

# **Student Essay**

## **The Pearl by John Steinbeck**

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# The Pearl

Title: The Pearl

Author: John Steinbeck

Publisher: Penguin Group, New York, 1992

Settings: A little town in Mexico

Major Characters: Kino, Juana, and Coyotito

Summary: Kino, Juana, and their infant son, Coyotito, live in a modest brush house by the sea. One morning, disaster strikes when a scorpion stings Coyotito. Hoping to protect their son, Kino and Juana rush him to the doctor in town. When they arrive at the doctor's gate, they are turned away because they are poor natives who cannot pay enough. Later that same morning, Kino and Juana take their family canoe to the sea and dived for pearls. Kino went up to the surface and found the biggest pearl of them all. Everyone found out and celebrated at Kino's house. In the middle of the night, Kino, Juana, and Coyotito went out to run away from vandals because they wanted the pearl. So they went to the shore and found out their canoe was destroyed. So Kino, Juana and Coyotito went back to their village and hid in their Kino's brothers house. At nightfall they walked up north until sunrise. They slept most of the day but Kino found out three trackers were following them. Kino decides they must hike up the mountain quickly. Kino, Juana, and Coyotito hid in a cave and think of a way to escape down from the mountain. When the trackers wet at camp and fell asleep, Kino makes his move. Just as Kino was preparing for an attack, Coyotito let out a cry and woke up one of the sleepers and shot at the direction of the cry. The next day, Kino and Juana walked back to their village and on the way, Kino threw the pearl back into the sea.

Reaction: I enjoyed this book because it tells the good, bad, and evil things. I also like this book because it is a classic and it discovers the secrets of a man's nature and the darkest depths of evil. John Steinbeck wrote this book because it has a moral. The moral of the story is sometimes people get carried away with possessions.