

The Pearl

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapter 1

1 Use books or the Internet to learn more about scorpions, where they can be found and how dangerous their bite is.

More than one thousand Mexican people die from scorpion bites every year.

2 Compare Kino's people and the doctor's people. Write your answers.

	Kino's people	The doctor's people
skin	dark	
food	corn-cakes	
language	old language	
houses	wooden houses	

Chapters 2–3

3 Use books or the Internet to learn more about Mexico and its history.

On page 6 we are told that "The doctor's people came to Mexico from Spain ... and they hit and robbed and laughed at Kino's people." What can you learn about Mexico's history?

4 Kino was very probably taught to fish for pearls by his father. Put his father's words in the right order. Write the numbers, 1–7.

- a Move slowly for the water to stay clear.
- b Use a heavy rock to carry you to the bottom of the sea.
- c Throw the open oysters back into the water.
- d Pull the oysters from the ocean floor and put them into your bag.
- e Put the canoe above the oyster bed.
- f Open the oysters with a strong knife.
- g Stay under the water for less than three minutes.

5 Imagine that the priest who goes to visit Kino and Juana wants to help them. In pairs, write down the conversation between the priest and Kino.

Chapters 4–5

6 Complete these sentences. The answers are all numbers.

- a Strangers from Spain had come to the land of Kino's people years before.
- b At the beginning the first buyer offered Kino pesos.
- c Kino thought that the pearl was worth pesos.
- d The third buyer offered Kino pesos.
- e The first buyer then offered him pesos.

Chapter 6

7 With another student, write for a newspaper about how Kino was attacked at the door of his house. Write when, where, how, and why it happened.

Chapters 7–8

8 Put these sentences in the right order. Write the numbers, 1–7.

- a Kino hit Juana.
- b Juana tried to throw the pearl back into the sea.
- c Kino killed the man who tried to steal the pearl from him.
- d Kino saw a great hole in the bottom of his canoe.
- e Kino and Juana left their town.
- f Kino and his family hid in Juan Tomás and Apolonia's house.
- g Kino and Juana saw that their house was on fire.

9 Compare what Kino saw in the pearl when he found it (pages 16–19) and what he now sees in the pearl (page 59).

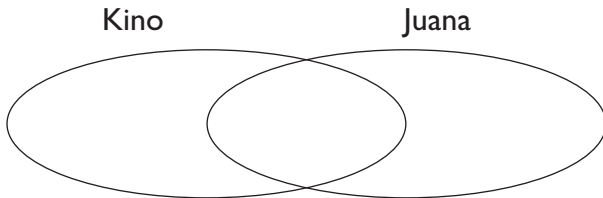
What Kino saw in the pearl	What Kino sees in the pearl now
A gun	
He and Juana marrying in the great church	
Coyotito learning to read	

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10 With another student, compare Kino and Juana using the words in the box. There may be some words that don't fit either of them.

honest kind patient brave funny
 lazy polite proud shy silent skilful
 strong wise



Chapter 9

11 Make a poster. Kino has killed a man. What does Kino look like? What he has done? How much money will they give to the person who finds him?



12 Match the words and the names.

- Kino Juana the watcher
- a "There is a way."
 - b "But they will kill you."
 - c "They will see your white clothes in the starlight."
 - d "When they have gone away, go to Loreto."
 - e "Go with God."
 - f "It sounded like a cry, almost like a baby."

13 Kino, Juana and their neighbors walk into the town together at three different moments in the story. Write information on when and why they do so.

	When	Why
First time		
Second time		
Third time		

After reading

14 Write your answers.

In Chapter 5 Kino says that the priest has told them that to sell the pearls in another town is against religion (page 33). With another student, write down what the priest will say in church now that Kino and Juana have returned to the town with their dead baby.

15 Write a new ending.

Imagine that after killing the three trackers Kino, Juana and Coyotito are able to reach Loreto and sell the pearl for a better price than in their town. Write down another ending for the story and then share it with the class.

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Chapter 1

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Kino and Juana lived in a stone house.
- b Juana woke up early and built the fire.
- c She took her daughter out of the hanging box and cleaned her.
- d Juana ate before Kino.
- e They loved to talk after breakfast.
- f Juana and Kino saw a scorpion on the floor.
- g When Kino saw the scorpion he started to hear the Song of Evil.
- h Coyotito shook the rope and the scorpion fell.

Chapters 2–3

2 Complete these sentences.

- a bought the canoe and then he gave it to Kino's grandfather
- b were as good as the doctor's medicine.
- c was leaving Coyotito's body.
- d saw something shine inside the oyster.
- e told Kino to open the oyster.
- f in the other boats looked up when they heard Kino's scream.
- g travels quickly: everyone in town knew about the Pearl of the World.
- h; thought of repairs that the church needed.
- i worked for a greedy man who kept his workers in different offices.

Chapters 4–5

3 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

alone smooth white beautiful angry
terrible soft dark silent mean black

- a Kino felt and unprotected.
- b The pearl was warm and against Kino's skin.
- c Kino was with the doctor, but he also felt afraid.
- d From his bag the doctor took a little bottle of medicine.
- e The neighbors talked about how the pearl was.
- f They said that good luck brings friends.

- g From the corner of Kino's house came a sound, a touch of a foot on the earth.
- h Kino knew the thing was listening.
- i The pearl shone on the cloth.
- j The buyer's eyes were but the rest of his face smiled.

Chapter 6

4 What happened? Complete with one word.

- a Juana watched Kino while he his pearl in the ground.
- b Juana Coyotito in her arms and sang the Song of the Family to him.
- c Juana a sudden fight and ran outside.
- d Kino on the ground, trying to get up.
- e Juana him water to drink.
- f She the cut on his face.

Chapters 7–8

5 Complete the sentences with the right names.

- a saw get up, take the pearl from its hiding place, and leave the house.
- b's arm was up to throw the pearl into the sea.
- c heard a sound, and hit at someone.
- d saw the shining great pearl in the path behind a rock.
- e knew that a wooden house burns down quickly.
- f told not to travel by the coast.
- g carried on her back.
- h told to stop from crying.

Chapter 9

6 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Kino's white skin could protect him better than his clothes.
- b Kino attacked the trackers before the moon was out.
- c The third tracker escaped.
- d When they returned to their town Kino walked in front of Juana.
- e The pearl was now gray and ugly.
- f Juana threw the pearl as hard as she could into the sea.

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Book key

1.1 1 Open answers

2 A big pearl costs a lot of money.

A fisherman earns his money from the ocean.

A bite from a scorpion is full of poison.

The baby's box hangs from the roof of the house on a long rope.

3 Open answers

1.2 Open answers

2.1 a 2 b 4 c 7 d 1 e 6 f 5 g 3

2.2 Kino: lives in a small one-room house, eats corn-cakes for breakfast, has a hard life, is young and poor, has a wife and son.

The doctor: has a large stone house, eats hot chocolate and cookies for breakfast, is from a family that came to Mexico 400 years ago, is fat and lazy, has servants.

2.3 1 where 2 who 3 that 4 who 5 that

2.4 Open answers

3.1 1 World

2 worth

3 lucky

4 sea plants

5 better

6 gun

7 school

8 beggars

9 destroy

3.2 a rock ✓

b rope ✓

c bag ✓

d canoe ✓

e knife ✓

f sea plants

g gun

3.3 a as large as

b as good as

c like

d like

e as

f louder than

g-h Open answers

3.4 Open answers

4.1 1 the doctor

2 the doctor

3 Kino

4 the doctor

5 Juan Tomás

4.2 1 the doctor: greedy

the baby: sick

the servant: uncomfortable

Kino: unsure

Juana: afraid

The doctor wants the pearl and is thinking about the money.

The baby is feeling sick because the doctor gave him bad medicine.

The servant is feeling uncomfortable. He is helping the doctor but he is one of Kino's people.

Kino is unsure if the doctor has given the baby bad medicine.

Juana is afraid because the baby is sick.

2 a walk b talk/know c have d is e work

4.3 1 Kino was woken up by the music of evil.

2 Kino was hit hard on the head by the pearl thief.

3 The canoes were not used that day by the pearlers.

4 Kino and his brother were followed by the neighbors.

5 Kino was offered 1,500 pesos by the pearl buyers.

4.4 Open answers

5.1 canoe, sea, mountains, capital, honest

5.2 1 a Kino's brother is not going with him to the capital.

b After Juan Tomás leaves, Kino does not see the future clearly.

c Kino does not know who his attacker was.

d Juana wants to break the pearl between two stones.

e Juana will not stay at home when Kino goes to the capital.

2 Possible answer:

Juana has just heard a sudden fight outside the door of their house. She picks up a stone from the fire hole and runs outside. She is going to protect Kino with the stone.

5.3 2 Juana sang the Song of the Family while she watched Kino.

3 Juana washed Kino's face while he lay on the floor.

4 She spoke to him while his eyes looked past her.

5 Kino slept while Juana watched him.

5.4 Open answers

6.1 a 1 b 7 c 5 d 3 e 2 f 4 g 6 h 8

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6.2 1 B, D, F

- 2 a two
b a man on a horse
c a gun
d the mountains
e no
f water
g in a cave

6.3 1 needed, could not

- 2 must
3 can
4 should
5 had to

6.4 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1 A pearl is a hard rounded object produced by mollusks such as oysters. Pearls are formed inside the shells of certain mollusks when a grain of sand or other foreign matter irritates the softer part of the animals. Pearls are usually white but they may be yellow, pinkish, beige or black.

2–6 Open answers

- 7 The most common size of pearls is around seven millimeters.
- 8 We're told that Kino was afraid to open the big oyster but we aren't told why he was so afraid. Perhaps he was afraid of another disappointment or perhaps he already sensed that the pearl inside that oyster would change his life for good.

9 Open answers

- 10 Kino wanted to:
- marry in the church
 - buy Juana a skirt and shoes
 - buy himself white clothes, a black hat and shoes
 - buy Coyotito a blue suit from the United States and a little hat
 - buy himself new fishing equipment and a gun
 - send Coyotito to school for him to learn how to read and write and to learn the numbers

11–12 Open answers

13 Open answers

14 The doctor lies to Coyotito's parents and tells them that the poison of the scorpion is still inside the baby when we know the child was already better thanks to the sea plants that Juana had put on his shoulder. To "help" him, he gives Coyotito a drug and tells his parents that he will come later to save the baby.

When the doctor returns, Coyotito is in great pain. He gives the child another drug and he soon feels better. Juana thinks that it's thanks to the doctor.

15 We don't know who the first thief is though he may have been sent by the doctor. The latter had seen Kino's eyes move towards the floor in a corner of his house and it was there that the thief searched for the pearl. Kino's knife may have wounded the thief but we're only told that he felt his knife go through cloth (page 28).

16 Juana thinks that the pearl will destroy them. This is why she wants to throw the pearl back into the sea or break it between stones or bury it and forget the place. Instead, Kino wants to keep it to be able to send Coyotito to school for him to live better than they do.

17–21 Open answers

22 She doesn't because, probably, she now realizes that their old way of life is gone forever as Kino has just killed a man.

23 The canoe was of vital importance for Kino because, being an oyster fisherman, it was his means of reaching the oyster bed. Besides, he had inherited it from his grandfather and his father who had also been able to make a living thanks to it.

24–31 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1 Open answers

	Kino's people	The doctor's people
skin	Dark	white
food	corn-cakes	chocolate and cookies
language	old language	Spanish
housing	wooden houses	stone houses

3 Open answers

4 a 3 b 2 c 7 d 4 e 1 f 6 g 5

5 Open answers

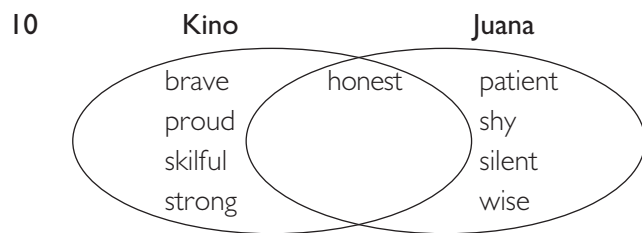
- 6 a 400
b 1,000
c 50,000
d 500
e 1,500

7 Open answers

8 a 2 b 1 c 3 d 4 e 7 f 6 g 5

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9	What Kino saw in the pearl	What Kino sees in the pearl now
	A gun	A dark bloody body on the ground
	He and Juana marrying in the great church	Juana lying in the rocks near the beach
	Coyotito learning to read	Coyotito's face, hot and red from the white medicine



11 Open answers

- 12
- a "There is a way." Kino
 - b "But they will kill you." Juana
 - c "They will see your white clothes in the starlight." Juana
 - d "When they have gone away, go to Loreto." Kino
 - e "Go with God." Juana
 - f "It sounded like a cry, almost like a baby." The watcher

13

	When	Why
First time	after the scorpion bites Coyotito's shoulder	to see the doctor
Second time	after Kino has found the great pearl	to see the pearl
Third time	after Coyotito's death, when Kino and Juana return to the town	to get to the beach and throw the pearl back into the sea.

14–15 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1
- a **X** – it was made of wood.
 - b **✓**
 - c **X** – she had a son.

- d **X** – she ate after Kino.
- e **X** – they spoke very little.
- f **X** – it was on the rope that held Coyotito's box.
- g **✓**
- h **✓**

- 2
- a Kino's grandfather
 - b The sea plants
 - c The poison
 - d Kino
 - e Juana
 - f The men
 - g News
 - h The priest
 - i The pearl buyers

- 3
- a alone
 - b smooth
 - c angry
 - d white
 - e beautiful
 - f terrible
 - g soft
 - h dark
 - i black
 - j mean

- 4
- a buried
 - b held
 - c heard
 - d lay
 - e brought
 - f washed

- 5
- a Kino, Juana
 - b Juana
 - c Kino
 - d Juana
 - e Kino
 - f Juan Tomás, Kino
 - g Juana, Coyotito
 - h Kino, Juana, Coyotito

- 6
- a **X** – Kino's skin is brown, not white.
 - b **✓**
 - c **X** – Kino killed the three trackers.
 - d **X** – Kino and Juana walked side by side.
 - e **✓**
 - f **X** – Kino threw the pearl into the sea.