**The Pearl by John Steinbeck – Test essay questions**

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1. Describe Kino and Juana's life before and after the discovery of the pearl. What did they value? What goals were important to them? What were their dreams?
2. Kino and Juana live on a primitive level in their lives and their religion, yet they both want a church wedding and a christening for Coyotito. How are these values consistent with their lives? How are they contradictory?
3. Analyze the character of the doctor, the priest, and the pearl merchants. How are they victims of greediness? How do their actions show their greediness? Explain how they treat Kino and Juana before and after the discovery of the pearl. What judgments can be concluded regarding the fields of medicine, religion and business?
4. How does greed affect Kino, Juana, and the villagers and townspeople?
5. What does the pearl represent/symbolize in *The Pearl*?
6. How does the meaning of the pearl change during the course of the novel?
7. How do the characters view this pearl in the beginning and end of the novel?
8. Kino believes that it would be better to kill a person than to kill a canoe because a canoe has no relatives to revenge it. What types of values does Kino have to make such a statement?
9. What are the songs that Kino hears during the novel? What do each represent? At what point does he hear them?
10. What events are foreshadowed in the book?
11. Who was responsible for Coyotito’s death? Why?
12. What was Steinbeck’s purpose for mentioning “The Songs”?
13. Why is John Steinbeck’s purpose for including the “haves” and “have-nots” (Kino- lower class, priest-middle class, doctor-upper class) in the story?