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***The Pearl***  
BY JOHN STEINBECK



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All references come from the Penguin Books edition of *The Pearl*, published first in 1945.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Reading

### Research and Oral Presentation

**Objective:** Understanding the roots of the storytelling tradition

#### Activity

The art of storytelling has historically taken many forms. Only recently, in fact, has storytelling taken a written form. In most cultures, storytelling began as an oral tradition. Homer's epics, the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, for example, were passed down by word of mouth, as were many other legends and tales. In *The Sea of Cortez*, Steinbeck relates the story of how he was inspired to write *The Pearl*, which was essentially hearing and becoming captivated by the tale of a great pearl and a foolish young man.

Research oral storytelling traditions from different cultures, such as Native American, ancient Greek, French, Anglo-Saxon, Appalachian, and Mexican. Find one popular tale from a culture and recite it to the class. Use storytelling techniques appropriate for your chosen culture, for instance, sweeping gestures, musical accompaniment, or strong verbal expression.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 1

### Characterization

**Objective:** Using information from a literary work to evaluate characters

#### Activity

The reader learns a great deal about the main characters in the first chapter of *The Pearl* in both direct and indirect ways.

Using the chart below, examine the passages indicated for each character and paraphrase or explain the information narrated in each. You may also refer to the novel for additional contextual information. In the final column, write what each passage reveals about the character. An example is provided. After evaluating the passages provided, find your own passage to explain.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 2**

**Review Questions**

**Objectives:**    Comprehending and interpreting a work of literature  
                         Finding factual or inferential textual evidence

**Activity**

Use the text to find the sentence or sentences that answer each question. Explain the link in your own words as well. An example has been done for you. If you can infer information beyond the words, explain the inferences.

1. What is special about a boat?

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2. What remedy for the scorpion bite does Juana attempt?

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3. What is Juana's prayer, and what does this reveal about her?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 1 – 6****Journal Writing and Characterization****Objective:** Identifying with a character**Activity**

There may be things that you believe Kino or Juana should have done differently. Sometimes it is easier, in hindsight, to recognize the “right” path.

Look back through the novel and jot down events that are key in shaping the way that things turn out for Kino and Juana. Choose either Kino or Juana’s perspective and write a series of diary entries that chronicle your character’s decisions and regrets throughout the novel. These entries should reflect events that are significant to your character, and his or her thoughts, feelings, and impressions. Also include justifications for choices made and questions or issues that he or she may have. Diary entries should be in the order that events occur in the novel. Use the following chart to help you outline your diary entries.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Wrap-Up

### Symbolism

**Objective:** Analyzing the use of symbolism to evoke emotion

#### Activity

Steinbeck makes use of several symbols in *The Pearl*. A symbol is the use of a concrete thing, such as an object or a character, to represent an abstract idea. An example might be the American flag as a concrete representation of the abstract ideas of freedom and patriotism.

Although you may find others, commonly recognized symbols in *The Pearl* are the pearl, the scorpion, and Kino's canoe.

Using your text, trace the symbol's development throughout the novel in order to come to understand what it represents. Look for instances where the symbol appears, and write down the context of its appearance. Then, write down your group's theories for what each appearance might mean. One example is provided.