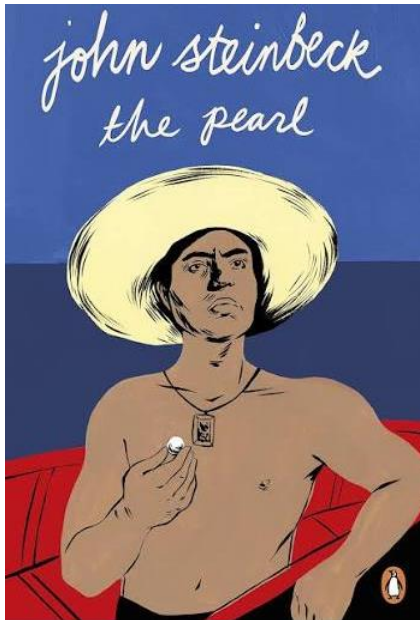


Book Talk

The Pearl

By John Steinbeck

Number of pages: 96 pages



Kino is a talented pearl diver on the coast of Mexico living with his family in a brush hut. When his baby son Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, Kino can't afford treatment from the doctor.

Kino and his wife Juana's prayers seem to be answered when he finds the most brilliant pearl the town has ever seen. But with such treasure Kino doubts who he can trust, and the blessing quickly threatens to become a curse.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed ***Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck, or ***The Old Man and the Sea*** by Ernest Hemingway.

Discussion Questions:

1. John Steinbeck spent time with pearl divers in La Paz, Mexico where he came across a local legend which inspired *The Pearl*. Does this book seem realistic to you? Why/why not?
2. Would you do anything differently to Kino? Where do you think he goes wrong?
3. Do you think Kino is a tragic hero or a stubborn man?
4. How do you think the relationship between Kino and Juana changes? Why does this happen?
5. Steinbeck calls *The Pearl* a 'parable' that people can interpret in their own way. What meaning did you take from the book?

Thank you to our volunteer Ruth for choosing this title and creating the resource.