

# The Pearl

John Steinbeck

American English  
Classic

Kino finds a large pearl, which he thinks will save his family from poverty. But the pearl is what they think they want instead of what they need. The misfortune it brings changes the life of the family forever.

Number of words (excluding activities): 13,824

Series Editors: Jocelyn Potter and Andy Hopkins

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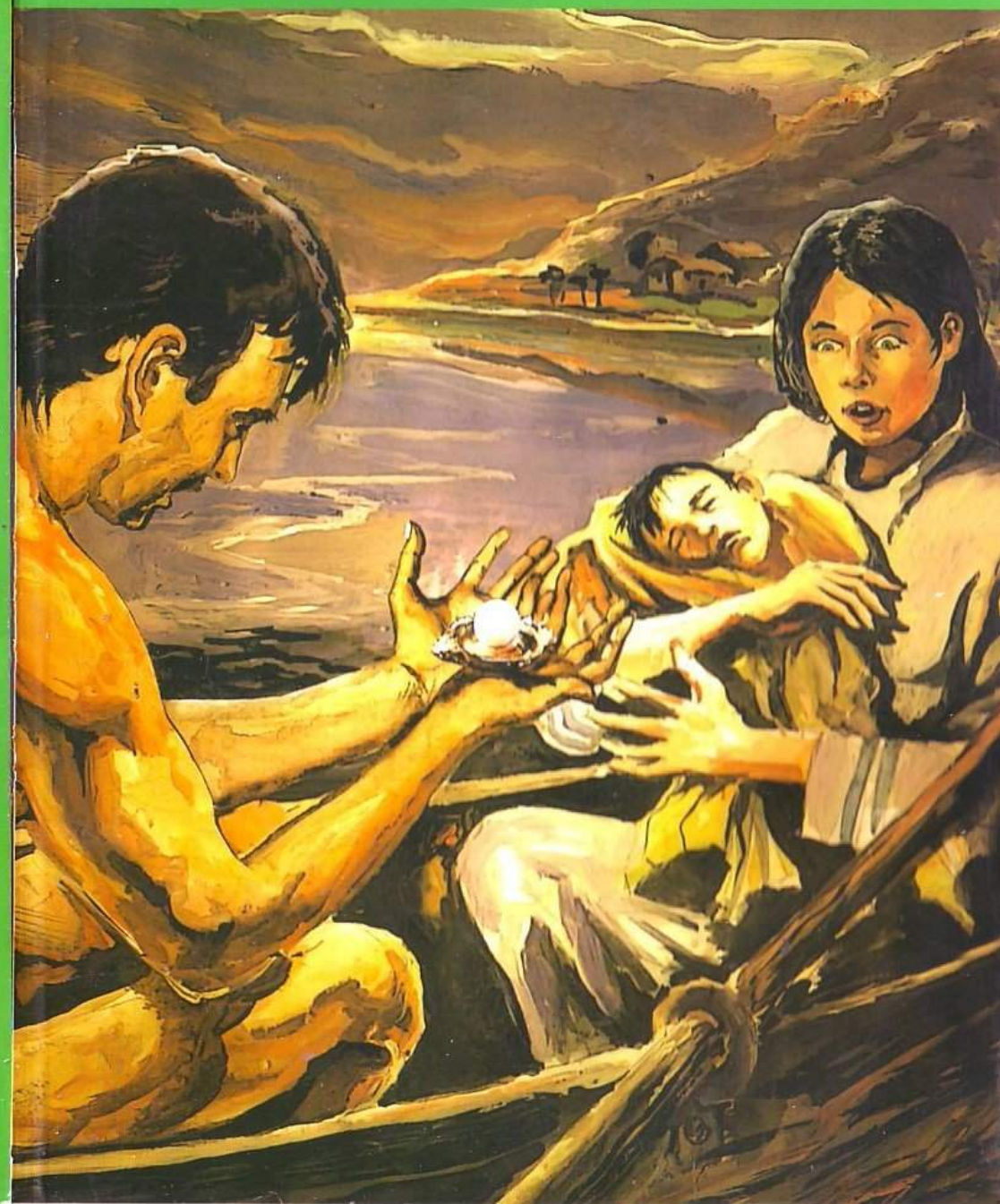
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Level 3  
1200 headwords  
Pre-Intermediate

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John Steinbeck



ISBN 978-1-4058-5213-5



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Level 3

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Retold by Gregory McElwain

Series Editors: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter



Pearson Education Limited  
Edinburgh Gate, Harlow,  
Essex CM20 2JE, England  
and Associated Companies throughout the world.

Pack ISBN: 978-1-4058-5213-5  
Book ISBN: 978-1-4058-5069-8  
CD-ROM ISBN: 978-1-4058-5070-4

First published in the UK by William Heinemann Ltd 1948  
First published by Penguin Books 2001  
This edition published 2007

3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4

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Illustrations by Carlos Ariel Barocelli

Set in 11/13pt A. Garamond  
Printed in China  
SWTC/03

Produced for the Publishers by AC Estudio Editorial S.L.

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## 1.1 What's the book about?

1 Look at the cover of the book and talk about the picture. What do you think?

a Where does this family live?

b How do they earn money to live?

c Will the pearl be important to them?

2 The words in these sentences are used in Chapter 1. Check the meanings of new words at the bottom of pages 1–7. Then draw lines to complete the sentences.

<p>A scorpion</p> <p>A big pearl</p> <p>A fisherman</p> <p>A bite</p> <p>The baby's box</p>	<p>hangs from the roof of the house on a long</p> <p>from a scorpion is full of</p> <p>is a small and dangerous</p> <p>earns his money from the</p> <p>costs a lot of</p>	<p>ocean.</p> <p>money.</p> <p>poison.</p> <p>rope.</p> <p>animal.</p>
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3 Discuss these questions.

- a You wake up in a beach house one morning. There is a scorpion on the bed. What will you do?
- b What is the most dangerous wild animal where you live?
- c Has an animal ever bitten you? Did it hurt?

## 1.2 What happens first?

Look at page 1 opposite. Read the words in *italics> and look at the picture. What will happen, do you think? Check (✓) the best answers.*

- 1 The scorpion will fall
- a ☐ onto the floor.                      b ☐ onto the baby.
- 2 The parents will kill the scorpion
- a ☐ before it bites the baby.              b ☐ after it bites the baby.
- 3 A doctor from the rich part of town
- a ☐ will help the baby.                      b ☐ will refuse to help the baby.

## The Scorpion Bite

*It was a small movement, but it caught their eyes.  
A scorpion was moving slowly down the rope toward the baby's box.*

It was not yet light when Kino woke up. The stars still shone, though the eastern sky was pale with the promise of the day. Lying in his bed on the floor of his small wooden house, Kino listened to the singing of the birds and the sounds of the chickens and the early pigs outside.

Kino's eyes opened. He looked first at the empty square which was the door. Then he looked at the hanging box where Coyotito slept. And last he turned his head to Juana, his wife. Juana's eyes were open, too, and she was looking back at Kino.

Kino heard the sound of the ocean. It was very good—Kino closed his eyes again and listened to his music. His people loved music and, in the past, everything in life became a song. This now was a song of **fishermen** and **pearlers**. Kino, like his neighbors, lived from the ocean.



**fisherman** /'fɪʃmənmən/ (n) a man who catches fish for money or food  
**pearl** /pɜːl/ (n) a small, white, round thing from a sea animal; many women like to wear *pearls* around their necks



Juana stood up quietly and walked to Coyotito's hanging box. She spoke soft words of love to her baby boy and then went to build the fire. Now Kino got up and put on his shoes. He went outside to watch the morning come. It was cold, but he was young and strong. His black hair hung down over his brown face, almost to his warm bright eyes. His mustache was thin and rough. Behind him, Juana's fire was burning strongly and she was preparing food. There were no new songs in the town these days, but there were personal songs. In Kino's head now, the Song of the Family was playing.

The sun climbed quickly, painting the sky blue and gold above the ocean. Kino had to cover his eyes against the brightness of it. He could smell the **corn**-cakes cooking. It was a morning like other mornings, but it was the most perfect of them all.

Kino heard Juana take Coyotito out of his hanging box and clean him. She sang softly to her baby, and this was part of the family song. It was all part of it. He felt warm inside, and safe, and complete.

Smoke was coming from other houses too, and the sounds of breakfast. But those were other songs, their pigs were other pigs, their wives were not Juana. Kino watched two chickens fight. Then his eyes went up to a group of birds flying over the town. The world was awake now, and he went inside.

Juana stood up from the fire, put Coyotito back into his hanging box, and tied her long black hair. Kino sat by the fire and ate his corn-cake, and that was breakfast. When he finished, Juana sat down. She ate. They did not speak, because there was no need for speech.

The sun was warming their little home. Light shone in on Coyotito's box, and on the **ropes** that held it.

A rope moved suddenly. It was a small movement, but it caught their eyes. A **scorpion** was moving slowly down the rope toward the baby's box.

A new song came into Kino's mind—the Song of **Evil**, the music of the enemy. Juana was **praying** softly, hoping for protection from this evil. Kino stood up silently and walked without a sound toward the box. His hands were in front of him, and his eyes were on the scorpion. Below it, in the hanging box, Coyotito laughed and reached up his hand toward it. The scorpion stopped and lifted its tail over its back.

**corn** /kɔːn/ (n) long, yellow vegetables that come from a tall plant

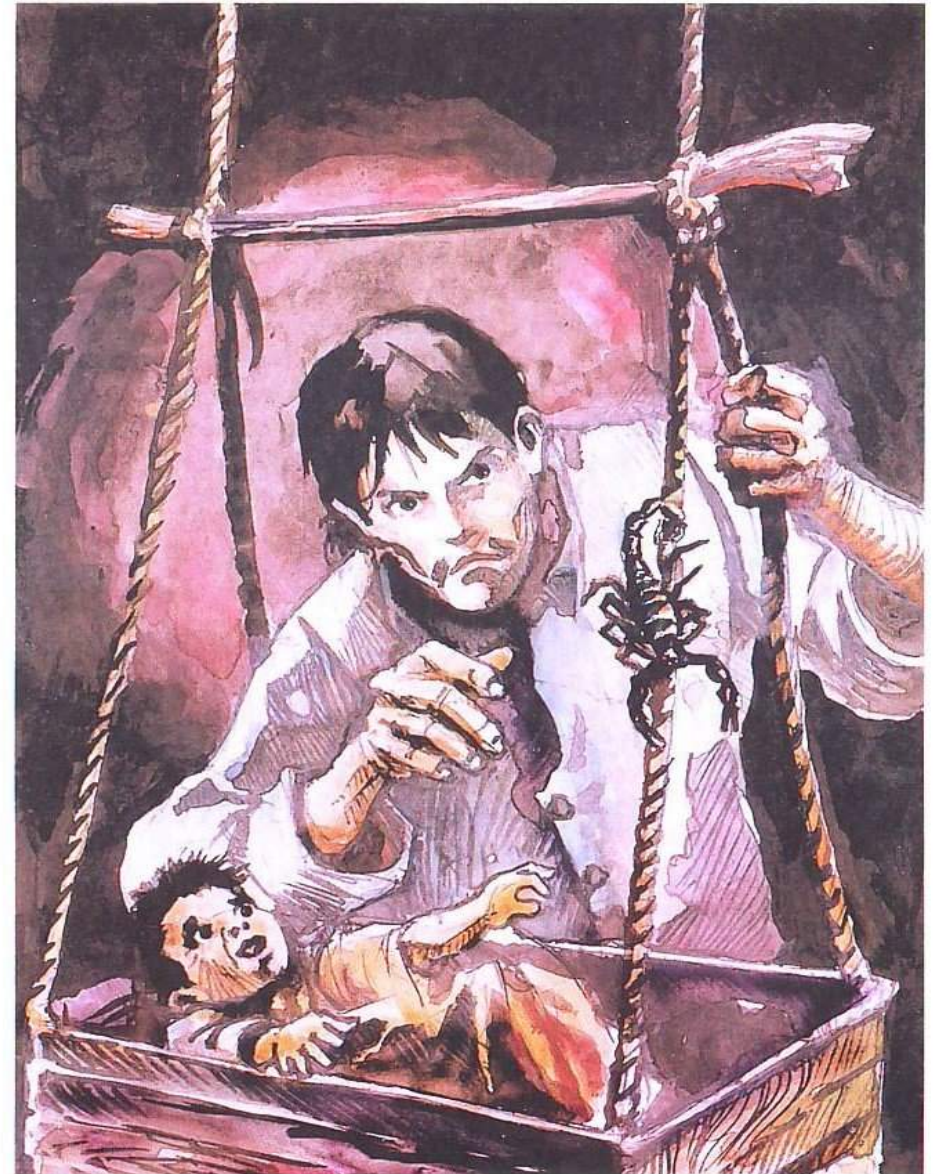
**rope** /roup/ (n) a very strong, thick, long material, used for tying things

**scorpion** /ˈskɔːpiən/ (n) a small animal from a hot country with a long, pointed, dangerous tail

**evil** /ˈiːvl/ (n/adj) something very bad and dangerous

**pray** /preɪ/ (v) to speak to a god; for example, to say thank you

Kino stopped, too. He could not move until the scorpion moved. It had to know where death was coming from. His hand reached slowly toward the animal.





Its tail stood suddenly straight up. Then the laughing Coyotito shook the rope, and the scorpion fell.

Kino tried to catch it, but it fell past his fingers, fell on the baby's shoulder, landed, and bit. Then Kino had it in his fingers, threw it down, and killed it with his foot. The Song of the Enemy was in his ears, and Coyotito screamed with pain.

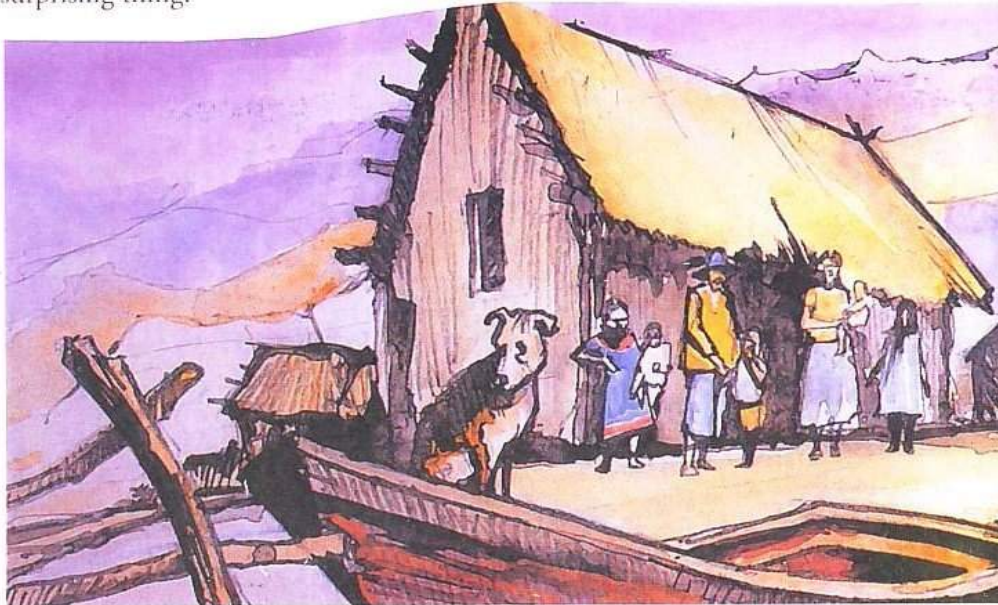
But Juana had the baby in her arms now. She found the bite—it was already red—and she put her mouth down to it. She tried to get the **poison** out, as Coyotito screamed.

Kino stood near his wife and son. He could do nothing, he was in the way.

The screams of the baby brought the neighbors. Kino's brother Juan Tomás and his fat wife Apolonia and their four children crowded in the door, while others behind them tried to look in. And the people in front passed the news back to the people behind: "Scorpion. The baby was bitten by a scorpion."

Juana lifted her mouth from the bite. The little hole was larger now, and the place around it was red and hard. And all of these people knew about scorpions. Their bites made adults very sick, but babies died from their poison.

Juana was a quiet, patient woman who did not cry with the pain of childbirth. When she was tired and hungry, she said nothing. But now she did a surprising thing.



**poison** /'pɔɪzən/ (n) something dangerous that can kill people; there are *poisons*, for example, in some plants and in the bites of some animals

"The doctor," she said. "Go get the doctor."

The word was passed out to the neighbors in the little yard. And they repeated "Juana wants the doctor." But the doctor never came to this area of little houses. He spent all his time with the rich people in their large stone houses.

"He will not come," the people in the yard said.

"The doctor will not come," Kino said to Juana.

She looked up at him and said, "Then we will go to him."

Holding her crying baby close to her, Juana moved through the crowd. Kino followed her. They went out of the gate and onto the path, and all their neighbors followed them.

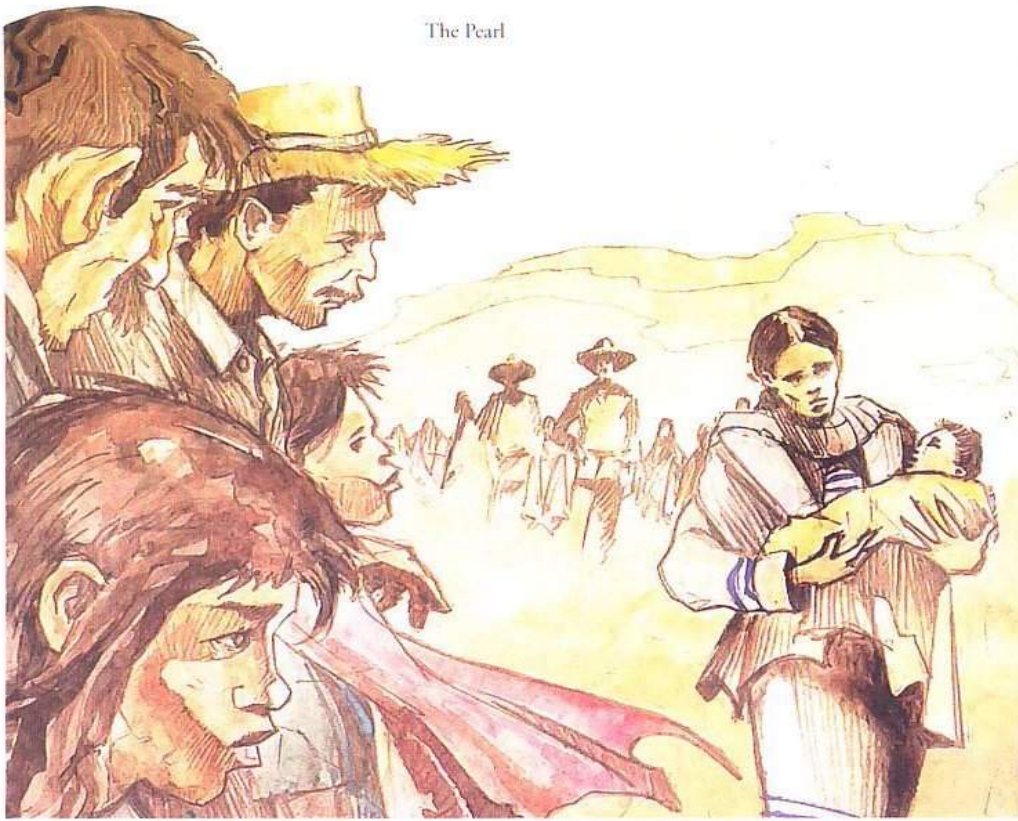
They came to the place where the little houses stopped. Now the town of stone began, a town of high walls and beautiful flowers inside. The crowd moved past the church, and the **beggars** joined the group. They could see that Juana and Kino were poor. They knew about the doctor and they wanted to watch. A fat, lazy doctor does not usually help a poor man's baby with a scorpion bite.

The crowd came at last to the big gate in the wall of the doctor's house. They could hear running water and singing birds behind the gate, and they could smell rich foods from the house.



**beggar** /'bɛɡə/ (n) someone who asks other people for food and money





Kino waited before he knocked. The doctor was not one of his people—he did not have Indian blood. The doctor's people came to Mexico from Spain 400 years earlier, and they hit and robbed and laughed at Kino's people. They spoke to them as they spoke to animals.

Kino felt weak and afraid and angry at the same time, but Coyotito was in pain. So Kino lifted his right hand and knocked on the gate, and with his left hand he took off his hat.

The big gate opened, and the **servant** there was dark, like him. Kino spoke to him in the old language, about the baby and the scorpion, and asked to see the doctor.

The servant replied in Spanish, and then he closed the gate. Kino and Juana and all their neighbors waited in the sun.

The doctor was sitting up in his high bed. He was drinking chocolate and eating cookies. The servant came to his door, and stood silently, and waited.

"Yes?" the doctor finally asked.

"It is a little Indian with a baby. The baby was bitten by a scorpion."



"Has he any money?" the doctor asked. "No, they never have any money! I do not work for nothing. Ask him if he has any money!"

The servant returned to the gate and opened it a little. And this time he spoke in the old language.

"Do you have any money?" he asked Kino.

Kino reached into his pocket and brought out a small piece of paper. He opened it and showed the man eight small, ugly shapeless gray pearls. The servant took them and closed the gate again, but this time he came back quickly. He opened the gate and passed the paper back.

"The doctor is busy," he said, and he could not look at Kino. And then he shut the gate.

The crowd behind Kino and Juana slowly moved away. The beggars returned to their place on the church steps, and the neighbors to their small wooden houses.

For a long time, Kino and Juana stood in front of the gate. Slowly Kino put his hat back on his head. Then suddenly, he hit the gate very hard. He looked down at the blood that ran between his fingers.



## 2.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 1.2 on page iv. Then put the sentences below in the right order.

- ☐ The baby laughs at the scorpion.
- ☐ The baby shakes the rope.
- ☐ The doctor refuses to help the parents.
- ☒ The parents see the scorpion.
- ☐ The parents go to see the doctor.
- ☐ The scorpion falls on the baby and bites him.
- ☐ The scorpion sees Kino.

## 2.2 What more did you learn?

Kino is Mexican Indian and lives by the ocean. The doctor is Spanish Mexican and lives in the town. Match the words with their pictures.



speaks Spanish  
doesn't speak Spanish  
has a large stone house  
eats corn-cakes for breakfast  
eats hot chocolate and cookies for breakfast  
has a hard life  
is from a family that came to Mexico 400 years ago  
is fat and lazy  
is young and poor  
has a wife and a son



## 2.3 Language in use

Look at the sentence on the right. Then write *who*, *what* or *where* in the sentences below.

He looked at the box **where** Coyotito slept.

- The baby's shoulder was red where the scorpion bit it.
- Juana was a quiet woman ..... did not cry with pain.
- They left their area and came to the houses ..... were made of stone.
- Kino spoke to the servant ..... opened the gate.
- He looked at the blood ..... ran between his fingers.

## 2.4 What's next?

What do you think will happen next? Look at the words in *italics* on page 10 and at the pictures in Chapter 2. Circle *will* or *won't* in these sentences.

- When Kino finds a big pearl, he *will/won't* become rich.
- Kino and Juana *will/won't* think about changing their lives.
- The baby *will/won't* die.
- The news *will/won't* travel through the town very quickly.
- Everyone *will/won't* become Kino and Juana's enemy.

What other things will happen? Write another idea here.

.....

.....

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## Kino Finds the Great Pearl

*It caught the light and shone like silver.  
It was as large as the egg of a sea bird.*

The town was on a yellow-sand beach. Beautiful wooden **canoes** lay across the beach, painted blue and white.

Early in the morning, Kino and Juana came slowly down the beach to Kino's canoe. It was the only thing **worth** money that Kino owned. It was very old. Kino's grandfather bought it, and then he gave it to Kino's father. And Kino's father gave it to Kino. The canoes were very important to the fishermen. A man with a boat can be sure of pearls to sell, and food.

Juana put Coyotito in the canoe. He was quiet, but his shoulder and face were still red. Juana went to the water and walked in. She picked some plants from the **sea** and placed them on the baby's red shoulder. This was her people's usual way with scorpion bites, and it was probably as good as the doctor's medicine. But the plants were simple and did not cost anything. Juana prayed for a pearl to pay the doctor.

Now Kino and Juana pushed the canoe down the beach to the water. Juana climbed in. Kino pushed it into deeper water and then got in, too. The other pearlers were already at work. Kino could see them. Their canoes were far out in the sea, above the **oyster** bed.

A pearl begins as one piece of sand. If the sand is caught in an oyster, it will, in time, change into a pearl. Some pearls are small and worth little money, but a few are large and beautiful and white and expensive. For hundreds of years, men have searched the sea for pearls. But success is luck, a gift from **God**.

Kino had two ropes. One was tied to a heavy rock, the other to a bag. He took off his shirt and pants and put his hat in the bottom of the canoe. He took the rock in one hand and his bag in the other, then he jumped into the sea. The rock carried him to the bottom.

Kino moved slowly because he wanted the water to stay clear. But his hands worked quickly. He pulled the oysters from the ocean floor and put them into his bag.



**canoe** /kə'nu/ (n) a long, light, narrow boat that is pointed at both ends

**worth** /wɜ:θ/ (adj) what you can get for something if you sell it

**sea** /si/ (n) a large area of salt water

**oyster** /'ɔɪstə/ (n) a flat sea animal found on rocks in warm oceans

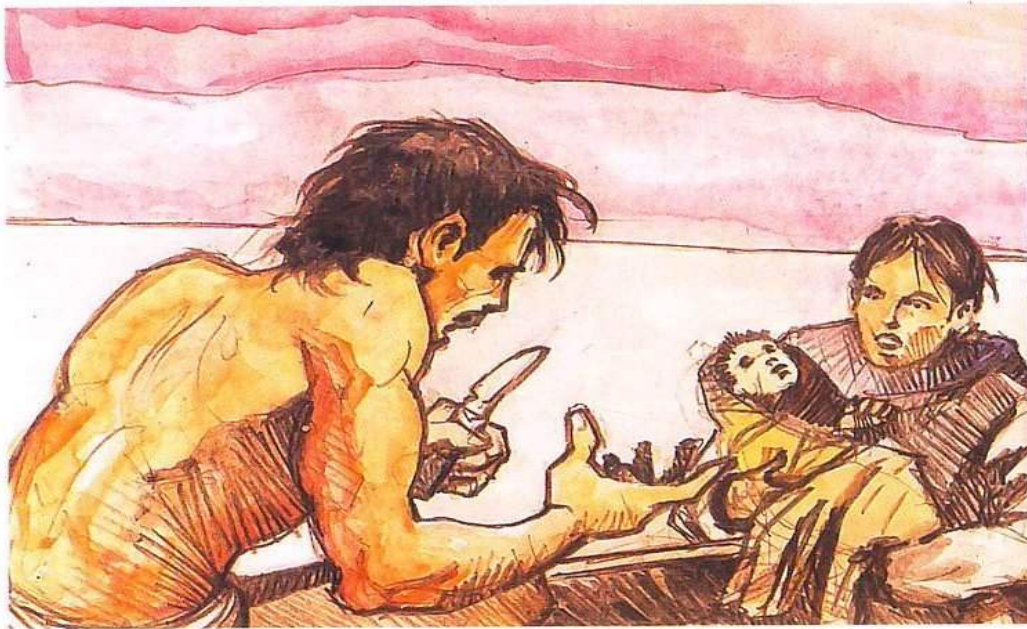
**god** /gɒd/ (n) the maker of the world and everything in it; religious people believe in one or more gods



Kino's people sang of everything that existed. They made songs to the fishes. They made songs to the angry sea and to the calm sea. They made songs to the light and the dark and the sun and the moon. The songs were all in Kino and in his people—every song that was ever made, even the forgotten ones. And as he filled his bag, the song was in Kino. But in the song was a secret little song. This was the Song of Hope. Were there pearls inside the oysters? Kino knew that, in the canoe above him, Juana was praying for luck. She needed the luck for the bite on the shoulder of Coyotito. And because the need was great, the secret little Song of Hope was strong this morning.

Because Kino was young and strong, he could stay down over two minutes. He worked carefully, choosing the largest oysters. A little to his right, he saw a very large oyster lying alone. It was partly open, and Kino saw something shine inside. Then the oyster suddenly closed. Kino took the oyster and held it close to his chest. Then he swam up to the canoe. He reached the boat, and his black hair shone in the sunlight.

He threw his bag into the canoe and climbed in. His eyes were shining with excitement. Juana understood this excitement and she looked away. It is not good to want a thing too much. It sometimes drives the luck away. You must want it just enough, and you must be very polite to God or the gods.



Very carefully, Kino opened his short, strong knife. He looked at the bag. Maybe he should open the large oyster last. He took a small oyster from the bag and cut it open. There was nothing inside, so he threw it back into the water. Then he seemed to see the great oyster for the first time. He sat in the bottom of the canoe, picked up the oyster, and looked carefully at it. He was afraid to open it.

But Juana's eyes were on him and she could not wait. She put her hand on Coyotito's head. "Open it," she said softly. Kino put his knife into the oyster. He opened it. And there it lay, the great pearl, perfect as the moon. It caught the light and shone like silver. It was as large as the egg of a sea bird. It was the greatest pearl in the world.

Juana was surprised. And to Kino the secret Song of Hope grew loud and beautiful. He could see dreams in the beautiful silver-white pearl. He held it in his hand and turned it over. He saw that it was perfect. Juana came near to look at it in his hand. It was the hand that hit the doctor's gates.

Juana went to Coyotito and lifted the sea plant from his shoulder. "Kino!" she cried.

He looked past the pearl. He saw that the redness was going out of the baby's shoulder. The poison was leaving Coyotito's body. Kino closed his hand over the pearl and felt great happiness. He screamed loudly. The men in the other canoes looked up, surprised, and then raced their canoes toward Kino's boat.





## Plans for the Pearl

*Only one person, Kino, stood between them and their dreams, so, strangely, he became every man's enemy.*

A town is like an animal. A town has a head and shoulders and feet. No two towns are the same. And a town has feelings. It is a mystery how news travels through a town. News seems to move faster than small boys can tell it. It moves faster than women can call it to their neighbors.

Before Kino and Juana and the fishermen came to Kino's small wooden house, everyone in town already knew. Kino had the Pearl of the World. The news moved past the little houses into town, to the big stone houses. It came to the **priest** walking near the church. He thought of repairs that the church needed. He asked himself what the pearl was worth. He tried to remember if he married Kino and Juana. Did he know Kino's baby? The news came to the shopkeepers. They looked at men's clothes that they could not sell.

The news came to the doctor when he was sitting with an old woman patient. He asked who Kino was. And when he understood, the doctor grew serious. "His baby is my patient," the doctor said.

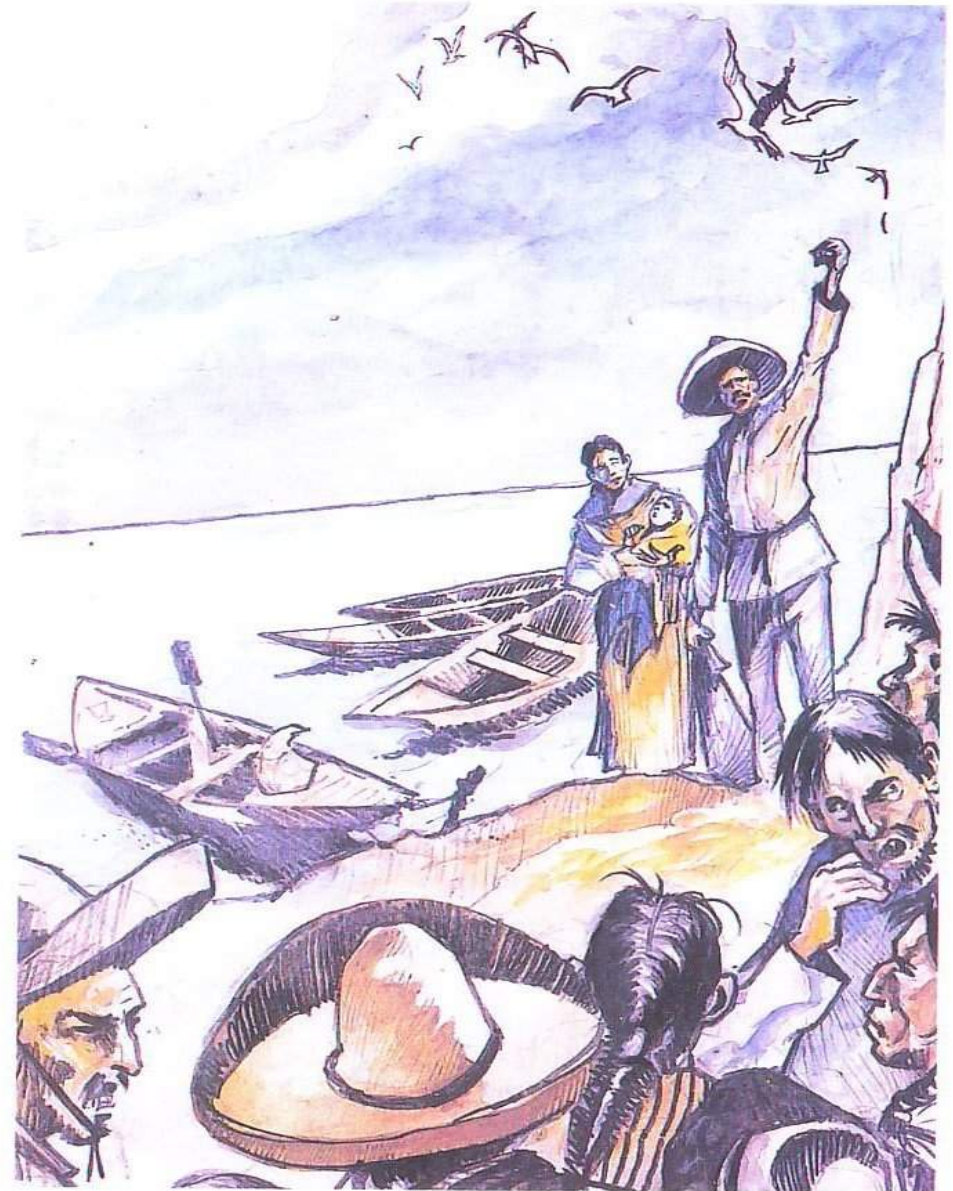
The news came early to the beggars in front of the church, and they laughed with happiness. A poor man is very kind to beggars when he is suddenly lucky.

Kino had the Pearl of the World. In the stone town, in little offices, sat the men who bought the pearls from the fishermen. They waited in their chairs until the pearls came in. And then they fought and shouted with the fishermen. They stopped only when the fishermen agreed to a low price. And when the buying ended, these buyers sat alone with the pearls. They dreamed they owned them. There were not really many buyers. There was only one greedy man, and he kept all his workers in different offices. So it only seemed that the fishermen could choose the buyer for their pearls.

The news of Kino's pearl came to these men. Each man thought about his future. Someone must one day take the place of their greedy boss. And all of them dreamed of the money from Kino's great pearl. "That money," each man hoped, "will help make me the new boss."

All kinds of people grew interested in Kino. Some were people with things to sell. Some were people who wanted help. Kino had the Pearl of the World. Kino's pearl went into the dreams and plans and needs of everyone. And only

one person, Kino, stood between them and their dreams, so, strangely, he became every man's enemy. The news brought up something black and evil in the town. This black thing was like a scorpion.



**priest** /prɪst/ (n) a man who works for the Church, usually the Catholic Church



But Kino and Juana did not know these things. They were happy and excited. They thought that everyone felt the same way. Juan Tomás and Apolonia did. In the afternoon, Kino sat in his house with Juana at his side. The house was crowded with neighbors. Kino held the great pearl in his hand, and it was warm and alive in his hand. And when the music of the pearl joined the music of the family, each song became more beautiful.

And Juan Tomás, sitting next to Kino, asked, "What will you do now? You have become a rich man."

Kino looked into his pearl. Juana covered her face so nobody could see her excitement. And in the shining pearl, pictures formed. In the pearl he saw Juana and Coyotito and himself standing in a church. Now they could pay. He spoke softly, "We will be married—in the church."

In the pearl he saw how they were dressed. Juana was in a new skirt. Under the long skirt, Kino could see that she wore shoes. He was dressed in new white clothes, and he carried a new black hat. He also wore new shoes. And Coyotito wore a blue suit from the United States and a little hat. All of these things Kino saw in the shiny pearl. "We will have new clothes," he said.

And the music of the pearl grew louder in his ears.

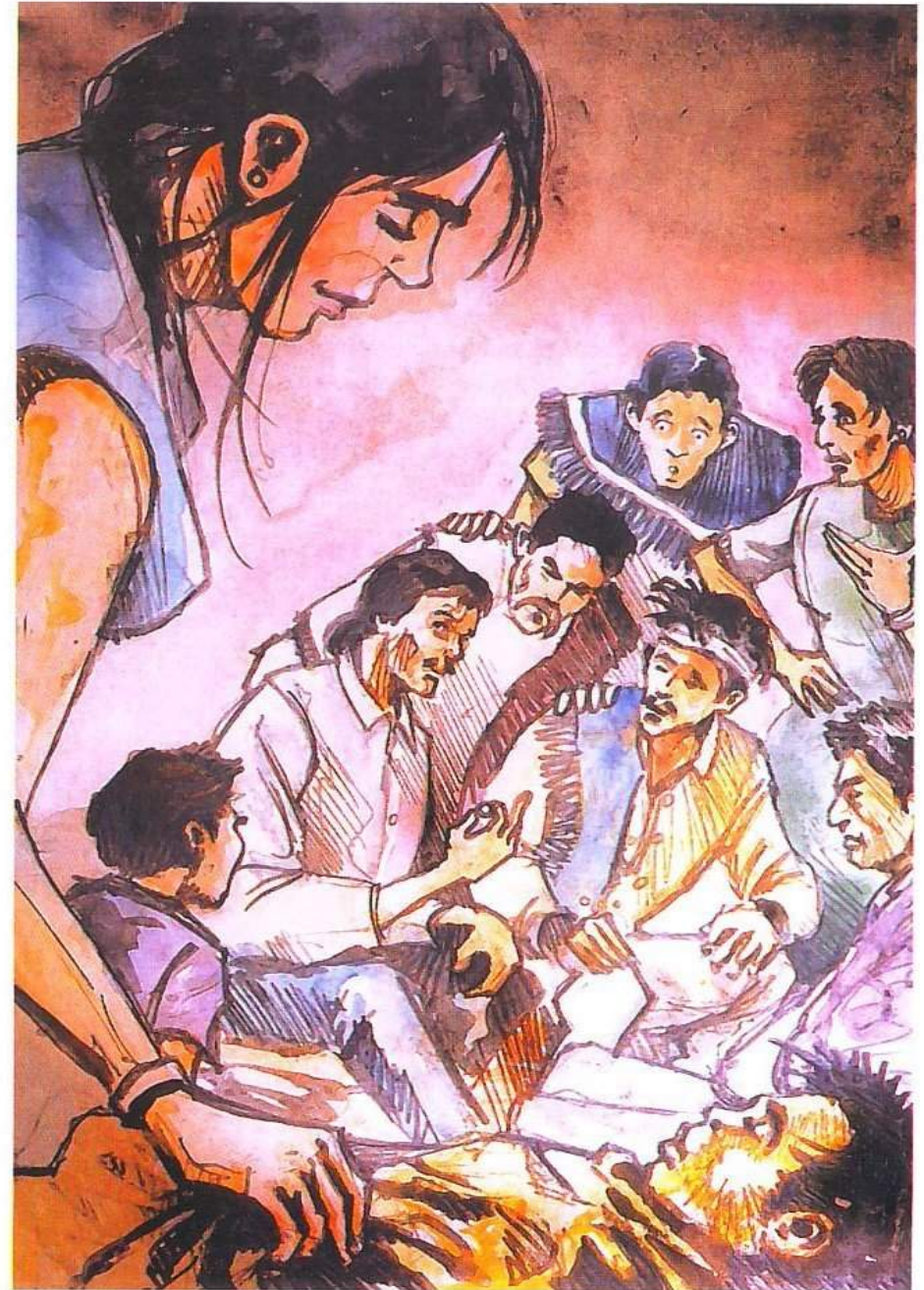
Then came the little things that Kino wanted. New fishing equipment. And—his mind could not believe it—a gun. Why not, if he was so rich? His mouth moved slowly over this. "A gun," he said, "maybe a gun."

It was the gun that suddenly brought larger dreams. People are never happy with what they have. If you give them one thing, they want something more. People say this is a bad thing. But it is one of the greatest things about people. It makes them better than animals. Animals are happy with what they have.

The neighbors listened silently to Kino. And a man in the back said, "A gun. He will have a gun."

But the music of the pearl was growing louder to Kino. Juana looked up. Her eyes were wide at Kino's bravery and imagination. And now everything was possible for him. In the pearl he saw Coyotito sitting at a little desk in school. And Coyotito was dressed in a jacket, and he wore a white shirt and wide tie. Coyotito was also writing on a big piece of paper. Kino looked seriously at his neighbors. "My son will go to school," he said. The neighbors were silent. Juana's eyes were bright as she watched him. She looked quickly down at Coyotito in her arms. Was this really possible?

But Kino's face shone. "My son will read and open the books, and my son will write and will know writing. And my son will make numbers, and these things will make us free. Because he will know—and through him we will know." And in the pearl Kino saw himself and Juana sitting by the little fire in their little





house. They watched Coyotito read from a great book. "This is what the pearl will do," Kino said. And suddenly he was afraid of his talking. His hand closed over the pearl. Kino was afraid.

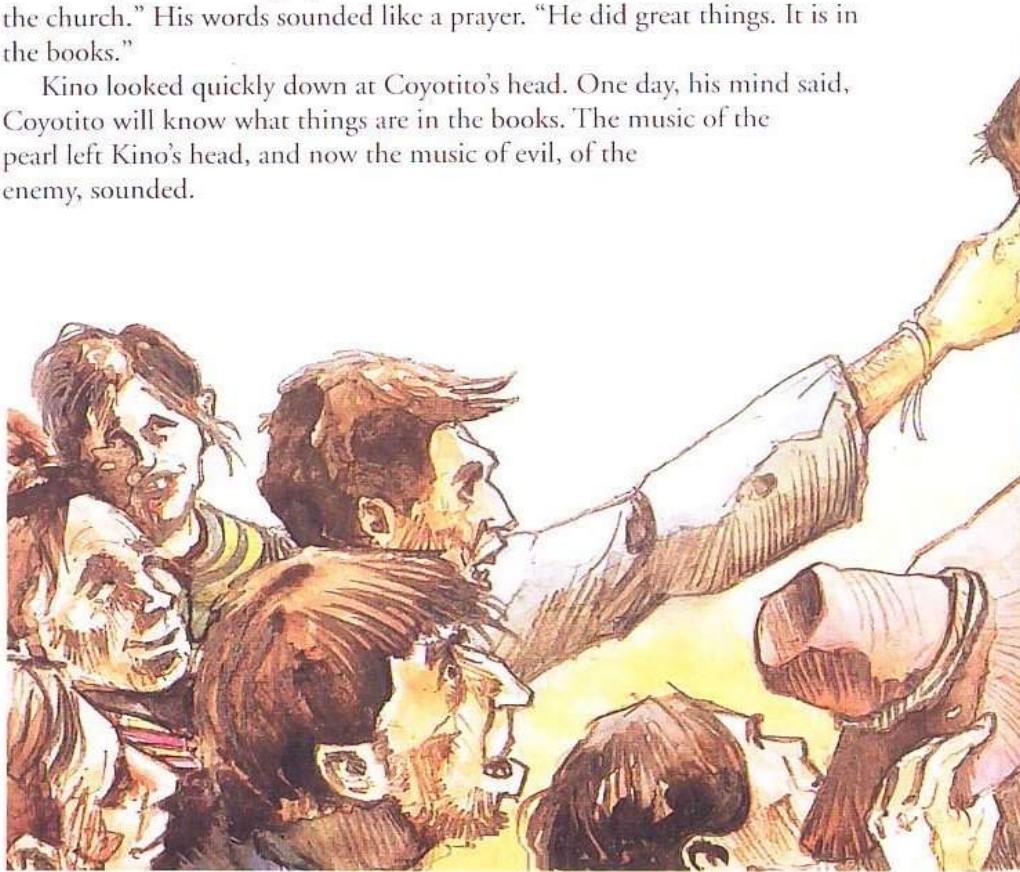
Now the night was coming. Juana went to the fire hole and built a fire. The neighbors knew that they should leave. But they did not want to go.

It was almost dark, and Juana's fire threw shadows on the walls. Then the news came, passed from mouth to mouth: "The Father is coming—the priest is coming."

The men took off their hats and stepped back from the door. The women looked down at the floor. Kino and Juan Tomás stood up. The priest came in—a gray, old man with an old skin and a bright, young eye. The priest thought of these people as children. And he spoke to them as he spoke to children.

"Kino," he said softly, "you are named after a great man. A great Father of the church." His words sounded like a prayer. "He did great things. It is in the books."

Kino looked quickly down at Coyotito's head. One day, his mind said, Coyotito will know what things are in the books. The music of the pearl left Kino's head, and now the music of evil, of the enemy, sounded.



But the priest was speaking again. "It has come to me that you have found a great pearl."

Kino opened his hand and held it out. The priest was surprised at the size of the pearl. And then he said, "I hope you will remember to thank God for his gift."

Kino was silent, but Juana spoke softly. "We will, Father. And we will marry now. Kino has said that."

The priest said, "It is pleasing that your first thoughts are good thoughts. God be with you, my children." He turned and left quietly.

But Kino's hand closed tightly on the pearl again, and he looked at the neighbors. The evil song was in his ears, and it was louder than the music of the pearl.





## 3.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 2.4. Then use these words to complete the conversation between two of Juana and Kino's neighbors:

beggars better destroy gun lucky school sea plants World worth

Neighbor 1: Have you heard the news? Kino has found the Pearl of the <sup>1</sup> .....

Neighbor 2: Yes, everyone knows. But nobody knows how much it is <sup>2</sup> ..... They are so <sup>3</sup> ..... Now all their dreams will come true. But how is the baby?

Neighbor 1: Juana put <sup>4</sup> ..... on the scorpion bite and the baby is <sup>5</sup> .....

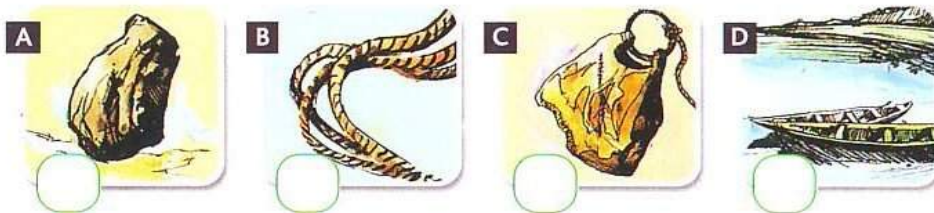
Neighbor 2: I have heard Kino talk about the future. He will have a <sup>6</sup> ..... and Coyotito will go to <sup>7</sup> .....

Neighbor 1: Maybe he will give the money to <sup>8</sup> .....

Neighbor 2: I hope the pearl will not <sup>9</sup> ..... them.

## 3.2 What more did you learn?

What are these things? Write the words under the pictures. What do pearl-seekers use when they look for pearls? Check (✓) them.



## 3.3 Language in use

Look at the sentence on the right. Then use these words to compare the things in the sentences below.

louder than like as large as as like as good as

A town is **like** an animal.

- The pearl was as large as a sea bird's egg.
- The sea plants were ..... the doctor's medicine.
- The pearl shone ..... silver.
- The evil in the town was ..... a scorpion.
- The priest thought of the Indians ..... children.
- The evil song was ..... the pearl's song.

Now write about things in your life.

- My ..... is/are like a .....
- My ..... is as ..... as a/an .....

## 3.4 What's next?

1 Check (✓) the best answers.

- How will Kino keep the pearl safe? He will:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> hide it.	<input type="checkbox"/> give it to his brother.	<input type="checkbox"/> give it to the priest.
-----------------------------------	--	---
- Which of these people will help Juana and Kino?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> the doctor	<input type="checkbox"/> the pearl buyers	<input type="checkbox"/> Juan Tomás
-------------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------
- Will Kino get a good price for the pearl in La Paz?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, immediately.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in the end.	<input type="checkbox"/> No.
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2 You are Juana. You are thinking about your new life. What three things would you like? Why?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



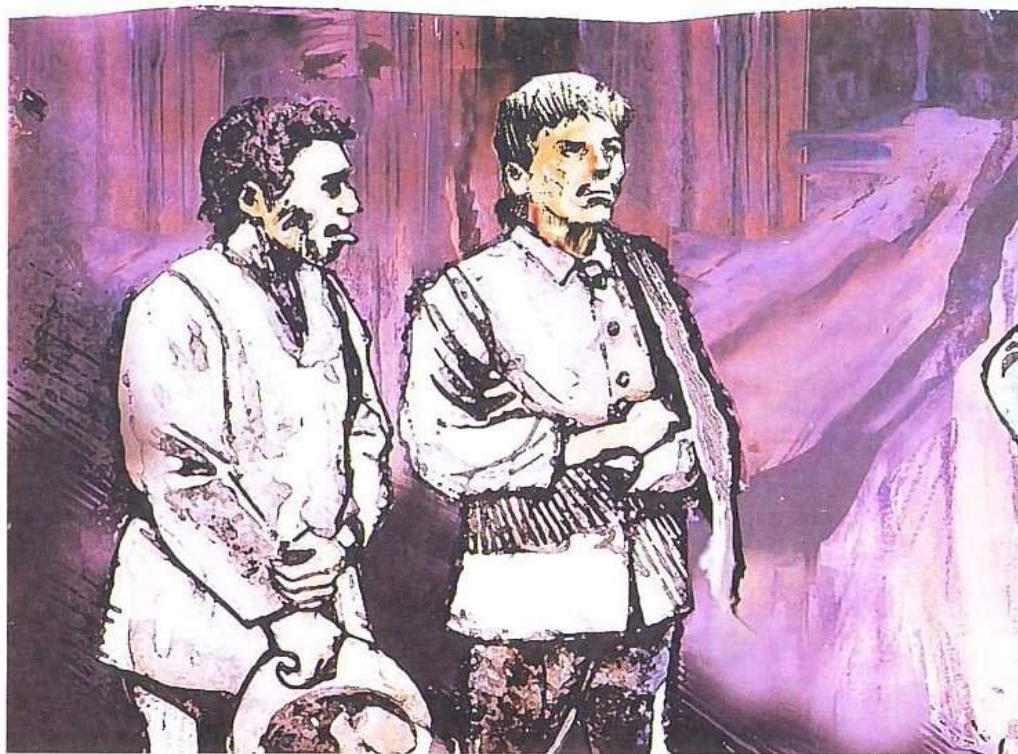
## The First Thief

*The doctor's eyes followed Kino's eyes, and he saw Kino's eyes move to the floor in the corner of the house.*

The neighbors left to go to their houses. Juana sat by the fire and began to prepare dinner, and Kino walked to the door and looked outside. As always, he could smell the smoke from many fires. He could see the stars and feel the wet night air. But tonight he felt alone and unprotected. He felt very cold, but he carried the pearl in his hand, and it was warm and smooth against his skin.

Behind him he heard Juana making corn-cakes. He was warmed by this Song of the Family. But when a plan is made, it becomes real. And nothing can destroy it, but there will be attacks on it. Kino knew this. He had to prepare to fight for his future.

Kino saw two men coming toward his house, and one was the doctor. The other was the servant who opened the gate in the morning.



The doctor said, "I was not in when you came this morning. But now I have come to see your baby."

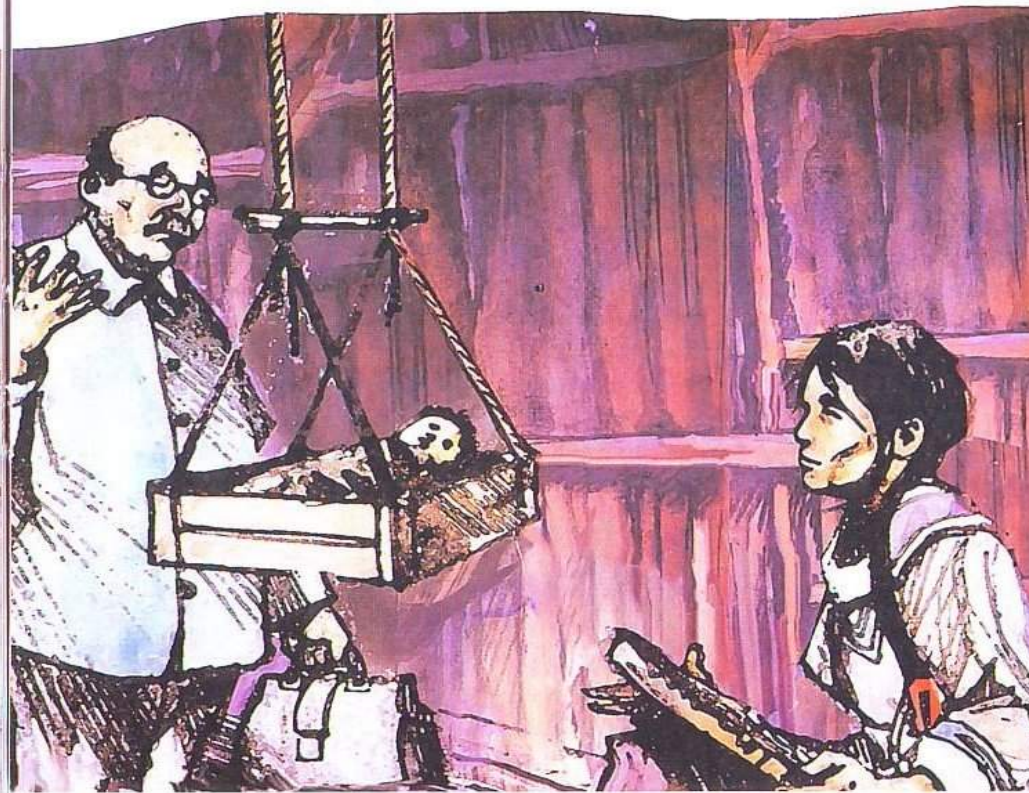
Kino stood in the door, filling it. He felt angry. He was also afraid.

"The baby is nearly well now," he said.

The doctor smiled, but his eyes did not smile.

He said, "Sometimes, my friend, the scorpion bite is a strange thing. The patient will seem better and then will suddenly get worse." He moved his small, black doctor's bag into the light. He knew how Kino's people loved the tools of the doctor's work. "Sometimes," the doctor continued, "there will be a bad leg or a bad eye or a bad back. Oh, I know the scorpion bite, and I can make it better."

Kino was angry, but he was also afraid. He did not know, and maybe the doctor did. Kino's people did not know the things in the books. He did not want Coyotito to die or to live with a bad leg or eye or back. He moved inside, and the doctor and his servant followed.





Juana stood up from the fire and looked away. The doctor came to her and held out his hand. She held the baby tight and looked at Kino.

Kino looked back at her, and so she gave the baby to the doctor.

The doctor looked at the bite and then at the baby's eye.

"It is as I thought," he said. "The poison is inside him. It will attack soon. Come, look!" He held the baby's eye open. "See—it is blue here." And Kino saw that it was a little blue. And he did not know if it was always blue. But he wanted Coyotito to get better.

"I will give him something to attack the poison," the doctor said, and he gave the baby to Kino.

Then from his bag he took a little bottle of white medicine. He took the baby and opened its mouth. He pushed the medicine into the baby's mouth and then gave Coyotito a drink. It was done. He looked again at the baby's eye and seemed to think.

Finally he gave the baby back to Juana, and he turned to Kino. "I think the poison will attack in an hour," he said. "The medicine will help, but I will come back. Maybe I am in time to save him." He left, and his servant followed him.

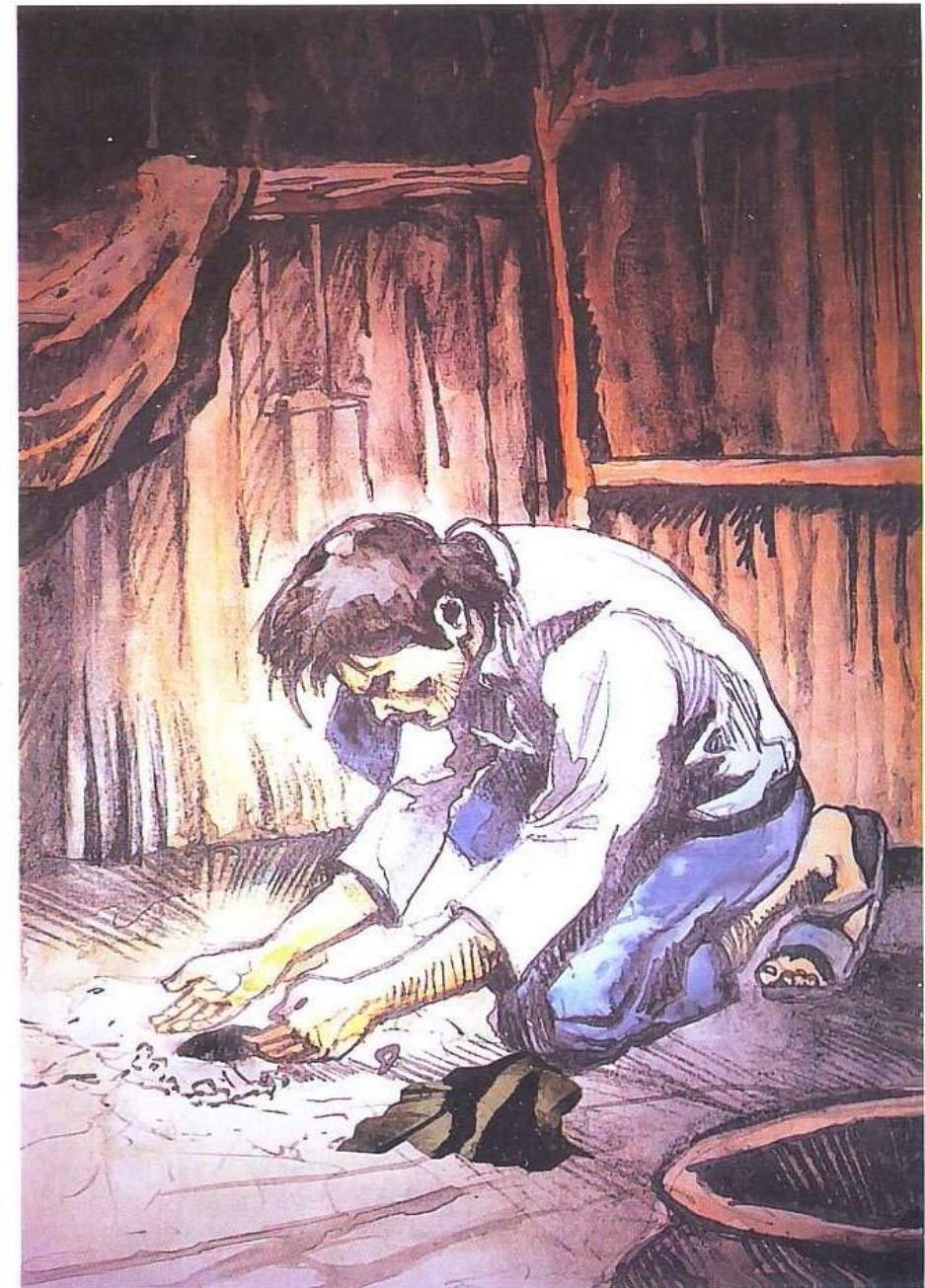
Now Juana had the baby close to her, and she looked at it with fear. Kino came to her and looked at the baby, too. He moved his hand to look at Coyotito's eye. Then he saw that the pearl was still in his hand. He went to a box by the wall and brought out a piece of cloth. He covered the pearl with the cloth and made a hole in the earth floor in a corner of the house. He put the pearl in the hole and covered it with earth. And then he went to the fire, where Juana was watching the baby's face.

The doctor was back in his house. He sat in his chair and looked at his watch. His servants brought him chocolate and sweet cakes and fruit.

In their houses, Kino's neighbors had the first of many conversations about Kino and his pearl. They showed with their fingers how big the pearl was. They talked about how beautiful it was. They discussed possible changes in Kino and Juana, because money changes everyone. The neighbors knew why the doctor came. They understood him very well.

In his house, Kino ate Juana's corn-cakes and then prepared a cigarette. Suddenly, Juana spoke loudly: "Kino." He looked at her and then got up and went quickly to her. He saw fear in her eyes. He stood over her and saw the face of Coyotito. The baby's face was red, and his stomach was moving. The baby was very sick.

Kino sat next to his wife. "So the doctor knew," he said. But he said it for himself, not only for his wife. He was remembering the white medicine. Juana sang the little Song of the Family while the baby, in pain, moved in her arms.





The music of evil rang loudly in Kino's head now. It was difficult to hear Juana's song.

The doctor finished his chocolate and ate the last fallen pieces of sweet cake. He cleaned his fingers, looked at his watch, stood up, and picked up his little bag.

The news of the baby's illness traveled quickly. Some said softly, "Luck, you see, brings terrible friends." And others agreed and moved toward Kino's house. The neighbors crowded into Kino's house again. They stood and looked, and they talked about this sadness at a time of happiness. And they said, "All things are in God's hands."



Then the doctor hurried in, followed by his servant. He took the baby and looked at it and felt its head. "The poison has worked," he said. "I think I can destroy it." He asked for water, and in the cup he put a different medicine, and he opened the baby's mouth and poured it in. The baby cried, and Juana watched him with fear in her eyes. "It is lucky that I know about the poison of the scorpion. Or—" said the doctor. He did not have to continue.

But Kino could not take his eyes off the bottle of white medicine in the doctor's bag. Finally the baby grew silent and went to sleep. It was very tired.

The doctor put the baby in Juana's arms. "He will get well now," the doctor said. "I have won the fight." And Juana looked at him with love.





The doctor was closing his bag. He said, "When do you think you can pay this bill?" He even said it kindly.

"When I have sold my pearl, I will pay you," Kino said.

"You have a pearl? A good pearl?" the doctor asked with interest.

And then the neighbors shouted, "He has found the Pearl of the World." And they showed him with their fingers how large the pearl was.

"Kino will be a rich man," they said. "Nobody has ever seen a more beautiful pearl."

The doctor looked surprised. "I did not know of it. Do you keep this pearl in a safe place? Shall I keep it for you?"

Kino was growing angry. "It is safe," he said. "Tomorrow I will sell it and then I will pay you."

The doctor's eyes followed Kino's eyes, and he saw Kino's eyes move to the floor in the corner of the house.

When the doctor and the neighbors left, Kino went to the door of his house. He smelled the wind and listened for strange sounds. His eyes searched the darkness because the music of evil was sounding in his head. He was angry and afraid. Then he went to the place where the pearl was **buried**. He took it out of the hole and buried it under his bed.

Juana watched him with questioning eyes. "Who do you fear?" she asked.

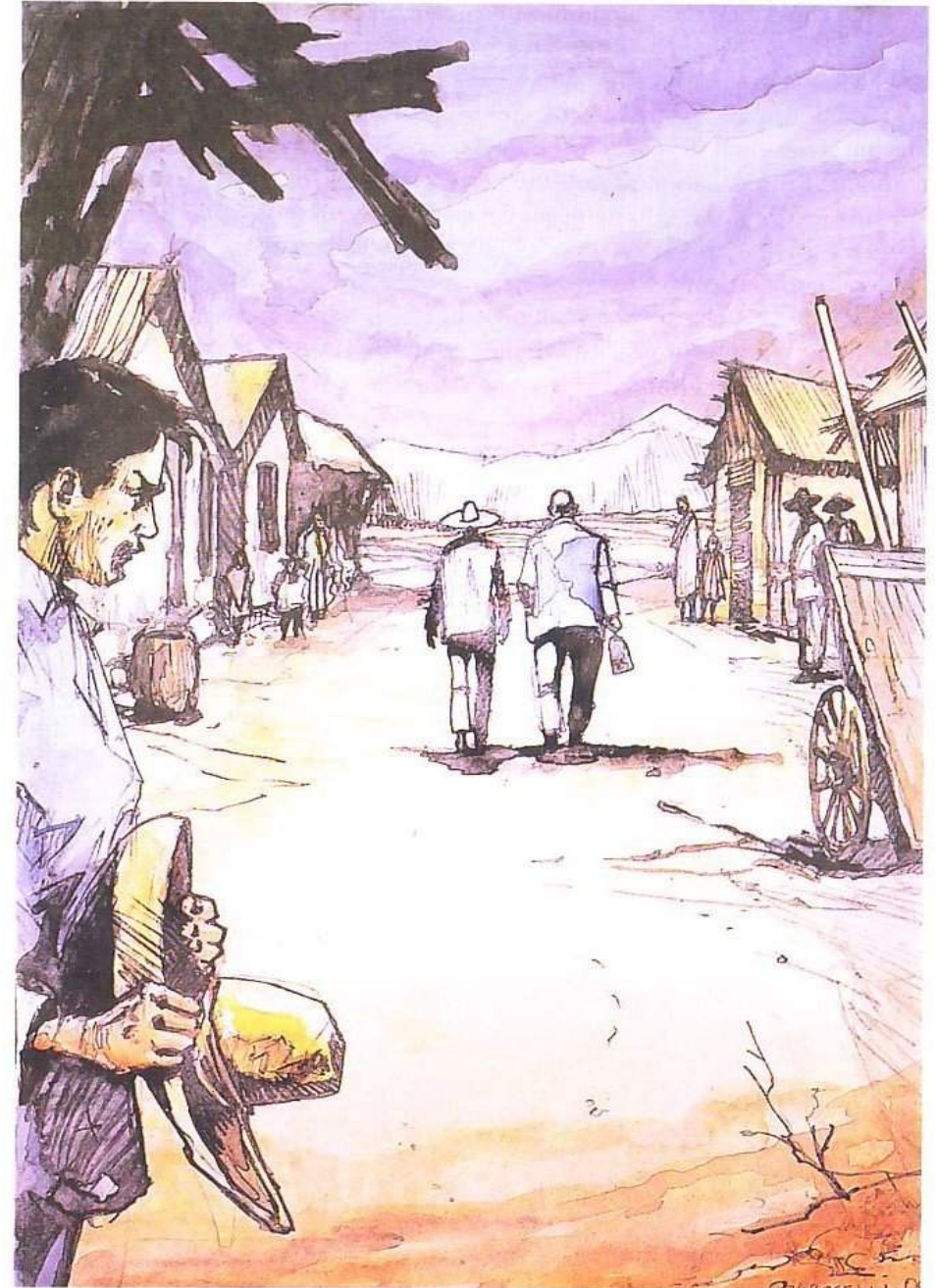
Kino searched for a true answer, and at last he said, "Everyone."

They lay down together, and Juana did not put the baby in his box tonight but held him in her arms. And the last light went out of the fire.

But Kino's mind burned, even while he slept. He dreamed that Coyotito could read. In his dream, Coyotito was reading from a book as large as a house with letters as big as dogs, and the words ran on the book. And then darkness covered the page, and with the darkness came the music of evil again. Kino moved in his sleep. When he moved, Juana's eyes opened in the darkness. And then Kino woke up with the music of evil in his head. He lay in the darkness listening carefully.

Then from the corner of the house came a soft sound, a touch of a foot on earth. Kino listened carefully. He knew the dark thing was listening, too. For a time no sound came from the corner of the house. Then it came again!

Kino's hand moved into his shirt. He took out his knife and jumped up like an angry cat, and then he jumped into the corner of the house. He felt cloth, hit at it with his knife and missed, and he hit again and felt his knife go through the cloth. Then something crashed against his head and he felt great pain. He heard running toward the door, and then it was silent.



**bury** /'beri/ (v) to put something into the ground and cover it



Kino could feel warm blood running down his head. He could hear Juana calling to him, "Kino! Kino!" And there was fear in her voice. Then coldness quickly came over him, and he said, "I am all right. The thing has gone."

He felt his way back to the bed. Already Juana was building a fire. She put some cloth in water and cleaned the blood from Kino's head. "It is nothing," Kino said, but his eyes and voice were hard and cold. Hate was growing in him.

"This thing is evil," Juana cried. "This pearl will destroy us." Her voice grew louder. "Throw it away, Kino. Let's break it between stones. Let's bury it and forget the place. Let's throw it back into the sea. It has brought evil. Kino, my husband, it will destroy us." And in the firelight her eyes were alive with her fear.

But Kino did not listen. "This is our one piece of luck," he said. "Our son must go to school. He must live better than we do."

"It will destroy us," Juana said. "Even our son."

"Be quiet," said Kino. "In the morning we will sell the pearl, and then the evil will go, and only the good will stay." His dark eyes looked into the fire. For the first time, he knew that his knife was still in his hands. He saw some blood on it. He pushed it into the earth floor to clean it.

Morning was coming. Kino took the pearl out of its hole and put it in front of him and looked carefully at it.

And the pearl shone in the firelight. It was so beautiful, so soft, and its own music came from it—its music of happiness, its promise of a wonderful future. And as he looked at it, Kino's eyes softened. He heard again the lovely music of the sea and saw the green light of the sea bottom. Juana saw him smile. And because they were in some way one thing and one purpose, she smiled with him. And they began this day with hope.

## Selling the Pearl

*"This pearl is too large," the buyer said. "Who will buy it?  
There are no customers for a pearl like this."*

In the town of La Paz, it was known in the early morning that Kino planned to sell his pearl that day. It was known by the neighbors, by the pearl fishermen; it was known by the Chinese grocers; it was known in the church. But most of all it was known by the pearl buyers who waited in their offices.

The sun was hot yellow that morning. The canoes lay lined up on the beach. The fishermen did not go out to search for pearls.

For Kino and Juana this was the morning of mornings of their lives. Their excitement was similar to the day when the baby was born. Juana dressed Coyotito in his best clothes. And Juana tied her hair back with red cloth and put on her best skirt. It was the middle of the morning when they were ready. Kino's old, white clothes were clean. And this was the last day in his old clothes. Tomorrow, or even this afternoon, he planned to buy new clothes.





The neighbors watched Kino's door from their houses. They were dressed and ready, too. It was accepted that this was an important day for all the fishermen. They had to go. If they did not, they were not good friends.

Juana carried Coyotito so he could see everything. Kino put on his large hat and shoes. The great pearl was placed in an old, soft cloth and put, in a little bag, in a pocket in Kino's shirt. Now they were ready.

Kino stepped proudly out of the house. Juana followed him, carrying Coyotito. And as they walked up the street toward the stone town, the neighbors joined them. But because it was a serious day, only one man walked with Kino, and that was his brother, Juan Tomás.

"You must be careful that they do not give you a bad price," Juan Tomás said.

"Very careful," Kino agreed.

"We do not know what prices are paid in other places," said Juan Tomás.

"How can we know what a good price is? We do not know what the pearl buyer gets for the pearl in another place."

"That is true," said Kino, "but how can we know? We are here—we are not there."

As they walked, the crowd grew behind them. Juan Tomás, nervous, continued speaking.

"Before you were born, Kino," he said, "the old men had an idea. They thought of a way to get more money for their pearls. They decided that one man should take all the pearls to the capital and get a better price."

"I know," Kino said. "It was a good thought."

"And so they got a man," said Juan Tomás. "And they gave him their pearls. And they never heard from him again, and the pearls were lost. Then they got another man, and they never heard from him again. And so they went back to the old way."

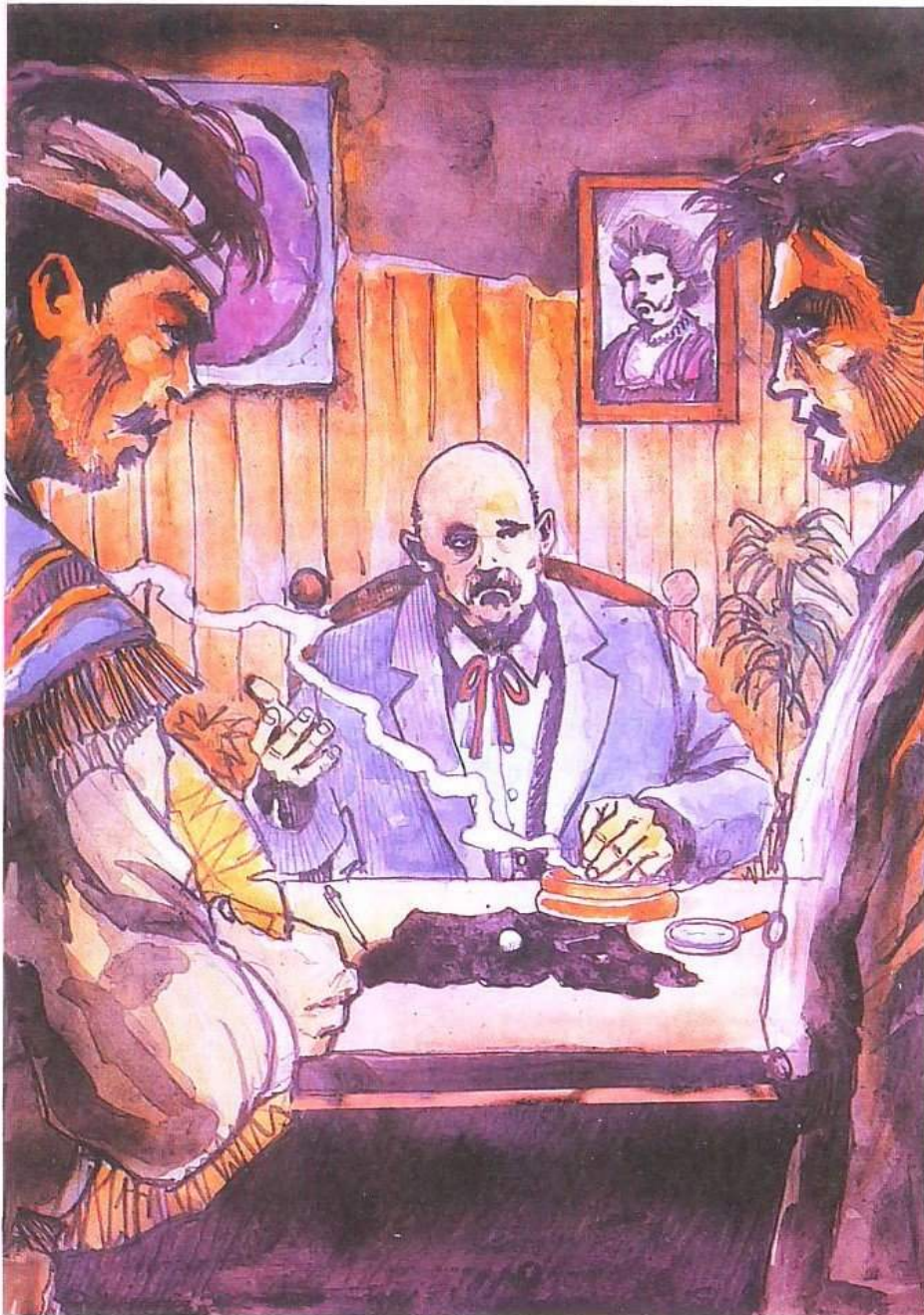
"I know," said Kino. "I have heard our father tell of it. It was a good idea, but it was against religion. The priest made that very clear. God did not like the idea. Each man must stay in his place and must not go running about. Or the world will be in danger from the attacks of evil."

"I have heard him say that," said Juan Tomás. "He says it every year."

The brothers, as they walked along, closed their eyes a little. They and their grandfathers and their grandfathers' grandfathers started doing this when the strangers from Spain came with guns. And in those 400 years Kino's people had learned only one defense. They closed their eyes a little and tightened their mouths a little. Nothing could break down this wall, and they could stay complete inside the wall.







The crowd was serious; they understood the importance of the day. They came to the stone town. And, as before, the beggars joined them when they passed the church. The grocers looked out at them. The little bars lost their customers. The owners closed their shops and went along.

The news of the crowd came to the little, dark offices of the pearl buyers. They got out papers and put their pearls in their desks. It is not good to show an ordinary pearl near a beautiful one.

A fat, slow man sat in an office waiting. His face was kind, and his eyes were friendly. His door stood open to the morning. He sang softly to himself and looked out the door. Then he heard the crowd coming. Kino filled the doorway.

"Good morning, my friend," the fat man said. "What can I do for you?"

Kino looked into the dark little office. The buyer's eyes were mean now, but the rest of his face smiled.

"I have a pearl," said Kino. And Juan Tomás stood next to him, and the neighbors looked around the doorway, and little boys climbed up to the window and looked through.

"You have a pearl," the fat man said. "Sometimes a man brings in twelve. Let's see your pearl. We will give you the best price."

Now, Kino slowly brought out the small bag and slowly took from it the soft and dirty piece of cloth. And then the great pearl dropped onto a piece of black cloth on the desk. Immediately his eyes went to the buyer's face. But there was no movement, no change. The buyer touched the great pearl with his right hand and then picked it up, brought it near to his eyes, and looked closely at it.

Kino waited, and his neighbors waited, too. Word moved through the crowd: "He is looking at it. They have not discussed a price yet."

The buyer threw the pearl back onto the black cloth, and on the buyer's face there came a sad, mean smile.

"I am sorry, my friend," he said.

"It is a pearl worth much money," Kino said.

The buyer pushed the pearl away from him.

"This pearl is too large," the buyer said. "Who will buy it? There are no customers for a pearl like this. It is only an amusing toy. I am sorry."

Now Kino's face was worried. "It is the Pearl of the World," he cried. "Nobody has ever seen a pearl like this."

"It is too large," said the buyer. "It is interesting only because of its unusual size. I can give you 1,000 pesos."



Kino's face grew dark and dangerous. "It is worth 50,000," he said. "You know it. You are not being honest."

And the buyer heard a dangerous noise from the crowd as they heard the price. And the buyer felt a little fear.

"If you disagree," he said quickly, "ask the other buyers. Boy!" he called, and when his servant looked through the back door, "Boy, go down the street and ask three other buyers to come here. Do not tell them why. Just say that I will be happy to see them."

Kino's neighbors spoke quietly. The pearl was large, but it had a strange color. And 1,000 pesos was a lot of money to a poor man. Only yesterday Kino had nothing.

But Kino was growing hard. He felt the evil circling him, and he could not protect himself. He heard in his ears the evil music. And on the black cloth the pearl shone, so the buyer could not keep his eyes from it.

The crowd moved to let the three pearl buyers through. The crowd was silent now, afraid to miss a word. Kino was silent and watched closely. He felt something at his back, and he turned and looked in Juana's eyes. When he looked away, he felt stronger.

The buyers did not look at the pearl. The man behind the desk said, "I have put a price on this pearl. The owner here does not like my price. Please look carefully at this—this thing, and make an offer." He turned to Kino. "Notice," he said, "I have not said what I offered."

The first buyer, dry and thin, seemed now to see the pearl for the first time. He took it up and then threw it back onto the cloth.

"I will make no offer at all," he said. "I do not want it. This is not a pearl—it is an ugly thing."

Now the second buyer, a little man with a shy, soft voice, took up the pearl, and he looked at it closely. Then he laughed softly.

"This is soft," he said. "It will lose its color and die in a few months."

The third buyer took the pearl. "One of my customers likes things like this," he said. "I will offer 500 pesos, and maybe I can sell it to him for 600."

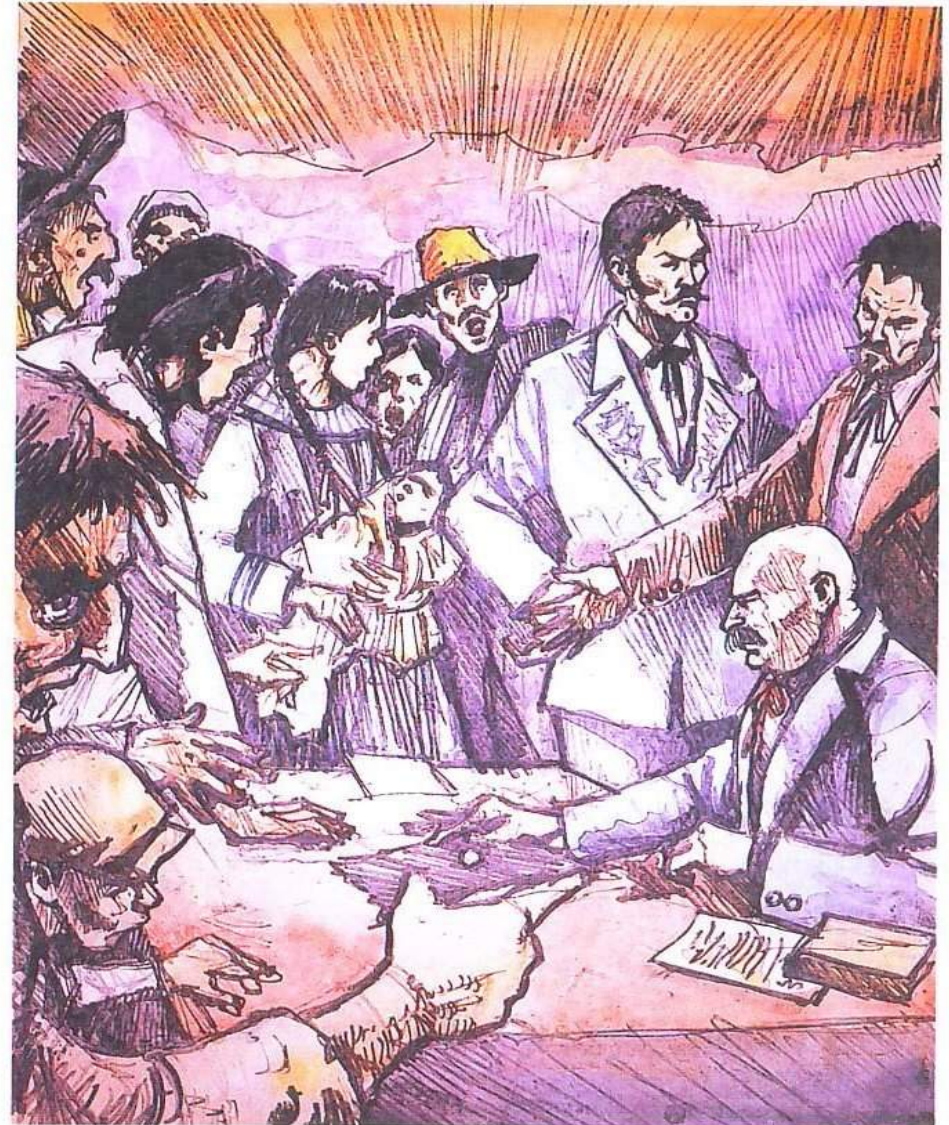
Kino reached quickly and took the pearl from his hand. He covered it with the cloth.

The man behind the desk said, "I'm crazy, I know, but I will still offer 1,000. What are you doing?" he asked, as Kino put the pearl in his shirt.

"You are not honest," Kino cried angrily. "My pearl is not for sale here. I will go, maybe even to the capital."

Now the buyers knew that they had played too hard. The man at the desk said, "I will go to 1,500."

But Kino was pushing his way through the crowd. He heard the crowd speaking. He pushed through and walked quickly away. Juana followed, running after him.





## 4.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 3.4. Then answer these questions. Who ...

- 1 makes the baby sick again? ..... the doctor .....
- 2 makes the baby well the second time? .....
- 3 moves the pearl from its hiding place in the corner? .....
- 4 sends a thief to find Kino's pearl? .....
- 5 gives Kino ideas about selling the pearl? .....

## 4.2 What more did you learn?

- 1 What is each person feeling? Write these words next to the people.

sick greedy afraid unsure uncomfortable



- 1 ..... 3 ..... 5 .....
- 2 ..... 4 .....

Talk to another student. Why do they have these feelings?

- 2 Complete these sentences.

- a Kino and Juana ..... to La Paz.
- b The buyers ..... about Kino's pearl before Kino comes to La Paz.
- c They already ..... a plan.
- d Their plan ..... successful.
- e The buyers all ..... for the same man.

## 4.3 Language in use

Look at the sentences on the right. Then add past passive verb forms to the sentences below and complete the sentences.

Kino planned to sell his pearl that day. It was known by the pearl sellers.

- 1 Kino was woken up (wake up) ..... by the neighbors.
- 2 Kino ..... (hit) hard on the head ..... by the pearlers.
- 3 The canoes ..... (not use) that day ..... by the pearl buyers.
- 4 Kino and his brother ..... (follow) ..... by the music of evil.
- 5 Kino ..... (offer) 1,500 pesos ..... by the pearl thief.

## 4.4 What's next?

What do you think?

- 1 What will Kino do with the pearl?

- a ☐ sell it to the pearl buyers in the town
- b ☐ keep it
- c ☐ throw it away
- d ☐ take it to the big city

- 2 You are Kino. What will you do?

- 3 Kino and Juana are talking. Who is right? Why?

This is our one piece of luck.



This thing is evil. This pearl will destroy us.

is right because



## The Second Thief

*"Let's—let's throw it back into the sea where it belongs.  
Kino, it is evil, it is evil!"*

When the evening came, the neighbors sat eating their corn-cakes. They discussed what happened that morning. They never saw pearls like that, and surely the buyers knew more about pearls than they. "Those buyers did not discuss these things," they said. "Each of the three knew that the pearl was worth nothing."

"But is it possible that they agreed before?"

"If that is true, then they have always robbed us."

Maybe Kino was wrong not to take the 1,500 pesos. That is a lot of money, some said, more than he has ever seen. Maybe Kino is being stupid. Will he really go to the capital and find a buyer for the pearl?

And now, said other fearful ones, now those buyers are angry with Kino. So they will not buy from him at all. Maybe Kino has destroyed himself.

And others said, Kino is a brave man. And he is right. His brave words will help all of us. These men were proud of Kino.

In his house Kino sat thinking. His pearl was buried under a stone by the fire hole. Kino was afraid. He never went far from home. He was afraid of strangers and of strange places. He was afraid of the capital. It lay over the water and through the mountains, over 1,000 miles, and he was afraid of every strange terrible mile. But Kino's old world was gone, and he must climb on to a new one. His dream of the future was real, and he said, "I will go," and that made it a real thing, too. When a man decided, he was already halfway there.

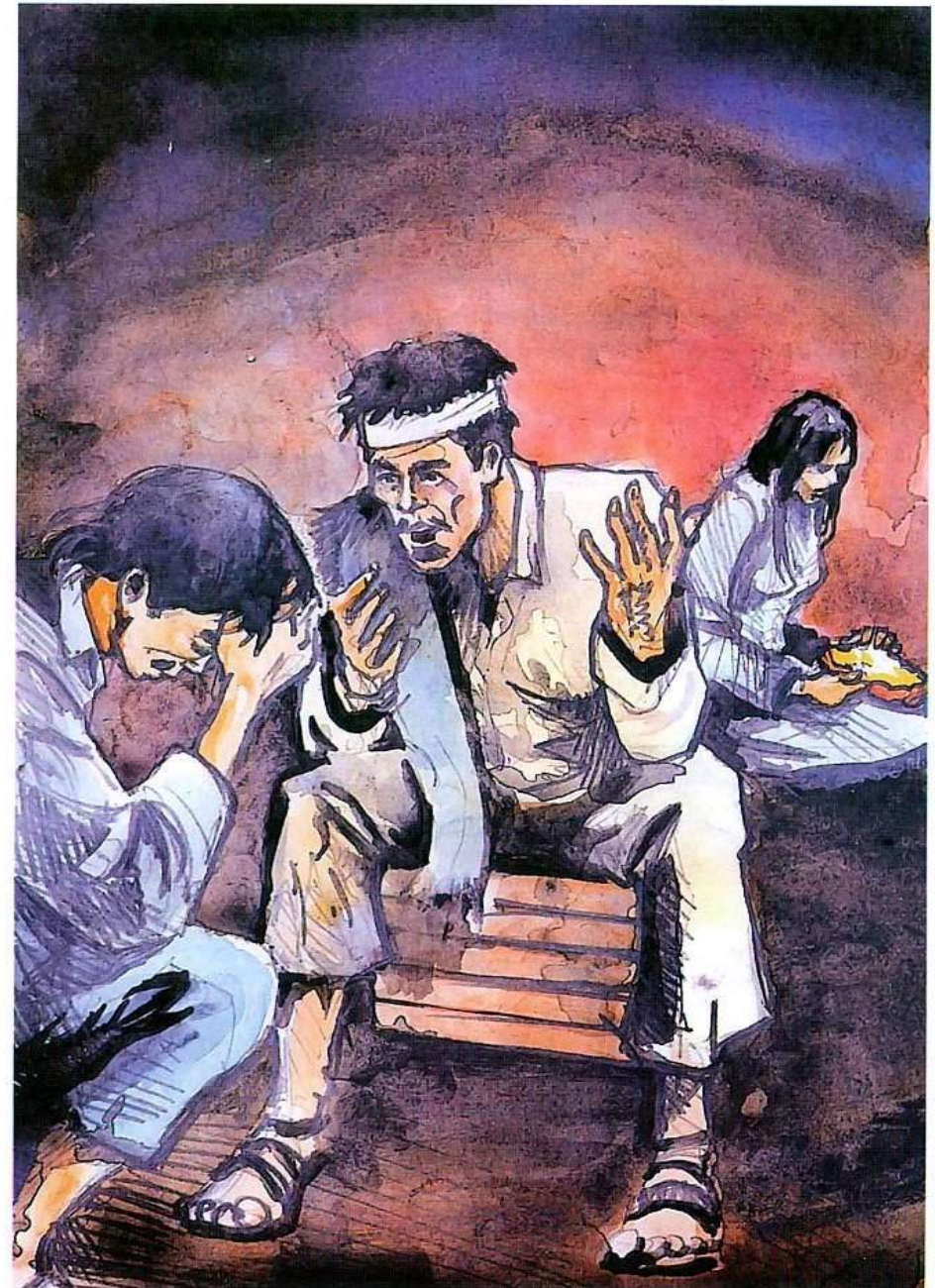
Juana watched him while he buried his pearl. And she watched him while she fed Coyotito. Then Juana made the corn-cakes for dinner.

Juan Tomás came in and sat next to Kino and was silent for a long time. At last Kino asked, "What could I do? They are not honest."

Juan Tomás agreed. He was older, and Kino looked to him for help. "It is hard to know," he said. "We do know that many people are not honest with us. We pay too much for everything from the day of our birth to the day of our death. But you have done more than say no to the pearl buyers. You have said no to our way of life, and I am afraid for you."

"What must I fear?" asked Kino. "That I will be hungry?"

"We must all fear that," Juan Tomás said. "But maybe you are right. Maybe your pearl is worth a lot of money. Do you think that you will win the game?"





"What do you mean?"

"I do not know," said Juan Tomás, "but I am afraid for you. You are walking on new ground. You do not know the way."

"I will go. I will go soon," said Kino.

"Yes," Juan Tomás agreed. "You must do that. But I do not know if it will be different in the capital. Here you have friends and me, your brother. There you will have nobody."

"What can I do?" Kino cried. "My son must have a better life. That is what they do not want to happen. My friends will protect me."

"Only if they are not in danger," said Juan Tomás. He stood up, saying, "Go with God."

And Kino said, "Go with God." He did not even look up because the words sounded strangely cold.

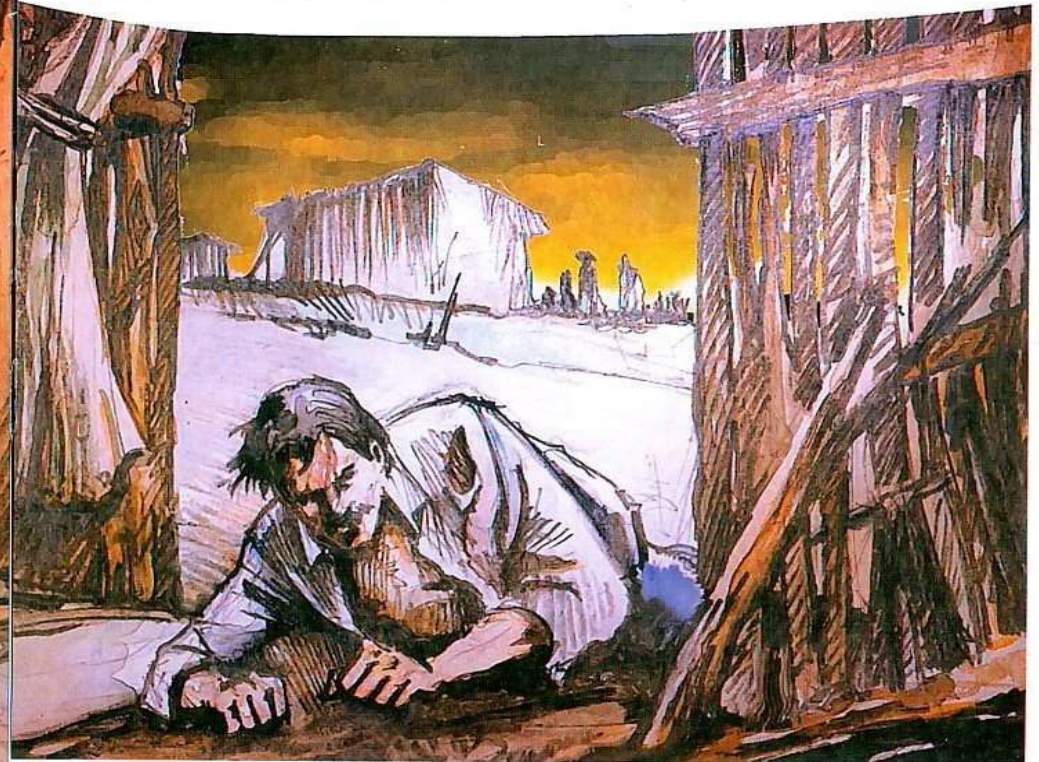


Long after Juan Tomás left, Kino sat thinking. He felt tired and hopeless. Every road seemed blocked against him. In his head he heard only the dark music of the enemy.

Juana watched him with worry. But she knew him. And she knew she could help him best through silence. And she sang softly the Song of the Family. She held Coyotito in her arms and sang the song to him. She sang to keep the evil out. Her voice was brave.

Kino did not move or ask for his dinner. He could feel the dark, evil things waiting for him. They wanted him to go out into the night. They called to him. His right hand went into his shirt and felt his knife; his eyes were wide; he stood up and walked to the door.

Juana put her hand up to stop him. Her mouth opened in fear. Kino looked out into the darkness and then he stepped outside. Juana heard a sudden fight. And she put Coyotito down on the ground, picked up a stone from the fire hole, and ran outside. But it was finished. Kino lay on the ground, trying to get up. There was nobody near him, but the evil was everywhere.





Juana dropped her stone, and she put her arms around Kino and helped him stand up and walk into the house. Blood ran down his head, and there was a long cut across his face. His shirt was open and his clothes half pulled off. Juana sat him down and cleaned the blood from his face with her skirt. She brought him water to drink. He shook his head to clear out the darkness.

"Who?" Juana asked.

"I do not know," Kino said. "I did not see."

Now Juana brought her pot of water, and she washed the cut on his face. His eyes were empty.

"Kino, my husband," she cried, and his eyes looked past her.

"Kino, can you hear me?"

"I hear you," he said quietly.

"Kino, this pearl is evil. Let's destroy it before it destroys us. Let's break it between two stones. Let's—let's throw it back into the sea where it belongs. Kino, it is evil, it is evil!"

And as she spoke, the light came back into Kino's eyes.

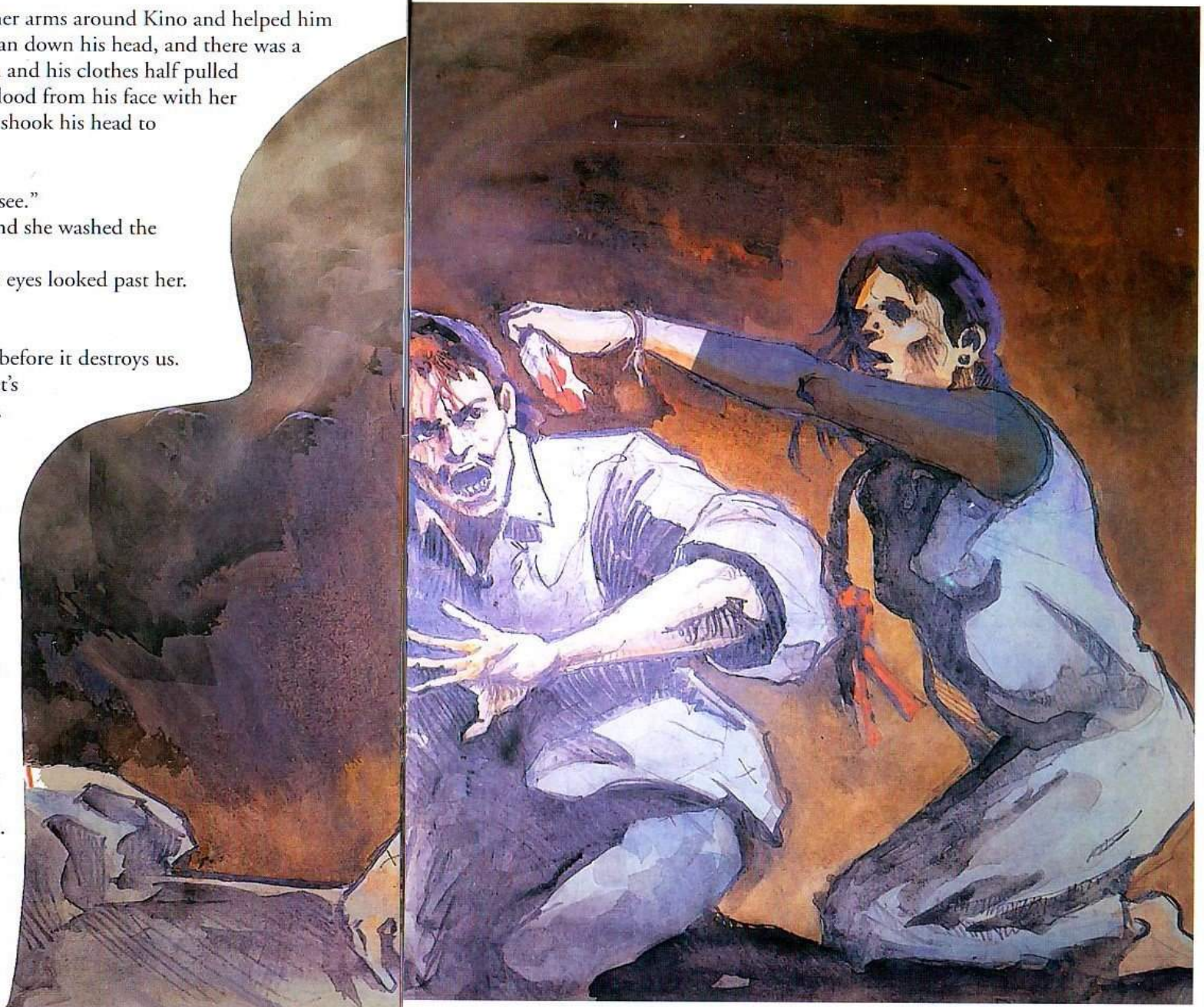
"No," he said. "I will fight this thing. I will win. Nobody will take our luck from us." His eyes softened, and then he put his hand on Juana's shoulder. "Believe me," he said. "I am a man. In the morning we will take our canoe and we will go over the sea and over the mountains to the capital. You and I. We will find an honest buyer. I am a man."

"Kino," she said. "I am afraid. A man can die. Let's throw the pearl back into the sea."

"Be quiet," he said angrily. "I am a man. Be quiet." And she was silent. "Let's sleep a little. In the first light we will start. You are not afraid to go with me?"

"No, my husband."

His eyes were soft and warm on her, and then his hand touched her face. "Let's sleep a little," he said.





## 5.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 4.4. Then look at these sentences. What does Kino decide? Use these words.

sea mountains honest capital canoe

"In the morning we will take our ..... and we will go over the ..... and over the ..... to the ..... We will find an ..... buyer."

## 5.2 What more did you learn?

1 Write these sentences again without mistakes.

- Kino's brother is going with him to the capital.  
.....
- After Juan Tomás leaves, Kino sees the future clearly.  
.....
- Kino knows who his attacker was.  
.....
- Kino wants to break the pearl between two stones.  
.....
- Juana will stay at home when Kino goes to the capital.  
.....

2 Look at the picture.

- a What has just happened?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

- b What is going to happen?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



## 5.3 Language in use

Look at the sentence on the right. Then complete the sentences below with the correct form of the verb and *while*.

Juana watched him **while** he buried the pearl.

- Juana (watch) Kino / she (feed) Coyotito too.  
*Juana watched Kino while she fed Coyotito*
- Juana (sing) the Song of the Family / she (watch) Kino.  
.....
- Juana (wash) Kino's face / he (lie) in the floor.  
.....
- She (speak) to him / his eyes (look) past her.  
.....
- Kino (sleep) / Juana (watch) him.  
.....

## 5.4 What's next?

Look at the three pictures in Chapter 7. What is going to happen to the family before they leave for the capital? Write your ideas in the box below.

Notes



## The Fire

*Kino began to run; it was his house, he knew. And he knew that these wooden houses could burn down quickly.*

Kino opened his eyes in the darkness. He thought he heard movement near him. But he did not move. Only his eyes searched the darkness. And in the pale light of the moon Kino saw Juana move silently toward the fireplace. He heard only the lightest sound when she moved the fireplace stone. And then, like a shadow, she walked toward the door. She stopped at the hanging box where Coyotito lay. Then she was black in the doorway, and then she was gone.

Angry, Kino followed her. He could hear her quick footsteps going toward the beach. Quietly he **tracked** her. She slowed down while she walked over the rocks near the water. And then she heard him coming and she ran. Her arm was up to throw. He jumped at her and caught her arm and took the pearl out of her hand. He hit her in the face, and she fell in the rocks, and he kicked her in the side.



track /træk/ (v/n) to follow the signs of feet on the ground

Kino looked down at her angrily, and Juana looked back at him. She was not afraid. She knew there was murder in him. She accepted it. And then he turned away from her and walked up the beach and through the small trees. His mind was not clear.

He heard a sound, got his knife out, and hit at someone. He felt his knife go in. And then he was pushed to the ground. A greedy hand went through his clothes, searching him. The pearl fell from his hand and lay behind a little stone in the path. It shone in the soft moonlight.

Juana pulled herself up from the rocks. Her face was in pain and her side hurt. She was not angry with Kino. When he said, "I am a man," that meant something to Juana. It meant that he was half crazy and half god. It meant that Kino could fight a mountain. Juana, as a woman, knew that men, not mountains, break. But it was this thing that made him a man, half crazy and half god. And Juana needed a man; she could not live without a man. Sometimes the reason of woman could cut through the man and save them all. She climbed painfully to her feet and washed her face with the salt water. Then she went up the beach after Kino.

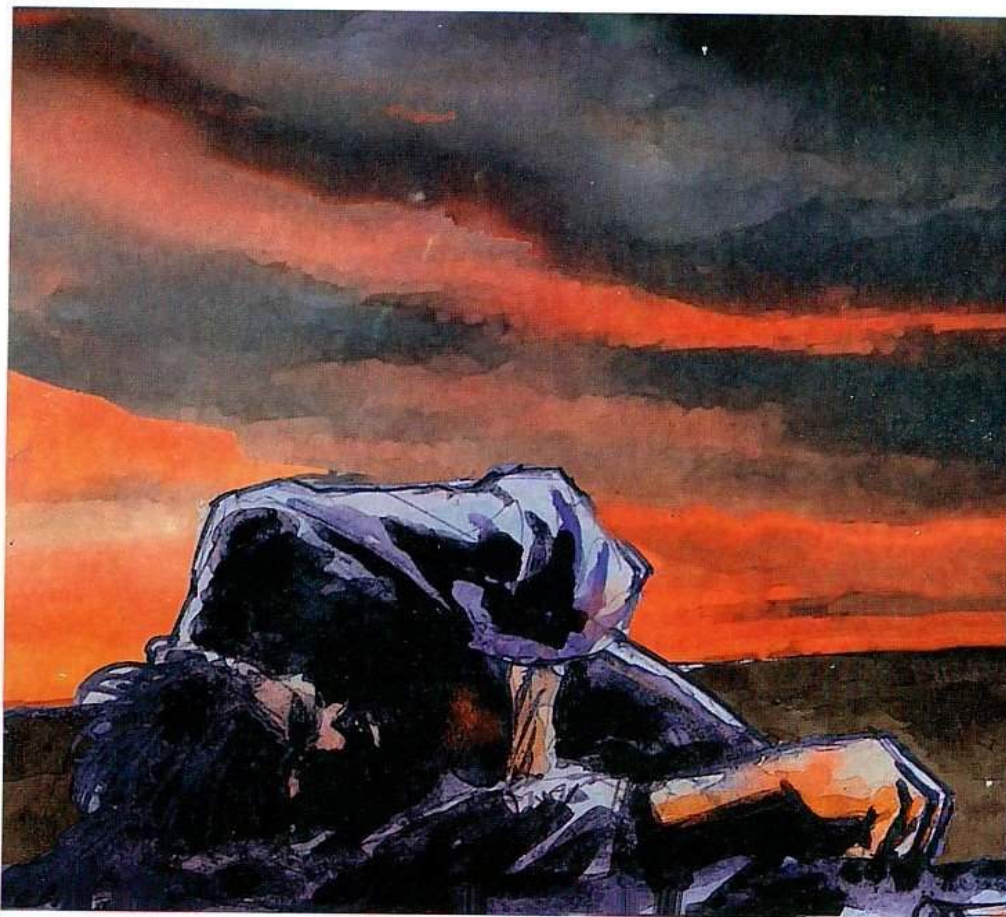




Juana went through the line of small trees and saw the shining great pearl in the path behind a rock. She dropped to her knees and picked it up. Then she saw two dark bodies lying in the path in front of her. One was Kino, and the other was a stranger with blood on his neck.

Kino moved slowly, and strange sounds came from his mouth. His bloody knife lay next to him. Now Juana knew that the old life was gone forever. A dead man in the path and Kino's bloody knife helped her understand this. So now she forgot the past immediately. They could only save the family.

Her pain was gone now, her slowness. Quickly she pulled the dead man from the path and into the trees. She went to Kino and washed his face with her wet skirt.



"They have taken the pearl. I have lost it," he said. "The pearl is gone."

"Be quiet," Juana said. "Here is your pearl. I found it on the path. Can you hear me now? Here is your pearl. Can you understand? You have killed a man. We must go away. They will come for us, can you understand? We must go before the daylight comes."

"I was attacked," Kino said. "I killed him to save my life."

"Do you remember yesterday?" Juana asked. "Do you think that will matter? Do you remember the men of the town? Do you think your words will help?"

"No," he said. "You are right." And his mind hardened. He was a man again.

"Go to our house and bring Coyotito," he said. "And bring all the corn that we have. I will put the canoe into the water and we will go."





He took his knife and left her. He walked toward the beach and he came to his canoe. And then he saw a great hole knocked in the bottom. And he was angrier now, and this made him stronger. Now, the darkness was closing in on his family; the evil music filled the night. The canoe of his grandfather, with a hole broken in it. This was a great evil. The killing of a man was not as evil as the killing of a boat. A boat does not have sons, and a boat cannot protect itself. Kino was an animal now. He lived only to save his life and his family. He did not feel the pain in his head. He ran up the beach toward his house. He never even thought of taking one of the canoes of his neighbors.

Kino, hurrying toward his house, felt excitement. His hand went first to the great pearl in his shirt and then to his knife hanging under his shirt.

He saw a light in front of him, and then fire jumped loudly in the dark. Kino began to run; it was his house, he knew. And he knew that these wooden houses could burn down quickly. As he ran, someone ran toward him—Juana, with Coyotito in her arms. The baby cried, and Juana's eyes were wide and afraid. Kino could see the house was gone.

"Who?" Kino asked.

"I do not know," she said. "The dark ones."



The neighbors were coming from their houses now. They tried to stop the fire before it reached their houses. Suddenly Kino was afraid. The light made him afraid. He remembered the man lying dead near the path. He took Juana by the arm and pulled her into the shadow of a house. He walked through the shadows until he came to the house of Juan Tomás. Then he and Juana went inside.

Kino and Juana sat in the corner of his brother's house. They saw the fire through the wall. They saw the roof fall and watched the fire die down, and they heard the cries of their friends. They heard the loud cry of Apolonia, wife of Juan Tomás. She was the nearest woman relative, so she cried more loudly than the other women for the dead of the family.

Apolonia ran back into her house. Kino's voice said quietly, "Apolonia, do not cry out. We are not hurt. Go now to Juan Tomás and bring him here. Tell nobody. This is important to us, Apolonia."

In a few minutes Juan Tomás came back with her. "Apolonia," he said, "do not let anyone in. Now, my brother, what happened?"

"I was attacked in the dark," said Kino. "And in the fight I have killed a man."

"Who?" asked Juan Tomás quickly.

"I do not know. It is all darkness—all darkness and shape of darkness."

"It is the pearl," said Juan Tomás. "There is evil in this pearl."





And Kino said, "Oh, my brother, my canoe is broken, my house is burned, and in the trees a dead man lies. Every escape is cut off. You must hide us, my brother."

And Kino, looking closely, saw deep worry come into his brother's eyes. "Not for long," he said quickly. "Only until a day has passed and the new light has come. Then we will go."

"I will hide you," said Juan Tomás.

"I do not want to bring danger to you," Kino said. "I will go tonight and then you will be safe."

"I will protect you," said Juan Tomás, and he called, "Apolonia, close the door. Tell nobody that Kino is here."

They sat silently all day in the darkness of the house. They could hear the neighbors speaking of them. The neighbors looked in the burned house for their bodies, and then they found the broken boat. Juan Tomás went out to talk to them. To one he said, "I think Kino and Juana have gone south along the coast. They are trying to escape the evil that was on them." And to another, "Kino can never leave the sea. Maybe he has found another boat." And he said, "Apolonia is sick with sadness."

And in that day, the wind grew strong. No boat was safe on the water. Then Juan Tomás told the neighbors, "Kino is gone. If he went to sea, he is dead by now." And after each trip, Juan Tomás came back with something borrowed. He brought bags of food and a long working knife.

The wind screamed over the sea and turned the water white. The wind drove away the clouds and cleaned the sky.

When evening was near, Juan Tomás talked with his brother. "Where will you go?"

"To the north," said Kino. "I have heard that there are cities in the north."

"Do not travel by the coast," Juan Tomás said. "They are preparing to search there. The men of the town will look for you. Do you still have the pearl?"

"I have it," said Kino. "And I will keep it. Now it is my bad luck and my life, and I will keep it." His eyes were hard and mean.

"The wind is good," said Juan Tomás. "There will be no tracks."

They left quietly in the dark before the moon was out. Juana carried Coyotito on her back, and the baby slept against her shoulder. Juan Tomás kissed his brother. "Go with God," he said, and it was like a death. "You will not give up the pearl?"

"This pearl has become my heart," said Kino. "If I give it up, I will lose my heart. Go also with God."

## Escape to the Mountains

*He saw three men, two on foot and one on horseback.*

*He knew what they were. Fear went through him.*

The wind was strong, and it threw sticks, sand, and stones at Kino and Juana. They held their clothing tight around them and covered their noses and went out into the world. The two walked carefully around the town. Then Kino turned north, north by the stars, and found the old sandy road to Loreto.

Kino could feel the sand against his legs. And he was glad because his feet were leaving no tracks. Kino went quickly and quietly. Juana almost ran to stay with him.

Through Kino's fear of dark and the evils of night, some excitement came. Something out of the past of his people was alive in him. The wind was at his back and the stars guided him. The family walked and walked, hour after hour. They passed nobody and saw nobody. At last, to their right, the moon came up. And when it did, the wind died. The land was silent.





Now they could see the little road in front of them. It had deep sand-covered wheel tracks. Now they were leaving signs in the sand, but they were quite far from town. Kino walked carefully in a wheel track, and Juana followed in his path.

All night they walked, never slowing down. Once Coyotito woke up. Juana spoke softly to him until he went to sleep again. And the evils of the night were around them. The night animals cried and laughed from behind the trees. The night birds flew above them singing dark songs. And once some large animals moved near them. Kino held the big working knife tight. He felt protected by it.

The music of the pearl was loud in Kino's head, and he could also hear the quiet Song of the Family. All night they walked. Before the first light of day Kino searched the roadside for a place to sleep. He found his place near to the road, a little grassy area. A thick line of dry trees hid it from view. Juana sat down to feed the baby. Kino went back to the road. He took a stick and carefully swept their tracks off the path from the road to the hiding place. And then, in the first light, he heard a vehicle coming down the road, and he sat and watched it pass. He went back to the road. He found that their tracks were gone. And again he swept the path. Then he went back to Juana.



She gave him the corn-cakes that Apolonia packed for them. And then she slept a little. But Kino sat on the ground and looked at the earth in front of him.

The sun came up. They were not near the sea now, and the air was dry and hot. When Juana woke up, the sun was high.

"Will they follow us?" she asked. "Do you think they will try to find us?"

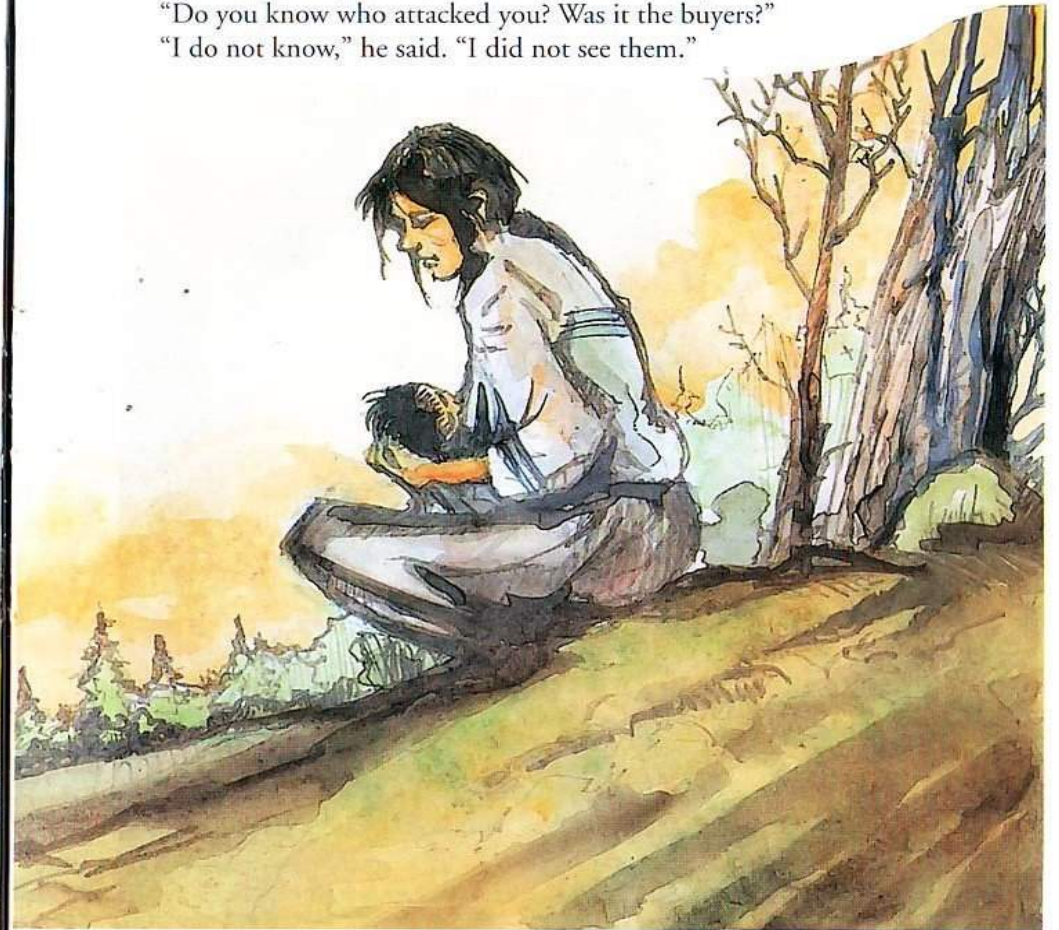
"They will try," said Kino. "Oh, they will try because they want the pearl."

And Juana said, "Maybe the buyers were right. Maybe the pearl is worth nothing."

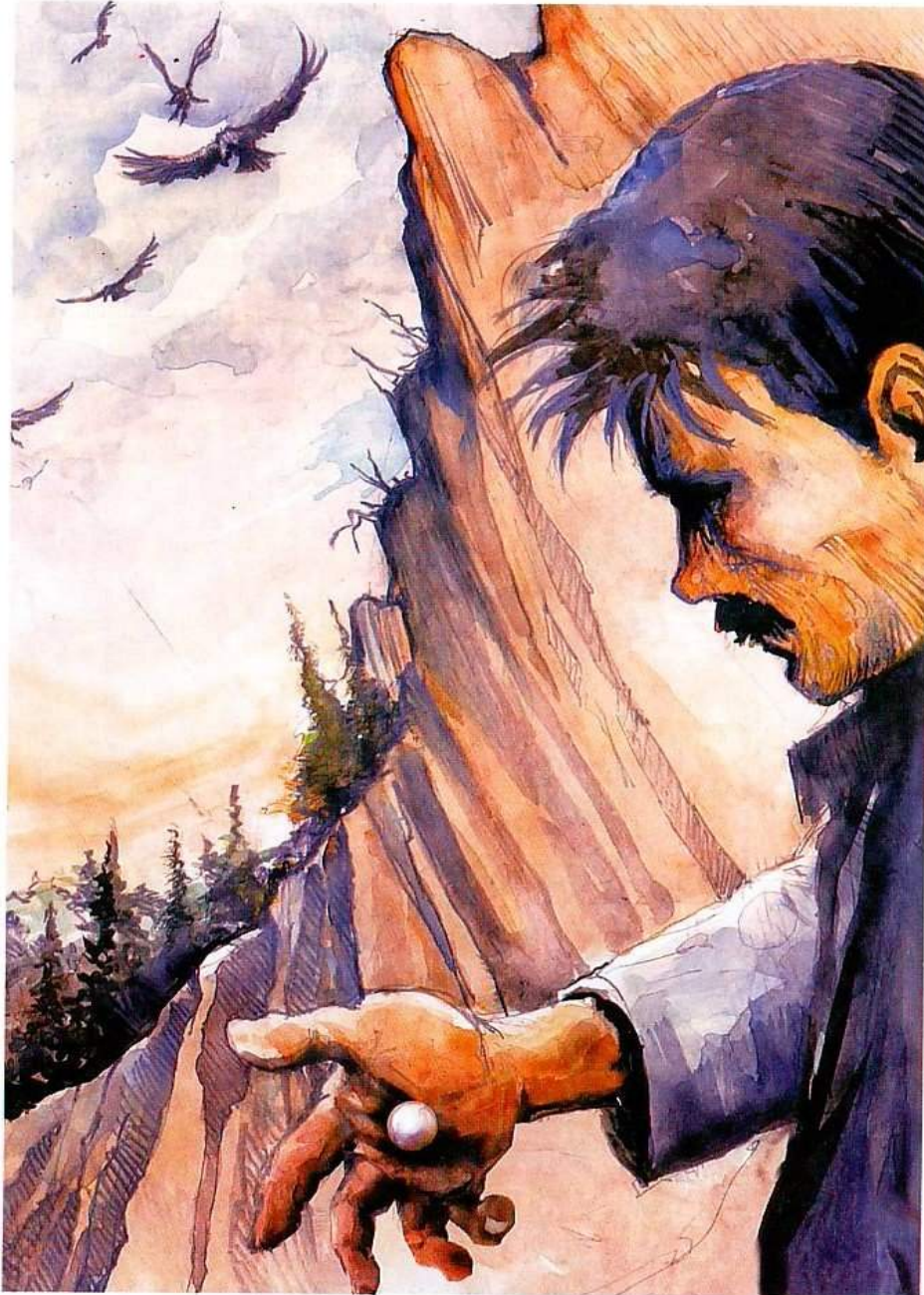
Kino reached into his clothes and brought out the pearl. The sun shone on it, and it burned his eyes. "No," he said, "because they tried to steal it."

"Do you know who attacked you? Was it the buyers?"

"I do not know," he said. "I did not see them."







He looked into his pearl to find his future. "When we sell it at last, I will have a gun," he said, and he looked into the pearl for his gun. But he saw only a dark, bloody body on the ground. And he said quickly, "We will marry in a great church." And in the pearl he saw Juana lying in the rocks near the beach. "Our son must learn to read," he said, worry in his voice. And there in the pearl was Coyotito's face, hot and red from the white medicine.

And Kino put the pearl back into his clothing. The music of the pearl sounded wild in his ears, like the music of evil.

The day grew hotter. Kino and Juana moved into the shadows of the small trees. Kino lay down and covered his eyes with his hat, and he slept.

But Juana did not sleep. She sat quiet as a stone and her face was quiet. Her mouth still hurt where Kino hit her. But she sat silently. When Coyotito woke up, she put him on the ground in front of her. She watched him wave his arms and kick his feet. He smiled and laughed at her, and she smiled too. She picked up a little stick from the ground and played with him and then gave him water.

Kino moved in a dream. And then he cried loudly and sat up suddenly. His eyes were wide. He listened and heard only the heat.

"What is it?" Juana asked.

"Be quiet," he said.

"You were dreaming."

"Maybe." But he could not sit quietly; he was nervous. He looked over his shoulder and lifted the big knife. When Coyotito laughed on the ground, Kino said, "Keep him quiet."

"What is the matter?" Juana asked.

"I do not know."

He listened again, an animal light in his eyes. He stood up then, silently. And, keeping low, he moved through the grass toward the road. But he did not step into the road; he stayed behind a tree and looked out.

And then he saw them moving along. He saw three men, two on foot and one on horseback. He knew what they were. Fear went through him. He could see the two on foot looking at the ground. They were the trackers. These people could read a broken stick or a little fallen pile of sand. Behind them, on a horse, was a dark man. He carried a gun that shone in the sun.

The trackers were looking for him as they looked for animals. And they moved over the ground like animals and found a sign and looked closely at it. The horseman waited.

The trackers made noises like excited dogs. Kino slowly took his big knife out. He knew what he must do. If the trackers found the sweet place, he must



jump at the horseman. He must kill him quickly and take the gun. And as the three came nearer on the road, Kino prepared to jump.

Now Juana, back in the hiding place, heard the horse, and Coyotito made soft noises. She took him up quickly and he was silent.

When the trackers came near, Kino could see only their legs and the legs of the horse. The trackers wore dark shoes and dirty white pants. They stopped at the swept place and studied it, and the horseman stopped. The horse moved his head and made a noise. Then the dark trackers turned and studied the horse and watched his ears.

Kino was quiet but very nervous. For a long time the trackers looked at the road. And then they moved on slowly, studying the ground in front of them. The horseman moved after them. But Kino knew it was not finished. He did not have long before they came back.

He hurried to the hiding place, and he did not cover his tracks. He could not; too many little signs were there, too many broken sticks and stones out of place. And there was great fear in Kino now. There was no escape. They had to run. Juana looked up at him in question.

"Trackers," he said. "Come!"

And then a helplessness and a hopelessness came over him, and his face went black and his eyes were sad. "Maybe I should give myself to them."

Immediately Juana was on her feet and her hand lay on his arm. "You have the pearl," she cried. "Do you think they will take you back alive?"

His hand moved slowly to the pearl. "They will find it," he said weakly.

"Come," she said. "Come." And when he did not move: "Do you think they will leave me alive? Do you think they will leave the little one here alive?"

Her words changed him. His eyes were angry again.

"Come," he said. "We will go into the mountains. Maybe we can lose them in the mountains."

He picked up their small bags, and they hurried to the west, toward the high stone mountains. They moved quickly through the trees and grasses. They were too afraid to worry about tracks. In front of them were the stone mountains. And Kino ran for the high place—like most animals when they are trying to escape.

This land was dry. And underfoot was not earth but broken rock. The singing heat lay over this country, and the stone mountains looked welcoming.



The path grew steeper, and the rocks grew larger. But now there was more space between Kino's family and the trackers. Now, he rested. He climbed a big rock and looked back over the dry country. He could not see his enemies, not even the tall horseman. Juana sat in the shadow of the rock and gave Coyotito some water from a bottle. She looked up at Kino when he came back. She saw him look at her legs; they were cut from walking in the long grasses and on the rocks, and she covered them quickly with her skirt. Then she handed the bottle to him, but he shook his head. Her eyes were bright in her tired face.





"Juana," he said, "I will continue and you will hide. They will follow me into the mountains. And when they have gone past, you will go north to Loreto or Santa Rosalia. Then, if I can escape them, I will come to you. It is the only safe way."

She looked full into his eyes. "No," she said. "We go with you."

"I can go faster alone," he said. "You will put the little one in more danger if you go with me."

"No," said Juana.

He looked then for weakness or fear in her face, and there was none. Her eyes were very bright. He felt stronger as they continued walking.

The country changed quickly near the mountains, and Kino and Juana walked on stone. Kino knew the trackers could not follow his path. They had to look hard before they found it again. And so he did not go straight for the mountains now. Sometimes he went back to the south and left a sign. Then he went toward the mountains over the stones again.

The sun moved down, and Kino climbed toward a shadowy place in the mountains. He could see some green plants and trees there, and he hoped for water and a path. And as the sun went down, Kino and Juana moved slowly up the steep path toward the shadowy place.

High in the gray stone mountains, a small stream came out of the rock. It fell into a pool and then fell 100 feet into another pool. Water from this pool dropped into the dry rocks below and disappeared. Animals came from miles around to drink from the little pools. Large animals also came to kill the smaller animals. The little pools were places of life because of the water, and places of killing because of the water, too.

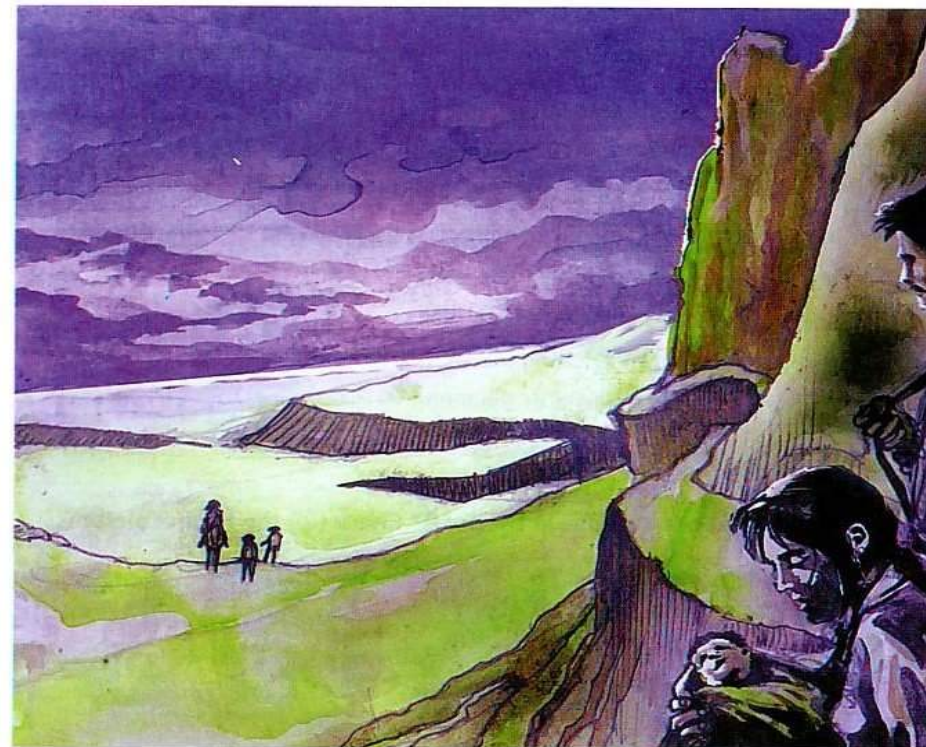
The sun passed over the stone mountains before Kino and Juana came at last to the water. They could look out over the dry country to the blue sea. They were very tired, and Juana dropped to her knees and washed Coyotito's face and then filled her bottle and gave him a drink. Kino drank thirstily at the pool. He rested next to the water and watched Juana feed the baby, and then he got to his feet and looked below him. Far down the mountain he could see the two trackers and the horseman.

Juana turned to look at him. She saw his fear.

"How far?" she asked quietly.

"They will be here by evening," said Kino. He looked up the rock where the water came down. "We must go west," he said, and his eyes searched the rock behind the pool. And thirty feet up he saw some small **caves**. He took off his shoes and climbed up to them, and he looked into them. They were only a few

**cave** /keɪv/ (n) a large, natural hole in the side of a hill or under the ground



feet deep. Kino went into the largest one and lay down. He knew that nobody could see him from the outside. Quickly he went back to Juana.

"You must go up there. Maybe they will not find us there," he said.

Without question she filled her water-bottle to the top, and then Kino helped her up to the small cave. He brought up the packages of food and passed them to her. And Juana sat in the cave and watched him. She saw that he did not try to sweep away their tracks in the sand. He climbed a hundred feet up a big plant-covered rock, pulling at the plants. And then he came down again, and at last he climbed up and sat in the cave next to Juana.

"When they go up," he said, "we will escape to the low country again. I am afraid only that the baby will cry. You must stop him. He must not cry."

"He will not cry," she said. "He knows."

Now Kino lay in the cave, and he watched the blue shadow of the mountain move out across the dry country below. It reached the sea, and the shadow was over all the land.



## 6.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 5.4. Then, put these sentences in order, 1–8.

- a ☐ Juana takes the pearl to the sea.
- b ☐ Kino and Juana hide in Juan Tomás's house.
- c ☐ Kino finds a hole in his canoe.
- d ☐ Kino jumps at her from behind, hits her, and kicks her.
- e ☐ She puts up her arm to throw the pearl into the sea.
- f ☐ Someone attacks Kino and Kino kills him.
- g ☐ Someone burns down Kino and Juana's house.
- h ☐ The family leave by the light of the moon.

## 6.2 What more did you learn?

1 Which of these does Kino see in the pearl? Check (✓) the correct pictures.



2 Trackers are following Kino and Juana. Answer the questions.

- a How many trackers are there? .....
- b Who is with the trackers? .....
- c What is the third man carrying? .....
- d Where do Kino and Juana go when they want to lose them? .....
- e Does Juana agree to hide while Kino goes on alone? .....
- f What do they find high in the mountains? .....
- g Where do they hide? .....

## 6.3 Language in use

Read the sentence on the right. Then choose the right modal verb for each space below. Use the correct form of the verb.

"We **must** go west," said Kino.

can could not have to must should

- 1 Juana needed a man; she ..... live without a man.
- 2 "We ..... go before the daylight comes," said Kino.
- 3 "Kino ..... never leave the sea," said Juan Tomás.
- 4 "Maybe I ..... give myself to the trackers," said Kino.
- 5 The trackers ..... look hard before they found the path again.

## 6.4 What's next?

How is this story going to end? Who will stay alive? Who will die? What will happen to the pearl? Talk to other students. Write your ideas in the box.

Notes



## The Music of the Pearl

*He knew the sound—the loud, long, crying from the little cave in the side of the stone mountain, the cry of death.*

It was nearly dark when the trackers came at last to the little pool. And all three were on foot now, as a horse could not climb the steep path. The two trackers walked around near the pool. They saw Kino climb up the rock before they drank. The man with the gun sat down and rested. The trackers sat near him smoking cigarettes. And then Kino could see that they were eating. The soft sounds of their voices came to him.

Then darkness fell, deep and black in the mountains. Kino heard a voice behind him. Juana was saying, "Coyotito." She was trying to keep him quiet. Kino heard the baby cry softly.

Kino saw that, down near the pool, two of the men were sleeping. The third watched.

Kino moved silently back into the cave and to Juana.

"There is a way," he said.

"But they will kill you."

"If I get first to the man with the gun," Kino said, "then I will be all right. Two are sleeping."

Her hand took his arm. "They will see your white clothes in the starlight."

"No," he said. "And I must go before the moon comes out."

He searched for a soft word and then gave it up. "If they kill me," he said, "lie quietly. And when they have gone away, go to Loreto."

Her hand, in his hand, shook a little.

"It is the only way," he said. "They will find us in the morning."

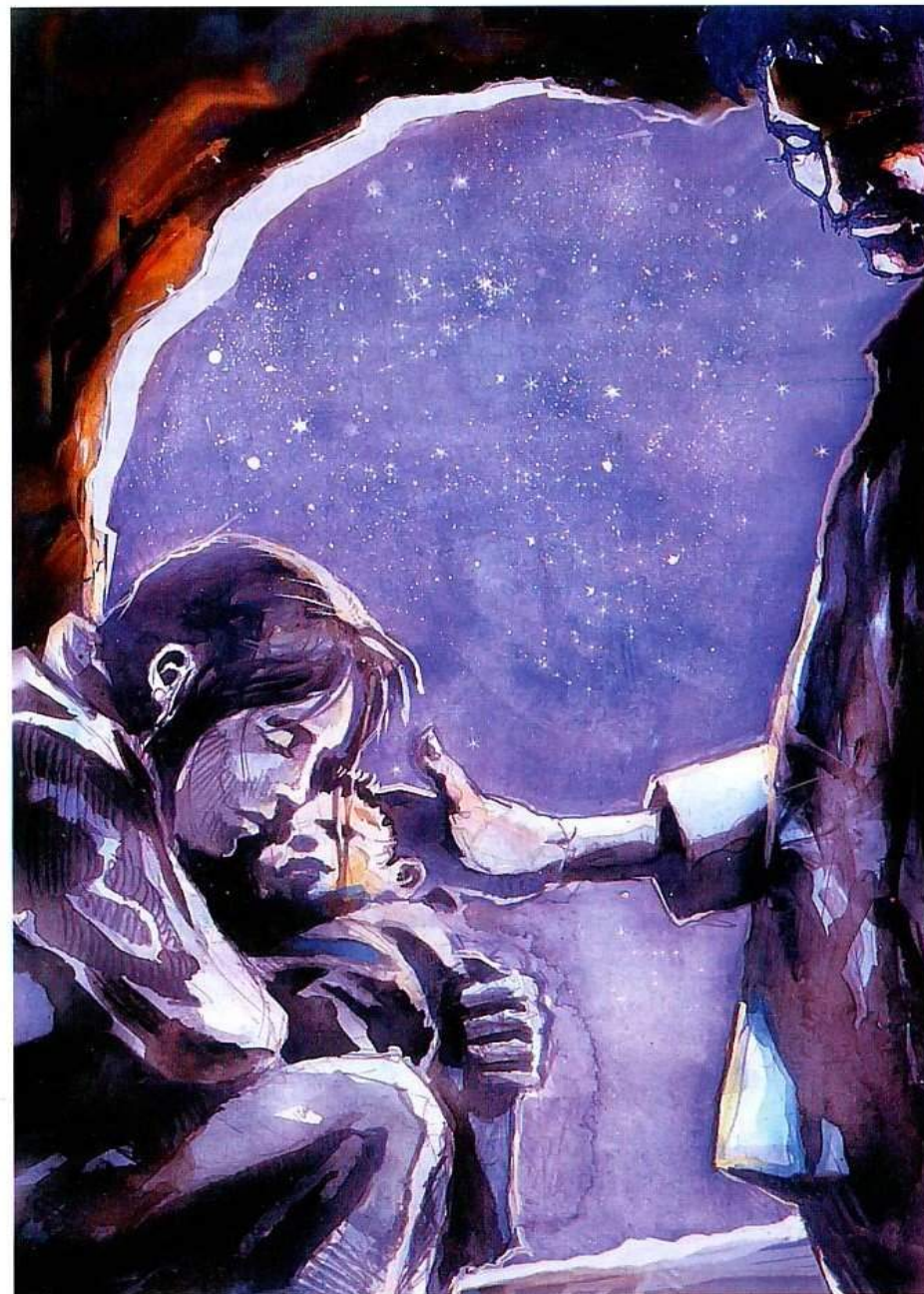
Her voice shook a little. "Go with God," she said.

He looked closely at her and he could see her large eyes. His hand found the baby, and for a minute Kino's hand lay on Coyotito's head. And then Kino lifted his hand and touched Juana's face.

Juana could see that Kino was taking off his white clothes. His own brown skin could protect him better. And then she saw that he hung his knife around his neck. This left both hands free. He did not come back to her. He waited silently at the front of the cave, and then he was gone.

Juana moved to the front of the cave and looked out, and the baby slept against her. Juana prayed for protection from the black, evil things.

Kino moved slowly down the rocks. The knife hung down his back, so it did not hit the rocks. And Kino's own music was in his head, the music of the



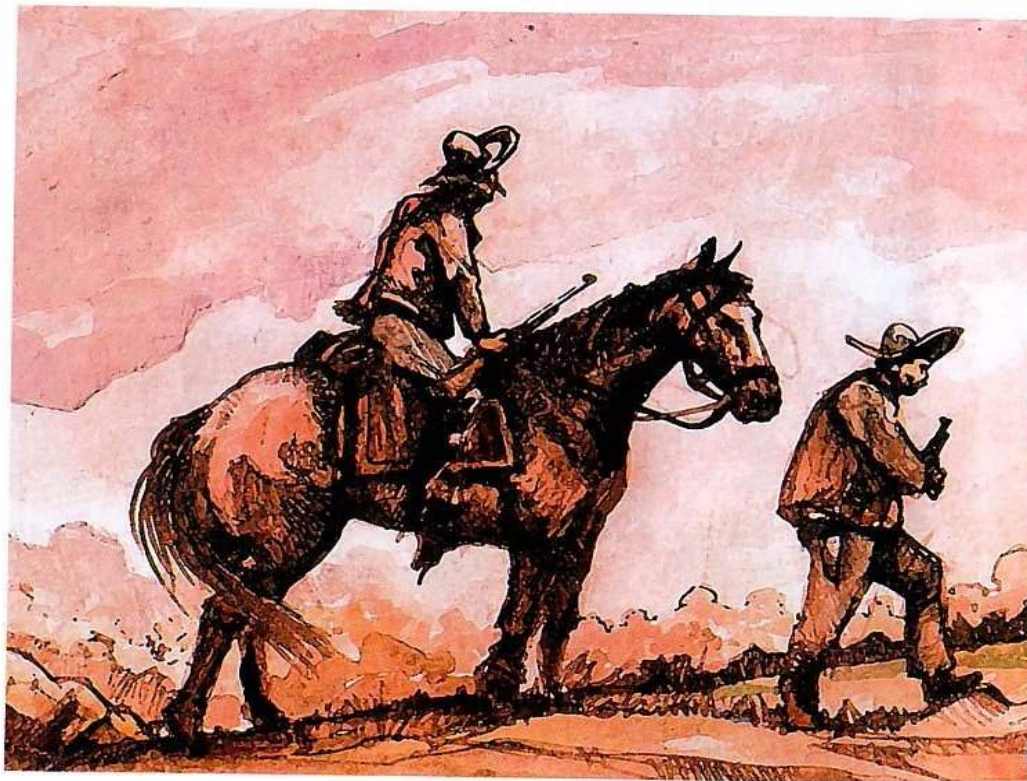


enemy. But the Song of the Family was strong. It was alive now, and it carried him down to the dark enemy.

And Kino moved as silently as a shadow down the smooth rock. One foot moved a few inches, and the other foot a few inches, and then one hand down a little, and then the other hand. It took him a long time to reach the bottom. His heart raced and his hands and face were wet. He sat behind a small tree and tried to stay calm.

He was only twenty feet from the enemy now. He tried to remember the ground between them. And then he looked to the east. He must attack before the moon was up. He could see the watcher, but he could not see the two sleeping men. Kino must find the watcher—must find him quickly. Silently he reached for his knife.

He was too late. As he stood up, the moon came out. Kino dropped back behind his tree.



It was an old moon, but it threw hard light and hard shadow onto the area around the pool. Now Kino could see the shape of the watcher next to the water. The watcher looked at the moon, and then he took out another cigarette. There could be no waiting now. When the watcher turned his head, Kino must jump.

And then from above came a little cry. The watcher turned his head to listen. Then he stood up. One of the sleepers moved and woke up, and he asked quietly, "What is it?"

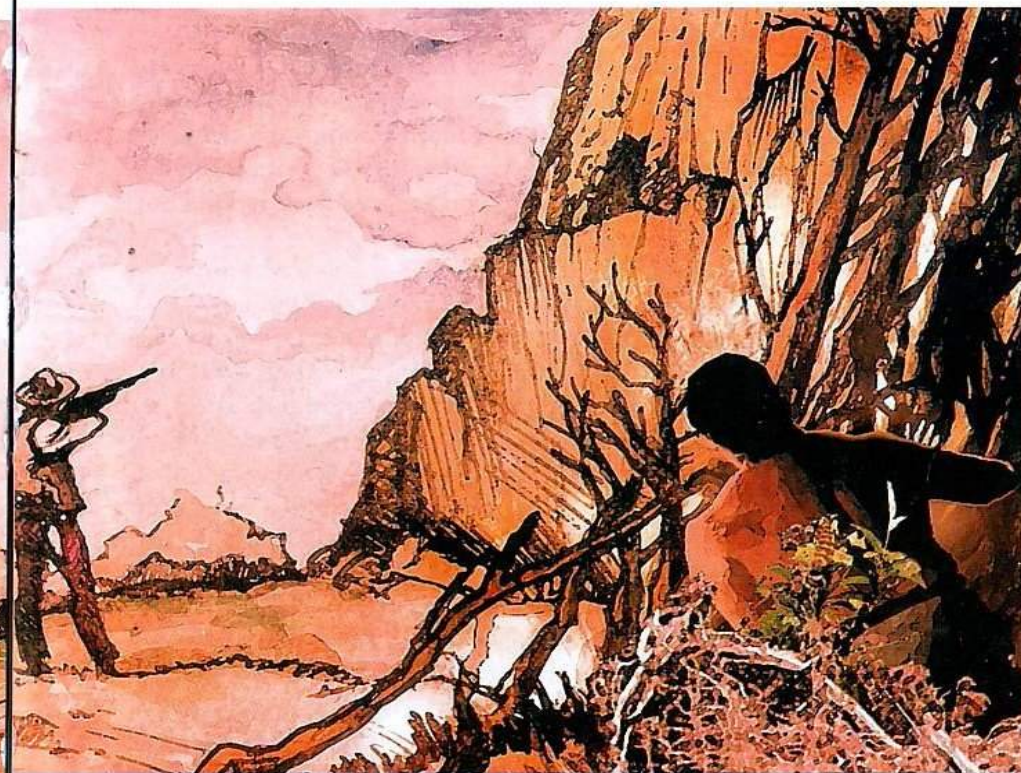
"I do not know," said the watcher. "It sounded like a cry, almost like a baby."

The other man said, "You cannot tell. I have heard animals cry like babies."

Kino was nervous and afraid. The little cry came again, and the watcher looked up the side of the hill to the dark cave.

"Maybe an animal," he said. Kino heard him prepare his gun.

"If it is an animal, this will stop it," the watcher said as he lifted the gun.





Kino was jumping when the gun went off. He pushed the knife in front of him. It went through neck and deep into stomach, and Kino was a terrible machine now. He took the gun while he pulled the knife out of the body. He was as strong and fast as a machine. He turned around and hit the head of the seated man. The third man ran away, jumped into the pool, and began to climb up the rock. Kino lifted the gun and shot. He saw his enemy fall back into the pool, and Kino walked to the water. In the moonlight he saw fear in the eyes, and Kino shot him between the eyes.

And then Kino stood alone, trying to understand. Something was wrong. And then Kino's mind cleared. He knew the sound—the loud, long crying from the little cave in the side of the stone mountain, the cry of death.

Everyone in La Paz remembers the return of the family. It was late in the golden afternoon. Little boys ran into town and brought the news. Kino and Juana were coming back. And everyone hurried to see them.

The two came from the old country road into the town. Usually Kino walked in front of Juana, but that day they were walking side by side. The sun was behind them, and their long shadows came before them. Kino had a gun across his arm. Juana carried something in a small, heavy piece of cloth covered with dried blood. Her face was hard and tired. Kino's mouth was thin and tight. The people say that he carried fear with him. They say that he was as dangerous as a coming storm. The two seemed changed. And people moved back and did not speak to them.

Kino and Juana walked through the town, and their eyes looked neither left nor right nor up nor down, but looked only in front of them. Kino and Juana walked side by side through the town to their group of little houses. The neighbors stood back and made way for them. Juan Tomás lifted his hand to greet them. But he did not say the greeting, and left his hand in the air.

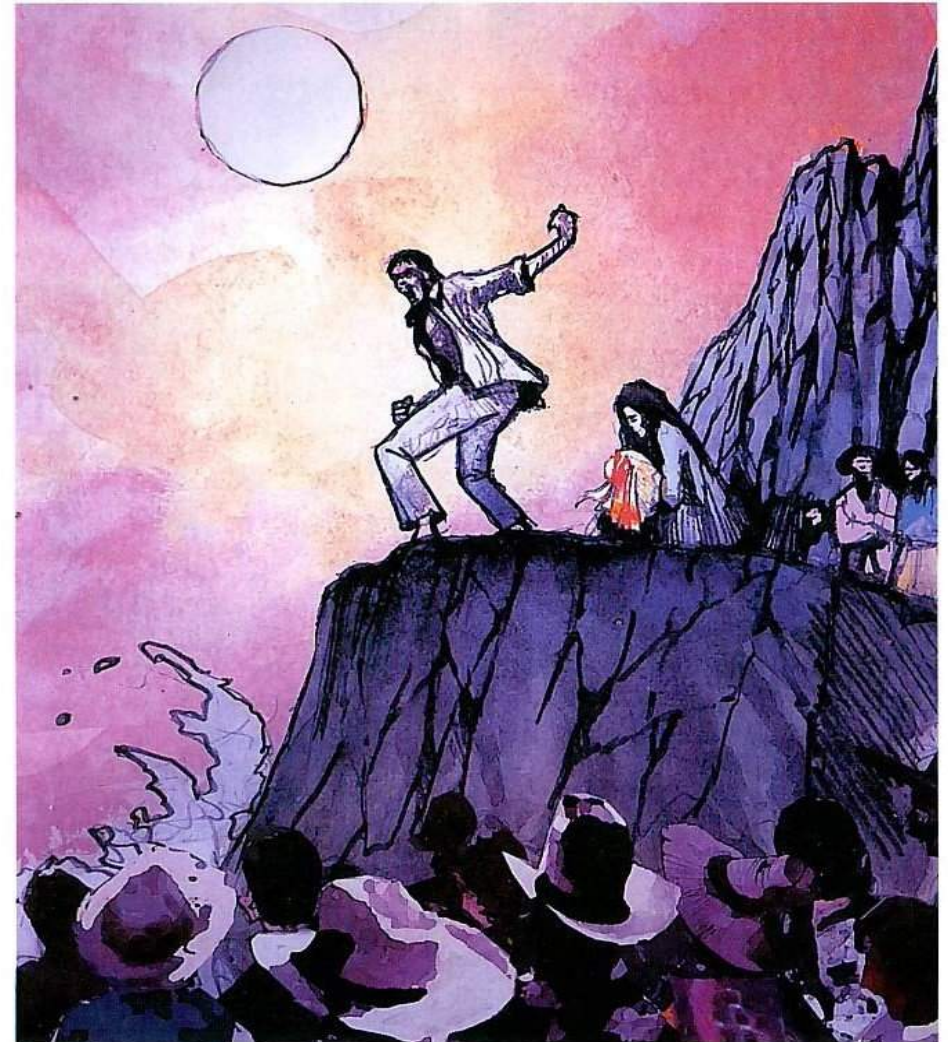
In Kino's ears the Song of the Family was as strong as a cry. His song was now a war cry. They moved past their burned house without even looking at it. They walked through the trees near the beach and went down toward the water. And they did not look at Kino's broken canoe.

And when they came to the water they stopped. And then Kino put the gun down. He took the great pearl out of his clothes and held it in his hand. He looked into it, and it was gray and ugly. Evil faces looked from it into his eyes, and he saw the light of burning. And he saw the fear in the eyes of the man in the pool. And in the pearl he saw Coyotito lying in the little cave. The top of his head was shot away. And the pearl was ugly. And Kino heard the crazy, ugly music of the pearl. Kino's hand shook a little, and he turned slowly to Juana and

held the pearl out to her. She stood at his side, still holding the bloody cloth. She looked at the pearl in his hand, and then she looked into Kino's eyes and said softly, "No, you."

And Kino threw the pearl as hard as he could. Kino and Juana watched it go, shining under the dying sun. They saw the pearl fall into the sea. They stood side by side watching the place for a long time.

And the music of the pearl went quiet and disappeared.





- 1 Kino and Juana have to make many decisions that change their lives. Discuss what they could do differently at these times in their lives.



Kino refuses the offer from the pearl sellers. Is he right?



Juana wants to throw the pearl back into the sea. Is she right?



The family escape to the mountains. Should they stay at home?



Kino plans to kill the trackers. Is that the only way?

- 2 John Steinbeck wrote *The Pearl* as a story for a movie. Work in a small group. Discuss these questions and make notes.

- Is this a good story for a movie? Why (not)?
- Where should people make the movie?
- Where should the actors come from?
- What would be good music for the Song of the Family and the Song of the Pearl? Compare your ideas with other groups.

A newspaper reporter from the capital is in La Paz. He hears about Juana and Kino's story. He thinks it is a great story for his paper. He interviews everybody and writes the story. He writes about the size of the pearl, the pearl sellers' offer, the attacks on Kino and the fire, the escape to the mountains, the deaths.

Write the story for him.

## World's Biggest Pearl Destroys Family





Kino found the pearl. This was like winning a large amount of money.

- 1 Work in a small group. You are all in the same family. You need a small piece of paper for each person in the group. Draw a cross on one piece. Each person then takes a piece without looking at it. The person with the cross has won \$10,000,000. How will their life change? How will all your lives change? Discuss this with the winner.
- 2 Read this information about people who have won a lot of money. Then discuss these questions:
  - a What will be your biggest fear if you win a lot of money?
  - b What five things will you buy?
  - c Who will you give money to?

## Winner Is Robbed at Home

A 27-year-old man won \$15,000,000 only two weeks ago. Yesterday four men with guns broke into his house in Chicago, took him into the kitchen, and asked for money.

His wife was upstairs and called the police. But she escaped before the police came. They took pearls, paintings, and money. The man's three small children were all upstairs asleep at the time.

"I have never been so afraid," the man said. "My win has changed our lives."



### Top Three Things Bought by Winners in the United States

- 1 a house
- 2 a car
- 3 a holiday

### FACT

1 in 7 winners of \$10,000,000 or more gives \$1,000,000 or more to people in their family or to friends.

Use the Internet. Find out about someone who has won a lot of money in your country. Write the information in this table.

Name: .....

Age: .....

Amount won: .....

Good news: .....

Bad news: .....

With your group, write five questions for people who have won a lot of money. Write three or four possible answers, like this:

What will you do with the money?

a spend some, save some, give some away

b spend it all

c save it all

d give it all away

Everyone in the class should imagine that they are winners. Ask at least ten people your questions and note their answers.

Notes:



- 6 What did you find out? Look at the answers that your group was given. What does the information tell you? Write a report and then read it to the class.

Example:

We interviewed fifteen people. Eight people think that a lot of money will make their lives better. Six people think that it will destroy their lives. One wasn't sure.

### Report