The Pearl Chapters 3-4 Study Guide

The Pearl Chapter 3 Plot Events

1. Once people heard the news that Kino found a pearl some wanted to sell things to him and others wanted favors.
2. The pearl made people think evil thoughts.
3. The people wondered how Kino had such good luck.
4. Kino wants 4 things: be married in a church, new clothes for his family, education for Coyotito, and a rifle.
5. The priest came to Kino’s house when it was almost dark.
6. The men took their hats off as a sign of respect for the priest.
7. Kino hears the song of evil but did not know where it came from.
8. The priest wanted Kino to give thanks to God for finding the pearl.
9. The doctor visited Kino and said he came as quickly as possible.
10. He offered to cure Coyotito. Kino doesn’t want help but gives in to save Coyotito’s life.
11. Kino hides the pearl in a corner.
12. Someone looks for the pearl in the night.
13. Kino fights off the attacker.
14. Juana wants to get rid of the pearl.
15. Kino says they will sell the pearl in the morning.

The Pearl Chapter 4 Plot Events

1. Everyone knows Kino is going to sell his pearl.
2. The pearl dealers have a plan to cheat the divers by charging them the lowest price possible. One dealer runs all of the small dealers who one day want to be the big dealer (Steinbeck 42).
3. The neighbors make songs about the pearl.
4. Kino and Juana think of it as a day as important as the birth of their son.
5. They imagine it will be remembered in the town’s history.
6. Kino and Juana prepare to sell the pearl.
7. Kino and Juan Tomas discuss things to remember when talking to the dealers (Steinbeck 45).
8. Kino approaches the dealer who moves a coin over his hands, making it disappear.
9. The dealer tells Kino the pearl is worthless. Kino refuses to believe it, and does not sell, saying he will travel to the capital.
10. Kino and family discuss what to do.
11. Kino gets attacked outside at night again.
12. At the end of the chapter, he still has the pearl.
Themes

- Greed: The way the town is interested in the pearl and becomes greedy for it, Kino wanting a rifle, Kino refusing to get ride of the pearl after being attacked, the pearl dealer's scheme to cheat the divers
- Class divide: Kino's people are at a disadvantage because they do not know about valuing pearls, the talk about staying in their “station”.
- Misogyny: be able to identify examples of it throughout chapters 3 and 4.

Important Quotes and Ideas:

- Know the things Kino wants from the pearl in chapter 3 and which is not like the others (pgs 24-26).
- “A town is a thing like a colonial animal. A town has a nervous system and a head and shoulders and feet. A town is a thing separate from all other towns, so that there are no two towns alike. And a town has a whole emotion.” **Simile**: town compared to a “colonial animal,” and **metaphor**: town compared to a human being with a circulatory system.
- "This thing is evil," she cried harshly. "This pearl is like a sin! It will destroy us," and her voice rose shrilly. "Throw it away, Kino. Let us break it between stones. Let us bury it and forget the place. Let us throw it back into the sea. It has brought evil. Kino, my husband, it will destroy us."
- Know how the scheme works for the pearl buyers
- Know the importance of the coin (it shows how the dealer is tricky and good with money in a way that Kino and his people are not).
- Know the mood and tone shifts through the chapter.
- Know how the chapter 3 and 4 intro pages parallel each other, particularly the functions of the townspeople
- Be able to discuss changes in Juana and Kino