

## **The Pearl Summer Reading Project Options**

**For all summer reading project options that include an essay, it is expected that each essay will be no less than 250 words, typed, and included cited textual evidence from the novel. You must complete one of the project options by Wednesday, September 7, 2016.**

# *The Pearl* Essay Prompts

*For The Pearl, you will choose one of the following topics to develop into a thesis-based typed essay. You must prepare your ideas, develop a thesis, and find quotes to support your main ideas (include the page numbers the quotes). You must submit a typed outline with your essay.*

1. Who or what is most responsible for the tragedy that Kino and his family experience?
2. Using quotes from the novel, trace Kino's development from man to animal to machine. Then, explain what he is at the end of the novel (man, animal, or machine) when he "drew back his arm and flung the pearl with all his might" back into the sea.
3. What various things does the pearl symbolize? What does it mean to Kino at different stages of the novel? What does it mean to different members of the community?
4. What drives Kino? Is it family? Greed? Pride? Fear? Make a case for one answer and provide references from the novel to back your position up.
5. Compare the doctor and Kino. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?
6. Explain the various ways that Juana supports her family throughout the novel. What does she do for Coyotito? For Kino?
7. Explain the theme of class struggle in *The Pearl*.
8. One important element of *The Pearl* is the contrast between fate and human agency, between the destiny that is made for us and the destiny that we make ourselves. How do these forces interact in Kino's story? To what extent is Kino responsible for his own demise? To what extent is fate responsible?
9. What role does family play in *The Pearl*? How does the loyalty of Kino's family members (especially Juana and Juan Tomás) affect his actions? Was Juan Tomás correct to shield Kino from the law after he had committed murder? Is Juana correct to be so submissive to him? Does either character have a choice?
10. Discuss the role of economic and social oppression in *The Pearl*.

*If you have another idea, let me know—I can help you develop a workable thesis.*

# Outline for a Five-Paragraph Thesis-Based Essay

## Title

### I. Introduction

A.. Attention-Grabber/Hook

B. General Information and Bridge (State the book title and author name, then give information about characters and plot that lead to your thesis.)

C. Thesis Statement (This is a one-sentence statement that explains the position or idea you will be addressing in your paper. Make sure you include the points you will explain in your body paragraphs.)

### II, III, IV. Body Paragraphs One, Two, and Three

A. **Topic Sentence/Claim** (This focuses your paragraph on one part of your thesis and is where you STATE YOUR MAIN IDEA for the paragraph.)

B. **Explanation** (This is where you clarify or EXPLAIN what you said in your topic sentence.) Example: “This means that...”

C. **Example/Evidence** (This involves referring to example(s) from the book. You PROVIDE EVIDENCE to show why the idea you asserted in the topic sentence is reasonable. Evidence may include direct quotes or summaries of relevant plot points.)

D. **Conclusion/Commentary** (This is a general summary or wrap-up of your point for the paragraph and should give a sense of finality to the paragraph before you move to your next point.

### V. Conclusion

A. Statement of Summation (Restate Thesis)

B. Tie your Statement of Summation to your examples

C. Broaden Thesis with a Kicker- give your audience one final thought to “chew on.”

D. Clincher- tie up your paper with a clincher- similar to an attention-getter, a clincher can be a shocking statement, a question, a throwback to your title, etc.

**Your essay will be evaluated according to the following categories:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Your introduction re-states the essay question in a way that creates a clear thesis statement, and the conclusion reinforces the main points elucidated in your essay.

\_\_\_\_\_ There are at least three clearly explained examples from the book that support your essay's main thesis statement. Each example is backed up by a properly cited quotation: "The text is in quotes, the page number is in parentheses, and the period comes after the page number and ending quotation" (57).

\_\_\_\_\_ Your essay contains well-organized sentences and paragraphs (five paragraphs total).

\_\_\_\_\_ Your writing is enticing, engaging, and uses specific, appropriate language to get your points across.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your paper is free of grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.