

# THE PEARL

by John Steinbeck

In a literary work, the THEME is the author's major point, the central idea. Theme goes beyond events of the plot to draw major conclusions, or at least leave important questions, about life.

As a PARABLE (a story primarily to teach a moral or answer a question), THE PEARL is basically a message novel. Characters, plot, mood – all the literary elements – are secondary to Steinbeck's thought-provoking messages.

The sample below shows a theme chart with events from the story that support this theme. You will notice that they are paraphrased. If you would like to include exact text from the novel, put it in quotation marks and show the page number in parentheses, like this: (12).

