

Ninth Grade Summer Reading Assignment  
Mrs. Keenum

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**Assigned Book: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**

As you read the book (novella), annotate by making notes in the margins and on sticky notes. Also, use a highlighter to focus on new vocabulary words, character traits, setting, and symbolism.

After completing the novella, you will write a four (4) page paper that will concentrate on the following:

- **Characterization:** Choose two characters from the book and write a character analysis on these two characters. Use at least two (2) quotes from the book on each character to support your analysis of the character. You may also use the physical description that is found in your text. You will need to use a quote that is detailed enough so that you can make a claim about the character, as you see him or her.
- **Setting:** Discuss how the different settings in *The Pearl* provide the background for conflicts that arise from Kino's finding the "Pearl of the World." Again, use at least two quotes from the book to support your thoughts.
- **Symbolism:** Choose two (2) symbols (objects, characters, or colors used to represent ideas or concepts) and discuss how these symbols are used in the story. For example: the scorpion in chapter one symbolizes an evil that sets the "wheels in motion" for a whole town to see the pearl as a symbol of hope, greed, and evil.
- **Prejudice:** Throughout *The Pearl*, greed and prejudice are greatly expressed. Use at least two(2) quotes that support the prejudice that is found in the book; write one page showing how these quotes revealed the prejudice that was felt by Kino and his people.

Essay Specifications:

- 4 pages, typed
- Double-spaced
- Times New Roman (black ink only)
- 12 point font
- 1" margins
- Title (center, 12 point font, Times New Roman, black ink only)
- Your essay heading should include the following:
  - Your Name
  - English 9
  - Mrs. Keenum
  - 12 August 2017