moral of this parable is? (Answers might include being content with what you have been given, that greed leads to evil, that happiness is not found in material possessions, or that family is more important than wealth.)

Things to Review

Ask your child to explain what a verbal phrase is and to provide an example of each type — gerund, infinitive, and participial.