KCSE 2019 PAPER 3 QUESTION FROM THE PEARL

The Novel: The Pearl-John Steinbeck

Desire without limits can be a source of agony both to ourselves and our family members. Using illustrations from the pearl, write an essay in support of the statement.

Almost all the students attempted this question. It was straightforward. All the answers revolve around Kino and his family. Many characters in the novella display wild desires but Kino's desire is excessive. He is the only character whose family members suffer due to his excessive ambition.

The question has two sides; **Desire** and **Agony**. The candidate was required to show how Kino's family suffers as a result of Kino's desire without limits.

These were the expected responses;

- ***the death of Coyotito***
- ***the destruction of Kino's canoe***
- ***the strained relationship when he attacks Juana***
- ***the loss of Kino's hut***
- ***physical harm when Kino is attacked***
- ***and the killing (Kino murders a man).***

The candidates were expected to talk about Kino's excessive ambition when he finds the pearl (buying a rifle, a harpoon, marrying Juana in church, buying new clothes and taking Coyotito to school).

The candidate is supposed to illustrate the agony Kino and his family undergo. The candidate has to talk about the **situation** e.g. the death of Coyotito or the destruction of Kino's boat. They must also give the **background** (events leading to that situation). An ideal paragraph ends with the **outcome** of Kino's action (excessive desire). The outcome is the agony-the pain/misery/suffering. Describe how he feels after the **situation**.

Most students have mastered the art of writing a proper introduction. Here, they were expected to simply show how excessive desire leads to suffering. Whether the introduction is general, contextual, a paraphrase, or an outline it scores full marks but only if both sides

of the questions are captured clearly.
Example;

Agony: Death of Coyotito
Character: Kino

Situation: Death of Coyotito. Coyotito is shot dead by a tracker confusing his cry for the cry of a coyote pup.

Background: Kino gets the pearl of the world. He has great dreams/ambitions e.g. education for Coyotito. He tries to sell the pearl for 50,000 pesos. The pearl dealers offer him way less money. This triggers his ambition to sell the pearl at the capital.

Activities/actions: Kino, Juana and Coyotito leave for the north. (Give the details of the long agonizing journey). Describe Coyotito's death in detail.

Outcome (agony): Kino stands uncertainly after Coyotito's death. He hears Juana crying, the cry of death. They return to La Paz walking side by side. They seem removed from human experience. They had gone through **pain** and come out o the other side. They walked through the city as though it were not there. They fail to greet Juan Tomas when he raised his hand in greetings. Juana carried Coyotito as a dead bundle. Kino flings the pearl back into the sea.

Most students stopped at the death of Coyotito and failed to give details on the agony Kino and Juana go through.

SAMPLE ESSAY
Desire without limits can be a source of agony both to ourselves and our family members. Using illustrations from *The Pearl* write an essay in support of this statement. (20 Marks)

Everyone has desire for one thing or the other. However, when this obsession is unchecked, it may cause suffering or pain not only to us but also to our family members.

Kino's excessive desire for a better life leads to untold suffering when he loses his son Coyotito. When Kino finds the great pearl, he desires to take his son to school, marry Juana in church, buy a rifle and a harpoon and purchase new clothes. He expects to do these after selling the pearl at 50, 000 pesos. The fatherly dealer offers a paltry 1,000 pesos which he revises to 1,500. The first and second dealers make no offer. The last one offers 500 pesos. Kino is so enraged that he refuses to sell the pearl hoping to get a better deal at the capital. He embarks on a journey north. The journey is long and harrowing. The day is shimmering hot. At the cave

in the mountains Kino is forced to confront and try and kill the tracker with a rifle. Unfortunately, Coyotito makes a sound which the trackers confuse for a coyote. The gunman shoots and kills Coyotito before Kino kills all of them. Kino and Juana return to La Paz with heavy hearts, walking side by side. They are fatigued and distraught for losing their only son. They don't wave back when Juan Tomas greets them. Kino flings the pearl back into the sea.

Kino suffers when his boat is destroyed. Kino plans to go to the capital via the sea in order to sell his pearl. He is so obsessed with dreams of turning his life around. Kino comes from a fishing community where canoes are valued. It is a source of food-a man with a boat can guarantee a woman that she will eat something. He inherited his own from his father who got it from his grandfather who brought it from Nayarit. He takes care of it with a lot of affection and sentimental attachment. He refines it with a shell-like plaster,a secret method he learned from his father. After killing a man on the path from the beach while protecting his pearl, he goes to the beach only to find that someone had punched a hole in it-his grandfather's boat that was plastered over and over. He is hurt badly. He feels that it is less evil to kill a man than to kill a boat. The sorrow turns him into an animal. Kino's boat is destroyed as a result of his obsession with the pearl.

Kino's relationship with Juana is rocked as a result of his obsession with the pearl. When a thief tries to steal the pearl, Kino bruises his forehead trying to protect it. Juana coaxes him to throw the evil pearl away saying it will destroy them. Kino refuses, claiming it is their chance and that their son must go to school. Kino is later attacked outside his brushwood house and is badly hurt when he is slashed-a deep, bleeding slash. Juana begs him to get rid of the pearl but he says the he is a man. She is afraid for she knows that a man can be killed. When she gets tired of Kino's inaction, she decides to throw it away herself. Kino grabs her and hits her with a clenched fist and kicks her in the side when she falls among the boulders. He hisses at her like a snake and she looks at him with wide, unfrightened eyes like a sheep before slaughter. Although there is no anger in her for Kino, their relationship is ruined because of Kino's obstinate obsession with the pearl and his excessive desires. This creates agony.

Kino's hut is burnt as a result of his excessive desire. When he finds the pearl, everyone gets interested in it-people with things to sell and and people with favours to ask. The priest, the beggars, the shopkeepers, the doctor and the dealers. Many people, including the doctor and the priest, try to get Kino's pearl, forcefully or otherwise. Kino clings on to it and becomes violent and even murderous for he has dreams to achieve. After hitting Juana and killing a man, he notices that his hut is burning. He notices the flame. The neighbours struggle to save their own houses. Juana and Coyotito suffer when they have to seek refuge in Juan Tómas' house. Kino begs Tómas to house them and he's a tad reluctant but offers to protect them. This distavantages him and he reminds Kino that their is a devil in his pearl. He tries to divert the

neighbours' suspicion and borrow supplies for Kino's journey north. Losing his hut causes agony to Kino and his family.

Kino suffers when his excessive desire turns him into a killer. When he fails to sell his pearl, he is attacked later that night. Juana decides to throw the pearl away. Kino catches her and beats her badly. He is then accosted and attacked by people trying to steal his pearl. In the altercation that ensues, Kino kills a man. He does this in a bid to protect his pearl. This is because he hopes to sell it and buy a rifle, new clothes, take Coyotito to school and to marry Juana in church. When Juana finds him, he moves sluggishly like a crushed bug, a thick muttering coming from his mouth. She knows that the old life is gone. This forces them to leave their home in La Paz. The agony is as a result of Kino's unchecked ambition.

Kino is attacked several times as he struggles to protect his pearl. He hopes to use the pearl to improve his life by buying a Winchester carbine rifle and take his son to school e.t.c. When a thief tries to steal the pearl, Kino attacks him with his knife, misses then feels the knife go through cloth. His head crashes with lightning and he feels blood running down his forehead. Juana swabs blood from his forehead with her shawl. Her tension boils to the surface and she cries that the pearl is evil. She wants them to throw it away or destroy it but Kino is adamant. Kino is attacked again because of the pearl. Because of his obsession, he goes out in the dark alone. Juana wills to stop him and is terrified when he confronts the attacker. His shirt is torn badly and clothes half pulled off. Kino is slashed from ear to chin. He bleeds badly. Juana wipes off his thickening blood with her skirt. She is disturbed. She tells him that the pearl is evil but due to his excessive desire he claims that he is a man. He suffers these attacks brcause of his excessive desire.

In conclusion, desire without limit causes pain to us and to our family members.

THE PEARL ANALYSIS -THEMES (Sample Essays Questions with Answers)

THEMES IN THE PEARL

By Wafula Wekati

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What are the major themes in The Pearl?

- Greed
- The Role of women in society
- Appearance vs reality
- Poverty
- Family
- Class differences
- Oppression
- Good vs Evil
- Fate

There are several themes in *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. This article will focus on the major themes in The Pearl.

***The Pearl* is a timeless novella that highlights several themes that we can relate to as Kenyans. It is no wonder that it is one of the set texts handled in the Kenyan curriculum.**

Themes in The Pearl by John Steinbeck

The major theme in the text is the innate **human greed**. However, the text handles many other subjects such as **oppression, class differences, family, fate, religion** among others.

1. Theme of Greed

This is the major theme in ***The Pearl.*** Most characters are portrayed as being greedy. Kino, the doctor, the priest and the pearl dealers are good examples of corrupt individuals in this society. Steinbeck has used the characters above to highlight the theme of greed.

"For it is said that humans are never satisfied, that you give them one thing and they want something more" **(P 45)**

- ***Kino***

Kino is the protagonist in *The Pearl .* He is a poor native Mexican of the Red Indian descent. He lives with his wife Juana and their son Coyotito in the poor neighbourhood of La Paz.

Kino is poor but seemingly contented with the simple lifestyle. This changes when his son is stung by a scorpion. The European doctor refuses to treat the child. He says that the "little Indians" never have any money. ***(P 28)****. Kino could only offer* **"eight small misshapen seed pearls that were ugly and grey like little ulcers, flattened and almost valueless"** ***(P 28).*** *The greedy doctor sends them away claiming he had a serious case to attend to.*

Kino and Juana set out to look for a pearl with which they could pay the doctor to treat their child. They are lucky enough to find one. When Kino finds the pearl of the world, however, his greed is exposed. He only thinks about material gains for him and his family and would do anything including harming and killing people in order to achieve this.

Kino hopes to get married in church, to buy new clothes **(P 44)**, a new harpoon of iron with a ring at the end of the shaft, a rifle- a *Winchester Carbine* rifle, and to take Coyotito to school.

The Pearl exposes the underlying greed in the people of La Paz. Everyone hopes to benefit from Kino's pearl. The priest, the shopkeepers, the doctor, the dealers and even the beggars

who know that *there is no alms giver in the world like a poor man who is suddenly lucky* **(P42).**

"All manner of people grew interested in Kino - people with things to sell and people with favours to ask." **(P43)**

Kino would do anything to protect his pearl. A thief tries to steal it and he bruises his forehead while trying to protect it but he refuses to let go of it even after Juana begs him to get rid of it. **(P58-59).** Kino is attacked and slashed from ear to chin **(P 79)**. He also attacks his wife Juana. He strikes her in the face with a clenched fist and kicks her on the side. **(P83).** Kino kills a man and three other men (the trackers) in order to protect his pearl.

Due to his greed Kino loses his child Coyotito, his hut, his canoe and his old way of life. ***(Outcome of his greed)***

- ***The Priest***

  The priest ostensibly represents good morals in the society. However, he is also selfish. When he hears about Kino's magnificent pearl while walking in his garden he only thinks about how the pearl can benefit him. He thinks about necessary repairs in the church. He wonders about the worth of the pearl. This is the first time he thinks about baptizing Coyotito and marrying Kino and Juana **(P41)**. He clearly wants to exploit Kino for his new found wealth. He is not different from the doctor, the shopkeeper, the beggars and the dealers who hope to benefit from Kino's pearl.

  The priest visits Kino when he hears about the pearl. He considers Kino and his people children. He tells Kino ***"... thou art named after a great man and a great Father of the Church'*** **(P47).** He is amazed by the beauty of the pearl.

  He asks Kino to remember to give thanks for the great fortune. ***"I hope thou wilt remember to give thanks my son, to Him who has given thee this treasure, and to pray for guidance in the future."*** **(P 48)**

The priest is greedy. His presence attracts the music of evil in Kino's ears.

- ***The Doctor***

  The doctor is greedy, He only goes to the brush houses when he hears about Kino's great pearl. He hopes to benefit from it. When he gets wind of the news about the great pearl, his dream of going to Paris comes alive. He remembers the luxurious place, the hard faced woman, the restaurant in Paris, and the bottle of wine. ***(P 42)***

  When Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, Juana asks for the doctor. The doctor does not come to the brushwood houses because the dwellers are poor. The beggars in front of the church know about his cruelty, **his avarice***, his appetites and his sins.* ***(P 25)***

  The doctor refuses to attend to Kino and his sick child. He has no time to treat insect bites for little Indians ***(P 28).*** *He asks if Kino has any money and concludes that they never have any money. Kino can only offer eight misshapen seed pearls, as ugly and grey as little ulcers. The servants says that the doctor is not in, when as a matter of fact he is.*

  When Kino gets the great pearl the doctor comes all the way to the brushwood huts. He claims that Kino is a client of his. He even poisons Coyotito just to make it appear like he was very ill. This cruelty is a result of greed. After he administers a dose of three drops of ammonia, the baby gets better. He immediately asks when Kino can pay the bill. ***(P 56)***

  He inquires about the pearl trying to sound as if he did not know that Kino has one. He tries to persuade Kino to let him keep it or tell him where he hid it.

  When he leaves that evening, someone later tries to steal the pearl.

SAMPLE ESSAY BASED ON THE THEME OF GREED IN THE PEARL

"Kino is over ambitious. As a result he suffers. Write an essay to validate this statement citing illustrations from John Steinbeck's The Pearl ."

When one wants something so much, the end result is usually pain/misery/suffering. When Kino finds the pearl, he becomes greedy for material possession (rifle, harpoon, shoes, and clothes) and a change of lifestyle. This excessive desire causes pain to him and his family. Eventually, he loses his property and his child

S i. Coyotito. Due to greed, Kino loses his son Coyotito. When Kino finds the pearl his desire to change his life blinds him. He hopes to take Coyotito to school. He says that his son will go to school and learn writing. That he will know and they will know through him. They will be free. Even when he suffers attacks and physical pain because of the pearl his ambition clouds his reasoning. He refuses to let go off the pearl. He flees the village with Juana and Coyotito with a view to protect and sell his pearl, hoping to use the funds to educate his son. Coyotito is killed by one of the 3 trackers at the mountains as they were fleeing to the north. Kino suffers the pain of losing his only son.

S ii. Property. Kino loses his brushwood hut and canoe as a result of his excessive ambition. When he finds the pearl, everybody else is interested in it. The priest, the shopkeepers, the doctor, the beggars, and the dealers all want a share of his newly found wealth. Someone tries to steal the pearl. Kino is injured trying to protect it. Kino is attacked twice because of the pearl. His hut is set ablaze after intruders ransack it looking for the pearl. He wants to go and sell the pearl in the capital after failing to secure a deal with the local dealers. To stop him someone punches a hole in his canoe. This hurts Kino and turns him into an animal. He inherited it from his father and grandfather and treasured it a lot as a fisherman. Kino loses is valuables as a result of too much ambition.

S iii. Attacks/Injuries; Kino suffers physical pain because of the pearl. Kino suffers attack after attack. He is determined to get his hands on new material possession. He suffers in the process. When someone tries to steal his pearl, he injures his forehead while trying to protect it. It his sole hope of new wealth. The night they came from the dealers, Kino is attacked outside his hut and slashed. There is a deep cut on his cheek from his ear to his chin. Juana pleads with him to get rid of the evil pearl but he refuses since is so ambitious to give Coyotito education and to acquire wealth. He is attacked again after striking Juana. He manages to kill the man but is left with injuries. Too much ambition causes pain**.**

S iv. Fear/Suspicion. Kino lives a life of fear and suspicion after he finds the pearl. Although it causes him to problems he does not want to lose it. This is because he is overambitious. He wants to buy a Winchester carbine rifle, a new iron harpoon, white clothes for himself, a blue suit for Coyotito, and shoes. Juana asks who he fears. He says that he fears everybody. He lives in constant fear of attacks and intruders since people want to steal his pearl. He is eventually forced to flee from La Paz a place he calls home.

S v. Violence. Kino would do anything to protect his pearl and acquire wealth. Juana suffers this violent nature when she tries to throw the pearl away. He strikes Juana in the face with a clenched fist. She falls among the boulders. He then kicks her in the side. This destroys their peaceful co-existence as a poor but happy (contended) family. He kills the man who attacked him on the path. He kills the three trackers who were pursuing him because of the pearl. He could not let them steal his pearl because he has big dreams. Over ambition causes Kino to become a dangerous 'animal' who wrecks his family and structure of life.

To sum up, greed/ excessive ambition causes pain/misery/suffering.

2. Theme of Role of Women in Society

The society in which the novella is set is largely patriarchal. On the contrary, the author paints Juana, Kino's wife, as a woman who seems more reflective and practical than her husband. She is a symbol of how women can rise above the suffocating scourge of male chauvinism and emerge as the strong pillars of the family set up.

***"Sometimes the quality of woman, the reason, the caution, the sense of preservation, could cut through Kino's manness and save them all"*. (pg 85)**

From the onset, Juana is portrayed as an **industrious** and **responsible** wife. We learn that her husband Kino could never remember seeing her eyes closed when he awakened **(pg 17)** .The author describes her as *obedient, respectful, cheerful* and *patient*. Juana is ***"strong like a man"*** and could stand fatigue and hunger almost better than Kino himself.

When their son Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, she springs into action. First, she tries to suck the poison out. She then asks whoever cares to listen to go get the doctor. Kino, as well as all his neighbours, who live in the poor neighbourhood of La Paz, find this surprising. This particular doctor never comes to the brushwood houses because he prefers to treat rich people to satisfy his own avarice.

When it becomes apparent that the doctor won't come, she demands that they go to him. Unlike Kino who sat there boiling with rage, Juana quickly thinks of viable solutions to save their son's life. Even Kino, who tirelessly reminds her that he is a man, is stunned by her steely determination. When she leads the way and Kino follows her (pg 24) she is depicted as **decisive** and **prudent.**

The avaricious doctor refuses to treat Coyotito because Kino does not have money to foot the bill for the treatment. When he finds out that Kino could only offer eight paltry misshapen seed pearls that looked grey and ugly as ulcers, he asks his servant to send them away claiming he was out handling a serious case. At that moment, Kino and Juana are reminded of the plight of the poor man in La Paz.

They had to find a pearl with which they could pay the doctor in order to save Coyotito's life. Juana understands the value of family when she accompanies her husband when he goes out pearl fishing **(pg 32)**. She also uses practical means to try and reduce the baby's pain when she gathers some brown seaweed and makes a poultice which she applies to the baby's swollen shoulder. Her quick action seems to have worked since the poison eventually recedes from Coyotito's body.

Juana understands her position as a wife and respects her husband. When the doctor comes to treat Coyotito after he got the wind of Kino's pearl Juana is suspicious of him. When he holds out his hand ***"she clutches the baby tight and looked at Kino…"*** as if waiting for his approval.

Moreover, she is **wise** enough to see that the pearl is potentially harmful and could destroy their family. ***"This thing is evil…it will destroy us."*** She sees what Kino could not see.

Also, she comforts Kino and Coyotito by singing the melody of the family in the face of adversity.

Juana is a **protective, caring** woman. She tries to stop Kino from walking out into the dark to confront the unknown person lurking around their brushwood hut with the intention of stealing his pearl. When she fails to stop him, ***"she seized a stone from the fireplace and rushed outside" (pg 79).***

After growing tired of Kino's inaction, she decides to throw the pearl away because she feels that it is evil. This turns Kino into a beast. He attacks her fiercely after allowing his anger and greed to blind him. Even after she was attacked and hurt by Kino, she stays **considerate/reasonable/rational/ level-headed**. ***"There was no anger in her for Kino" (pg 84).***

Juana then convinces Kino to leave the village after he killed a man.***"You have killed a man, we must go away"***. She is also resolute to keep the family together when Kino suggests that they split while trying to shake off the trackers who were hot in their pursuit.

To sum up, Steinbeck depicts Juana as a **responsible** wife who plays an outstanding role of keeping the family together and giving Kino the strength he needed both during the calm, happy times and also during the tumultuous days after Kino found the pearl. She stands out as the **voice of reason** in a society full of **greed** and **materialism**. As much as the world is filled with evil, she serves as a reminder that not all hope is lost.

John Steinbeck manages to weave the theme of women's role in society through the character of Juana.

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTION BASED ON THE THEME OF ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

"Juana is portrayed as a voice of reason in La Paz. Basing your illustrations on John Steinbeck's The Pearl; write an essay to validate this assertions."

In a world full of irrational and impulsive people, it's really delightful to have some individuals who have the ability to make sound judgements and offer practical solutions in the face of impending calamity. Juana is one such person. She helps to keep Kino's wild desire for wealth in check and acts as the pillar of the family both in calm days and during the tumultuous after they found the pearl.

Juana's ability to make swift judgement is first seen when the child is stung by the scorpion. She takes several quick steps to save his life. First, she sucks the poison out of Coyotito's body.

She then rushes the child to the doctor to seek treatment when it became apparent that the doctor would not come to the brushwood houses where they lived. After praying and chanting ancient magic spells, she gathers brown seaweed and makes a poultice which she then applies to the child's shoulder to help reduce the pain. She manages to save the child's life since the poison eventually recedes from his body. Indeed, she is a voice of reason.

Juana is wise enough to see the potentially harmful nature of the pearl. A thief tries to steal the pearl and Kino fights him while to protect it. He bruises his forehead in the process. Juana says that the pearl is evil and that they should get rid of it. Kino is obstinate. He is blinded by his desires. He refuses to heed to Juana's warning. Then, after they failed to sell the pearl, someone lurking outside Kino's pearl at night injures Kino badly when he slashes him and leaves him with a deep cut running from ear to chin. After this attack , Juana reiterates her earlier sentiments that the pearl is evil and that they ought to destroy it or throw it back into the see before it destroys them together with their son. Had Kino listened to her, maybe, just maybe they would still have their hut and canoe intact and their son Coyotito would still be alive. Juana is surely rational.

Moreover, she takes a bold step of trying to throw the pearl away. She had grown tired of Kino's inaction. This plan fails. Kino strikes her face with a clenched fist and kicks her on the side. Juana is so considerate since she remains reasonably level-headed even after Kino attacks her. There was no anger in her for Kino. She collects the pearl and hands it back to Kino after he is attacked. She tried to throw the pearl away in a desperate bid to save her family. She is content with the little they have unlike Kino who is blinded by greed. This action makes us conclude that Juana is indeed a reasonable person.

Lastly, Juana is also seen as a voice of reason when she sticks by Kino throughout; appearing caring and protective. She takes care of the family by cooking for her husband and child. Kino could never remember seeing her eyes closed when he awakened. She advises Kino to leave the village after he killed a man. She offers to go with him to the North. When Kino suggests that they split up so that he tries to mislead the trackers, she refuses and says that they stick together. She asks him to remove the white clothes as he readied himself to attack the trackers. After Coyotito's death, she remains close to her husband when they return the village with their lifeless baby. She obviously puts in a lot of effort in trying to protect her family. She is indeed a voice of reason.

In conclusion, it is apparent that Juana is without a doubt a voice of reason.

3. Theme of Appearance vs Reality

The Pearl *by John Steinbeck clearly depicts a society in which things are not always as they seem. Not all that glitters is gold. When Kino finds the great pearl, he hopes to transform his life and that of his family. However, the pearl which glistens brightly and seems like the answer to all of Kino's problems turns out to be the cause of a myriad of miseries that befall Kino and his family. The other characters like the doctor, the priest and the pearl dealers seem like they have Kino's best interest at heart when he finds the pearl, but in real sense they only plan to exploit him. In this article, we look at the deceptive nature of appearance.*

- ***The Pearl***

- *Kino's pearl promises to be a silver bullet to solve all problems that have afflicted Kino and his people since time immemorial.*

- It is the most beautiful pearl ever found in La Paz:

"… so lovely it was, so soft… music of promise and delight, guarantee of the future, comfort, of security… a poultice against illness: a wall against insult; a promise of hope."

(P60) Juana had prayed that they may find a pearl with which to hire the doctor to cure the baby **(P33).** The pearl looked ***"perfect as a moon"*** and ***"it was as large as a seagull's egg"*** **(P37)."*Its curve was perfect"* (P38)**

- Kino thinks that because of the pearl they could do things he had given up as impossible **(P 44)**. Kino and his people have lived a life of oppression and poverty inflicted by the Europeans and the Catholic Church. When he found the pearl, he knew that he would unshackle himself and his people from the jaws of oppression and poverty.

- He hopes to marry his wife Juana in church **(P 44).** Kino also hopes to get new clothes for himself, his wife and his son. A new shawl, new skin and new shoes for Juana; new white clothes, a new hat made of fine black felt and new laced shoes for Kino; and a blue sailor suit from the US and a little yachting cap for Coyotito. Kino hopes to buy a new harpoon of iron with a ring at the end of the shaft to replace the lost one. He also hopes to acquire a Winchester Carbine rifle. **(P 45)** He hopes Coyotito will get educated. In the pearl he sees him "dressed in a jacket, he had on a white collar, sitting on a little desk" Kino says:

***"My son will go to school. My son will read and will open books … My son will write and will know writing … he will make us free because he will know."* (P 46)**

These things do not come to pass. The pearl instead brings misfortunes to Kino and his loved ones.

- Kino is attacked by an unknown assailant. He is slashed and blood oozes from his scalp when someone hovers about their brushwood hut with the intention of stealing the pearl. **(P 79)** He is attacked when he tries to protect it. Juana cries that the pearl is evil.
- Kino attacks Juana when she tries to throw the pearl back into the sea. He strikes her on the face with his clenched fist and kicks her on the side. He hisses at her like a snake **(P 83)**.
- Kino kills a man who tries to snatch the pearl from him. ***"You have killed a man"*** **(P 86)** ***"I was attacked. I struck to save my life."***
- Kino's property is destroyed. Someone punches a hole into his canoe and his house in burnt by unknown people who had ransacked it searching for the pearl. This really hurts Kino and makes him ***"an animal"***.

  Even his brother Juan Tomas warns him about the evil nature of the pearl. He says ***"There is a devil in this pearl."*** **(P 90)**
- Kino again kills three other men, the trackers who were hot on his pursuit with a view of stealing his pearl. His ultimate loss comes when his only son Coyotito is shot dead by one of the trackers. **(P115)**

The same pearl that seems like a beacon of hope for Kino turns out to be the cause of evil and irreparable destruction and loss in his life. Indeed, appearance can be deceptive.

- **The Doctor**

The deceptive nature of appearances can also be seen through ***the doctor****. The doctor comes to the brushwood huts to treat Coyotito. This seems like a genuine act of kindness. He says;*

"He's a client of mine"

"I am treating his child for a scorpion sting" ***(P 41-42)***

*In order to fully take advantage of Kino's ignorance and to exploit him, the doctor warns him about the effects of a scorpion sting:***"A withered leg or a blind eye or a crumpled back"**

He says he can cure the sting. Although Kino is suspicious of the doctor and angry at him, his rage turns into fear because he is ignorant. ***(P 51)***

The doctor talks about the poison that has made the child's eyes blue. He gives the child some white powder enclosed in a capsule of gelatine. ***(P 51)*** *After about an hour the baby is very sick. His face is flushed; his throat is working, a little drool of saliva, and spasms of the stomach muscles. Coyotito only gets better after the doctor administers three drops of ammonia. Afterwards, he asks for when Kino can pay the bill.* ***(P 56)*** *It becomes apparent that the doctor poisons the child for his own selfish gains (greed, avarice). At first he had refused to treat Coyotito disdainfully claiming that Indians have no money. His servant says he is out attending to a serious case when he was actually in. When he gets wind of the news about the great pearl, his dream of going to Paris comes alive. He remembers the luxurious place, the hard faced woman, the restaurant in Paris, and the bottle of wine.* ***(P 42)*** *The doctor is not genuine in his quest to treat Coyotito. He only wants to satisfy his avarice. The doctor seems hell bent on acquiring the pearl by any means possible. Later that night, someone tries to steal the pearl and in the process of protecting it Kino bruises his forehead. The thief escapes.* ***(P 55-56)***

Juana says: **"The pearl is like a sin" "It has brought evil"** ***(P 59)***
"It will destroy us" Juana cried. "Even our son." ***(P 60)***

- **The pearl dealers**

The way ***the pearl dealers*** *are organized it appears as if there are many pearl buyers yet there is only one buyer who keeps many agents in different offices to give a semblance of competition. Kino and his people were easily deceived by this little trick.* ***(P 42)***

The stout pearl dealer silently contemplates of cheating Kino out of his pearl. He appears benign and fatherly. His eyes twinkle with friendship. He seems jolly and harmless, yet he plays to cheat Kino. ***(P 69)*** *He says that Kino's pearl is tantamount to fool's gold, a curiosity that has no value. He claims that the pearl is large and clumsy. He offers to part with a measly 1,000 pesos for a pearl Kino thinks is 50,000 pesos,*
He has conspired with the other dealers though it ostensibly doesn't seem so. The first dealer calls it a monstrosity, the second one says it would fade and die and the third one offers Kino 500 pesos claiming he has a client who can buy it for 600 pesos. When Kino decides that his pearl is not for sale there, the conspiring, ***pretentious*** *dealers quickly glance at one another for* **"they knew they had played too hard."** ***(P 75)***
Even Kino's neighbours fell for the dealers' trap.
"The dealers did not discuss those things … '"But suppose they had arranged it before?""If that is so, then all of us have been cheated all of our lives." (P 75)

- **The Priest**

The local priest ostensibly represents virtues and goodness. However, when he hears about the pearl of the world his evil nature of greed is exposed. He is no different from the others. He immediately thinks about the church repairs, and even about the worth of the pearl. He asks himself whether Coyotito had been baptized, and whether Kino was married in church ***(P 41)***

.He even comes to Kino's village, something he rarely ever does. He lies that Kino is named after a great father of the church ***(P 47).*** *He reminds Kino to "give thanks". Our good priest is also clearly greedy just like the others. His main intention, though subtle, is to exploit Kino of his new found wealth. It is baffling that a clergy man would think of exploiting a poor man.*

To sum up, humans are innately greedy and evil regardless of their social status, creed or race. Even those who appear selfless and benevolent sometimes turn out to be greedy and selfish. All that glitters is not gold.

4. Theme of Poverty

Kino is a poor man. He lives with his wife Juana and son Coyotito in a brushwood shack in La Paz.

They live a life of squalor. They sleep on a mat while Coyotito sleeps in a hanging box.

"He looked at the hanging box where Coyotito slept" **(P 17)**

"…he turned his head to Juana his wife, who lay beside him on the mat." **(P 17)**

Kino covers his nose with a blanket since the air is dank (unpleasantly damp and cold)They eat simple meals because they cannot afford better food.

"Kino squatted by the fire pit and rolled a hot corn-cake and dipped in sauce and ate it, he drank a little pulque … that is the only breakfast he had ever known" **(P 20)**

Kino's shelter is full of crevices. It's not safe for little Coyotito because he gets stung by a scorpion while sleeping in his box **(P 22)**Because of poverty they cannot afford to get proper medical services. The avaricious doctor does not come to the cluster of brushwood houses. Juana wants them to go to get the doctor but everyone knows he won't come. *"Why should he, when he had more than he could do to take care of the rich who lived in the stone and plaster houses of the town?"* **(P 23)**

When they get to the doctor's house he refuses to treat Coyotito mainly because they are poor.

"Have I nothing better to do but cure insect bites for 'little Indians'?"

"No, they never have any money"

Because of lack of money they cannot afford medical care for their child. Kino can only offer "*eight small misshapen seed pearls, as ugly and grey as little ulcers, flattened and almost valueless."* **(P 28)** Juana is thus forced to resort to primitive means to help her son from the effects of the scorpion sting. When he is stung, she instinctively sucks the poison out of the child's shoulder. **(P 22)** Later she gathers some brown seaweed and makes a flat damp poultice and applies it to the baby's shoulder as a remedy for the pain. **(P 33)**

Poor people have to rely on luck for survival. Kino and other pearl divers rely on pearls as a source of livelihood and finding one is usually a matter of chance.

"But the pearls were accidents, and finding one was luck, a little pat on the back by God or the gods or both." **(P 34)**

Because Kino is poor, he cannot afford to live a normal life and acquire basic wants like marrying his wife in church **(P 44).** He can finally dream of these things when he finds a magnificent pearl that he hopes to sell. He hopes to acquire new clothes **(P 44)**, a harpoon, and a rifle and to take Coyotito to school. *"…he saw Coyotito sitting at a little desk in school, just as Kino had once seen it through an open door."* **(P 45)**

Poverty had made Kino to see these things as impossible and he had given up on them **(P 44)**

Kino is ignorant because he could not afford to acquire education since he is poor. Thus, all manner of people try to take advantage of him. The priest tries to exploit Kino because he

has found a great pearl. He says that Kino is named after a great man and a great father of the church and asks him to remember to give thanks. He simply hopes to benefit from Kino's pearl **(P 47-48).**

The doctor also tries to exploit Kino when he gets wind of his pearl. He finally comes to the brush hut. He warns Kino about the effects of the scorpion sting *"…a withered leg or a blind eye or a crumpled back."* **(P 50)**

Kino fears that the doctor may be saying the truth. He is a poor, ignorant man and he cannot take chances with his son's life.

Poverty is like a prison. He feels trapped *"He was trapped as his people were also trapped"*

The doctor takes advantage of Kino's ignorance and even poisons his child with a view of compounding the illness hoping to cheat Kino out of his pearl **(P 52).** Poor Coyotito suffers the pain **(P 54)**

The pearl dealers also try to cheat Kino out of the true value of his pearl. They take joy and satisfaction in breaking the price *"as far down as possible"* **(P 64).** They seem honest but a pearl buyer is a pearl buyer and the best and happiest pearl buyer was he who bought for the lowest prices" **(P 64)**

The pearl dealers take advantage of Kino's poverty to lower the prices even further. Juan Tomas tells Kino *"We do not know what prices are paid in other places ... how can we know what is a fair price?"* **(P 67)** Kino's people tried to earn more money in the past by sending agents with their pearls but this method bore no fruit. Kino values his pearl at 50, 000 pesos but the highest the dealers can go is 1,500 pesos.

Since Kino lives in a shanty, intruders can easily access his house. A thief sneaks into his hut when they are asleep and tries to steal Kino's pearl. Kino bruises his forehead trying to defend his new found wealth. **(P 58-59)**

Due to poverty Kino's life is seems worthless in the eyes of those trying to acquire his pearl. He is faced with constant danger while trying to defend his pearl. This is because he wants to escape poverty so badly. He says: "This is our chance. Our son must go to school. He must break out of the pot that holds us in" **(P 60).** The pot of depression brought about by poverty.

Kino suffers physical pain and emotional distress while trying to protect the pearl, his new found hope out of poverty. Juana asks him who he fears and he says he fears everyone. A stranger lurking in the dark slashes Kino badly. *"Blood oozes down from his scalp … a long deep cut in his cheek from ear to chin, a deep bleeding slash."* **(P 79)**

Kino is attacked again on the path from the beach after he beats Juana up when she tries to throw the pearl away. *"I was attacked."* **(P 86)**

The three trackers also hunt Kino like one would do an animal. One has a rifle. They have no regard for his life. Since he is poor, to them he is dispensable. Kino even offers to be taken by the trackers but Juana warns his about the repercussions. *"Do you think they would take you back alive to say they had stolen it?" "Do you you think they would let me live? Do you think they would let the little one here live?"* **(P 102)**

Kino and his people have wallowed in abject poverty and oppression for 400 years since the colonialists arrived. That's why he tries his best to escape from poverty but as fate would have it, he instead sinks deeper into it. He loses his hut, his only valuable possession a canoe he inherited from his grandfather and his only son Coyotito, who is shot dead by one of the trackers after mistaking his cry for a Coyote's.

Surely, poverty is dehumanizing

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTION BASED ON THE THEME OF POVERTY IN THE PEARL

"Poverty is dehumanizing. Write a composition to ascertain this claim basing your illustrations on John Steinbeck's <u>The Pearl.</u>"

Lack of money and material possession can make one's life so difficult to the point that they may feel less human. People that live in squalor conditions are treated as though they are not human beings. Kino, an impoverished native of La Paz is one such person. He cannot afford basic needs and even loses more when he tries to escape from the chains of poverty.

Since Kino is poor the Doctor refuses to treat his son Coyotito after he is stung by a scorpion. Coyotito is stung by a scorpion while lying in his hanging box in the brushwood hut in the destitute neighbourhood of La Paz. Juana wants them to fetch the doctor but the people in the yard and the people at the doorway say that the Doctor would not come to the brush huts. He has more than enough to do taking care of the rich people. When they decide to go to the doctor he claims that the Indians never have any money. Kino can only offer eight, misshapen seed pearls, that look ugly and grey as ulcers. The Doctor's servant tells Kino that he was out attending to a serious case. Because of Kino's poverty, the Doctor has no time to treat his child for "insect bites". He contemptuously refers to them as little Indians and only offers his services when Kino gets a fortune-The pearl of the world. The Doctor and other European colonialists look down upon Kino and his people not only because of their race but also because they are dirt poor. Poverty is surely dehumanizing.

Kino cannot afford to live a decent life fit for a human being since he cannot provide simple basic needs for his family. He is a poor man. At first he seems contented. But when he finds the pearl, he hopes to acquire some basic stuff for his wife and child. He can only dream of buying new clothes. A new shawl, new skin and new shoes for Juana; new white clothes, a new hat made of fine black felt and new laced shoes for himself; and a blue sailor suit from the US and a little yachting cap for Coyotito. He hopes to marry his wife in church and to send his son to

school. The Europeans have oppressed Kino and his people for many years because of their destitution. They live like animals because they lack most material possessions that they need. Kino hopes to break free from these shackles of poverty but as fate would have it he sinks deeper into squalor. Surely, destitution can dehumanize a man.

Kino lives in a simple brushwood hut that is not fit for humans. He and his wife sleep on a mat while their child sleeps in a hanging box. The house is poorly built and is full of crevices. Crawling animals like scorpions can easily access it and even thieves can easily creep in unnoticed. Kino's own brushwood hut is razed to the ground in very few moments. It is obviously not good enough for humans to stay in. The Europeans on the other hand live in decent stone and plaster houses, with cool gardens and fountains. Kino and his family take simple meals day in day out; corn cakes, sauce and pulque. The rich doctor has proper meals like bacon and sweet chocolate. The poor survive more or less like animals. Poverty is indeed dehumanizing.

Since Kino and Juana cannot afford medical care for their child they resort to primitive solutions. Coyotito is stung by a scorpion while lying in his hanging box. Juana sucks the poison out and spits. The doctor refuses to attend to him because the Kino cannot afford to settle the bill. Juana is forced to pray and mutter ancient magic spells. She also collects brown sea weed and makes a dump poultice which she uses to reduce the pain and swelling caused by the scorpion sting, which is as good a remedy as any doctor's. It's disheartening for a mother to desperately struggle to relieve her child of pain using primitive means just because she cannot afford to pay a doctor to do it easily and properly. Kino and Juana go pearl fishing in order to find a pearl which they could use to pay the doctor's bill. This suffering is as a result of poverty.

Since he is poor, Kino cannot afford education. He is thus ignorant; a gullible simpleton at the mercy of those in the know. People take advantage of this and try to exploit him. He is given 2nd class treatment because of his impoverishment. The Priest tries to exploit him with a view of benefiting from his pearl. The European priest rarely visits the brushwood huts because Kino's people whom he considers "children" have nothing to offer. He tells Kino that he is named after a great father of the church. It is in the Book. Kino cannot read so he believes him. The Doctor also takes advantage of Kino's ignorance to poison Coyotito hoping to get the pearl. He talks about Coyotito's eyes being blue and Kino does not know whether they are always blue. He talks about the effects of the scorpion sting e.g a withered leg or a crumpled back. Kino is scared. The Doctor gives the child a white powder enclosed in a capsule of gelatine, which make him very sick. He "cures" him with 3 drops of ammonia. The pearl

dealers also conspire to cheat Kino out of his pearl. They have cheated his people all of their lives because of ignorance. They offer prices ranging from 500 to 1000 to 1500 pesos. They call it a monstrosity, a curiosity and an artifact for the museum. Kino values it at 50,000 pesos. The Priest, the Doctor and the Dealers all try to trick Kino. They try to take advantage of his lack of education. They do not care about his ambition. To them, he is valueless like an animal.

Lastly, a poor man is bound to suffer all his life. Kino lives a simple life. He is poor but happy. When he gets the pearl and tries to escape from the jaws of poverty, fate drags him right back. Kino hopes to buy a harpoon to replace the lost one. He hopes to get a rifle-A Winchester carbine. He hopes to buy new clothes and to take his son to school. He hopes to marry Juana in church. His raw ambition is halted by fate. His canoe is destroyed. It is his only source of livelihood. He inherited it from his grandfather. It hurts him deeply because he says that the killing of a man was not as evil as the killing of a boat. His hut is burnt to the ground. He is attacked and injured by people trying to steal the pearl. They value the shiny jewel more than his life. He is tracked down and hunted like an animal by the three trackers, one who bears a rifle. They do not value his life. He loses his old, peaceful life. His son is shot dead. He loses everything. A poor man is usually brutalized.

In conclusion, it is true to say that poverty is dehumanizing. Kino and his family live as though they are animals simply because they are poor.

Theme of Family

Kino and his people value family ties. Throughout the novel Kino is comforted by the soft song of the family which brings warmth and comfort in his heart **(P17-18).**

"Kino felt all the warmth and security of his family behind him, and the Song of the Family came from behind him like the purring of a kitten" **(P 49)**

It is a source of joy and hope.

Juana is a caring wife who values her family. When Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, she risks her own life by sucking out the poison from the baby's shoulder **(P 22)**.

She also makes a poultice out of seaweed to reducing the pain and swelling **(P 33)**

She wakes up early to prepare breakfast for her family. Kino could never remember seeing her eyes closed when he awakened **(P 17).**

Kino also values family so much. The own thing of value he owns is a canoe he inherited from his father who got it from his grandfather who brought it from Nayarit. It is Kino's source of livelihood *"for man with a boat can guarantee a woman that she will eat something"* **(P 32)**.

Since Kino loves his son and doesn't want to lose him he allows the doctor to treat him even though he loathes the greedy, contemptuous doctor. Because of his fear and love for his son he allows the doctor to treat him.

"He could not take a chance, not with the life or with the straightness of Coyotito" **(P 51)**

Although the pearl brings pain to Kino and his family, he still clings on to it dearly because he hopes to change his family's life for the better. He fights to give Coyotito formal education for him to break out of the bondage of poverty, ignorance and oppression.

"Our son must go to school" **(P 60).**

He tells Juan Tomas: *"My son must have a chance"* **(P 77)**

He tells Juana: "Our son must learn to read" **(P 98)**

This is because he loves him and he does not want him to suffer like other natives of La Paz the Red Indians.

He also wants to marry Juana in church, buy her and Coyotito new clothes and to get a rifle to protect his family.

Juan Tomas also protects and advises his younger brother Kino. He and his family respond quickly when Coyotito is stung by a scorpion. He accompanies Kino both when he goes to the doctor and when he goes to the dealers to sell his pearl. He tells him to be careful that they don't cheat him.

"You must be careful to see they do not cheat you" (**P 66)**

He also warns Kino about going to the capital where he has no friends or family

"Here you have friends, and me your brother. There you will have no one" **(P 77)**

He knows that the pearl has brought evil and cautions Kino about it. He says: *"There is a devil in this pearl. You should have sold and passed on the devil."* **(P 90)**

Juan Tomas offers to protect Kino and his family and host him in his house after he kills a man. This is after Kino's house is razed to the ground by unknown people trying to steal the pearl. Juan Tomas risks his wellbeing for the sake of Kino, his brother.

"I will hide you … I will protect you" **(P 90)**.

He helps Kino by diverting the neighbour's suspicions **(P 91)** and also tries to collect some supplies Kino may need for the journey north.

" …a little woven straw bag of red beans and a gourd full of rice … a cup of dried peppers and a block of salt … a long working knife, and a small axe, a tool and a weapon." **(P 91)**

While trying to escape from the trackers Kino considers giving himself up in order to save his family. This spirit of self-sacrifice shows how he cares for his family **(P 102)**

Juana tries to persuade Kino to get rid of the pearl several times. She says the pearl is evil and it will destroy their family. When Kino fails to heed, she tries to throw the pearl away herself. She believes the pearl is a sin and tries to protect her husband and son. She is right all along since eventually the pearl brings agony/pain to the family. Kino loses his canoe and his hut and ultimately their only son Coyotito is shot dead.

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTION ON THE THEME OF FAMILY IN THE PEARL

"Family members always want the best for us". Write an essay to validate this claim basing your illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. (20 Marks)

In the face of adversity, our relations are always there for us. For instance Juana Kino's wife does everything in her power to protect her husband Kino and their child Coyotito. She risks her life by sucking the scorpion's poison out of the child's shoulder for she cares for her son Coyotito.
First, Juana cares for her son Coyotito. When he is stung by the scorpion, she does everything within her means to save his life. First, she sucks the poison out and spits and sucks again. She suggests that they go to see the doctor. She also sticks with Kino while he was pearl finishing and prays that they find a pearl with which they can hire the doctor to treat their son Coyotito. Meanwhile she gathers brown seaweed and makes flat damp poultice which uses as a remedy for Coyotito's pain. Her quick thinking saves Coyotito from the adverse effect of the scorpion sting; a withered leg, a crumpled back or a blind eye. Surely, family members are always there for us.
Kino is a simple family man who loves and strives to protect his family. Kino finds solace and contentment in the Song of the Family. He knows the value of family since he inherited his only

prized possession, a canoe, from his father and grandfather. He cannot take a chance that the doctor is lying to him about Coyotito's health since he doesn't want his child to suffer. When he gets the pearl Kino only thinks of how to improve his family; clothes for Juana and Coyotito, education for Coyotito and a marrying Juana in church. Although the pearl causes pain, Kino only clings on it because he wants the best for his family.
Juan Tomas cares for and values his brother Kino. He shows up when Coyotito is stung and accompanies Kino to the doctor. He advises Kino to be careful so that the dealers don't take advantage of him. He also accompanies him to the dealers. When Kino kills a man, he offers him and his family shelter in his hut and tries to divert the attention of the neighbours and gathers supplies for the journey; a bag of beans, a gourd of rice, dried pepper, salt, a knife and an axe. Although he doesn't manage to convince Kino to get rid of the evil pearl, he does all he can to help him escape it.
Juana cares for her husband Kino and is always there for him. She wakes up early to prepare breakfast for her family. She is always on Kino's side and acts like his chief advisor. She sees the potentially harmful nature of the pearl and asks Kino to get rid of it. She gets tired of Kino's inaction and tries to throw the pearl away. Even after Kino attacks her she has no anger for him in her. She advises Kino to escape the village after he kills a man and sticks with him through thick and thin as they return to the village with their dead son. She is on his side when he flings the pearl back into the sea.

In conclusion, it is indeed true to say that family members are always there for us. Surely blood is thicker than water.

THE PEARL SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 1

1. **Appearance can be deceptive. Write an essay to validate this statement basing your argument on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. (20 Marks)**

Things are not always as they seem. The outward appearance of someone or something may conceal their true nature or intentions. When Kino finds a beautiful pearl he hopes to sell it and improve his family's life but instead his old life is ruined even further.

First, we do not expect the priest to join the bandwagon of people trying to exploit Kino for his wealth. Priests ostensibly represent virtues. When he hears the news about Kino's pearl while walking in his garden he immediately thinks about necessary repairs in the church. He also thinks about the worth of the pearl. He cannot remember whether he married Kino and Juana in church and whether he baptized their son Coyotito. He visits Kino, something he hardly does. He claims that Kino is named after a great father of the church. He also reminds him to give thanks for his newly found wealth. It is baffling that a clergy man would try to take advantage of a poor man. Surely, appearance can be deceptive.

When the doctor gets wind of the news of Kino's pearl, he claims that Kino is his client and that he is treating his child for a scorpion sting! He comes to Kino's brushwood hut apparently to treat Coyotito. However, he has ulterior motives. He warns Kino about the effects of a scorpion sting. He gives the baby a white powder enclosed in a capsule of gelatine. This makes him very sick. He later "cures' him with three drops of ammonia. The doctor deceives Kino and the villagers that he came to treat the child but his real intention was to get the pearl for himself. He asks when Kino could pay the bill hoping to get the pearl. He coerces Kino to tell him where it is hidden, even offering to keep it safely for him.

It appears like there are many pearl buyers when in real sense there is only one! He keeps many agents in several offices to create a semblance of competition. When Kino finds the pearl he decides to sell it to improve his living standards. One of the dealers, the man behind the desk, appears benign and fatherly. He knows all the jokes. He is however a part of a conspiracy to cheat Kino out of the true value of his pearl. After examining the pearl he offers a paltry 1000 pesos when Kino wants 50,000 pesos. The other schemers play the same game. They pretend to be disinterested. One offers 500 pesos claiming he could sell it for 600 pesos. They are shocked when Kino refuses to sell his pearl. The fatherly man quickly improves his deal to 1500 pesos but in vain. It appears like they are trying to offer Kino the best price when in reality they are hell-bent on exploiting him.

Lastly, the appearance of the pearl itself is deceptive. It appears beautiful but underneath the beauty is evil and destruction. Its curve is perfect. It is as big as a seagull's egg. When Kino finds it he knew that this is the end of all his problems. He could not be more mistaken. He

hopes to marry Juana in church, buy a rifle and a harpoon, take Coyotito to school and even purchase new clothes and shoes. None of this happens. Juana and Juan Thomas warn Kino that the pearl is evil. He beats Juana when she tries to throw the pearl away. He strikes her with a clenched fist and kicks her in the side. His canoe is destroyed, his hut is burnt and his son Coyotito is killed by people trying to steal the pearl. Kino eventually throws the pearl back into the sea.

To sum up, it is indeed true to say that appearance may be deceptive since not all that glitters is gold.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 2

2. Basing your argument on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl,* write an essay to show how Juana is the pillar of Kino's home. (20 Marks)

Juana is depicted as the stalwart of Kino's home. She has the ability to make sound judgements and offer practical solutions in the face of impending calamity. She helps to keep Kino's strong desire for wealth in check and acts as the strength of the family both in calm days and during the shaky days after they found the pearl.

Juana's ability to make swift judgement is first seen when the child is stung by the scorpion. She takes several quick steps to save his life. First, she sucks the poison out of Coyotito's body. She then rushes the child to the doctor to seek treatment when it became apparent that the doctor would not come to the brushwood houses where they lived. After praying and chanting ancient magic spells, she gathers brown seaweed and makes a poultice which she then applies to the child's shoulder to help reduce the pain. She manages to save the child's life since the poison eventually recedes from his body. Indeed, she is the pillar of Kino's home.

Juana is wise enough to see the potentially harmful nature of the pearl. A thief tries to steal the pearl and Kino fights him while trying to protect it. He bruises his forehead in the process. Juana says that the pearl is evil and that they should get rid of it. Kino is obstinate. He is blinded by his desires. He refuses to heed to Juana's warning. Then, after they failed to sell the

pearl, someone lurking outside Kino's hut at night injures Kino badly when he slashes him and leaves him with a deep cut running from ear to chin. After this attack , Juana reiterates her earlier sentiments that the pearl is evil and that they ought to destroy it or throw it back into the sea before it destroys them together with their son. Had Kino listened to her, maybe, just maybe they would still have their hut and canoe intact and their son Coyotito would still be alive. Juana is surely the strength of Kino's family.

Moreover, she takes a bold step of trying to throw the pearl away. She had grown tired of Kino's inaction. This plan fails. Kino strikes her face with a clenched fist and kicks her on the side. Juana is so considerate since she remains reasonably level-headed even after Kino attacks her. There was no anger in her for Kino. She collects the pearl and hands it back to Kino after he is attacked. She tried to throw the pearl away in a desperate bid to save her family. She is content with the little they have unlike Kino who is blinded by greed. This action makes us conclude that Juana is indeed a reasonable person.

Lastly, Juana is also seen as a voice of reason when she sticks by Kino throughout; appearing caring and protective. She takes care of the family by cooking for her husband and child. Kino could never remember seeing her eyes closed when he awakened. She advises Kino to leave the village after he killed a man. She offers to go with him to the North. When Kino suggests that they split up so that he tries to mislead the trackers, she refuses and says that they stick together. She asks him to remove the white clothes as he readied himself to attack the trackers. After Coyotito's death, she remains close to her husband when they return the village with their lifeless baby. She obviously puts in a lot of effort in trying to protect her family. She is indeed the pillar of Kino's family. .

To sum up, it is apparent that Juana is definitely the pillar of strength that Kino lies on.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 3

3. All that glitters is not gold. Write a composition to substantiate this claim, drawing your illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl.* (20 Marks)

Appearance may be deceptive. Some people appear good at face value but may have hidden intentions. Kino's beautiful pearl appears like a promise of comfort and security and a poultice against illness but turns out to harbour evil, misfortune and death.

First, we do not expect the priest to join the bandwagon of people trying to exploit Kino for his wealth. Priests ostensibly represent virtues. When he hears the news about Kino's pearl while walking in his garden he immediately thinks about necessary repairs in the church. He also thinks about the worth of the pearl. He cannot remember whether he married Kino and Juana in church and whether he baptized their son Coyotito. He visits Kino, something he hardly does. He claims that Kino is named after a great father of the church. He also reminds him to give thanks for his newly found wealth. It is baffling that a clergy man would try to take advantage of a poor man. Surely, not all that glitters is gold.

When the doctor gets wind of the news of Kino's pearl, he claims that Kino is his client and that he is treating his child for a scorpion sting! He comes to Kino's brushwood hut apparently to treat Coyotito. However, he has ulterior motives. He warns Kino about the effects of a scorpion sting. He gives the baby a white powder enclosed in a capsule of gelatine. This makes him very sick. He later "cures' him with three drops of ammonia. The doctor deceives Kino and the villagers that he came to treat the child but his real intention was to get the pearl for himself. He asks when Kino could pay the bill hoping to get the pearl. He coerces Kino to tell him where it is hidden, even offering to keep it safely for him.

It appears like there are many pearl buyers when in real sense there is only one! He keeps many agents in several offices to create a semblance of competition. When Kino finds the pearl he decides to sell it to improve his living standards. One of the dealers, the man behind the desk, appears benign and fatherly. He knows all the jokes. He is however a part of a conspiracy to cheat Kino out of the true value of his pearl. After examining the pearl he offers a paltry 1000 pesos when Kino wants 50,000 pesos. The other schemers play the same game. They pretend to be disinterested. One offers 500 pesos claiming he could sell it for 600 pesos. They are shocked when Kino refuses to sell his pearl. The fatherly man quickly improves his deal to 1500

pesos but in vain. It appears like they are trying to offer Kino the best price when in reality they are hell-bent on exploiting him.

Lastly, the appearance of the pearl itself is deceptive. It appears beautiful but underneath the beauty is evil and destruction. Its curve is perfect. It is as big as a seagull's egg. When Kino finds it he knew that this is the end of all his problems. He could not be more mistaken. He hopes to marry Juana in church, buy a rifle and a harpoon, take Coyotito to school and even purchase new clothes and shoes. None of this happens. Juana and Juan Thomas warn Kino that the pearl is evil. He beats Juana when she tries to throw the pearl away. He strikes her with a clenched fist and kicks her in the side. His canoe is destroyed, his hut is burnt and his son Coyotito is killed by people trying to steal the pearl. Kino eventually throws the pearl back into the sea.

To sum up, it is indeed true to say that not all that glitters is gold since appearance may be deceptive.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 4

4. Money and desire can change an individual. Basing your illustrations on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl,* write a composition to back up this statement. (20 Marks)

In <u>The Pearl</u> Kino is poor but happy but when he finds a great fortune he becomes obsessed with being rich and this makes him sad, suspicious and irrational. This is because greed for wealth can change a person.

Before Kino finds the pearl he is a caring, protective father and husband. He seems contended and happy despite living in poverty. He is satisfied with the simple lifestyle and the little they posses. When he finds the pearl, he has great dreams for his family. He hopes to marry his wife in church. He hopes to buy her new clothes including a new shawl, new skin and new shoes.

When someone tries to steal the pearl and Kino is hurt trying to protect it, Juana suggests that they get rid of it. Kino is adamant. He is blinded by desire for money. When she tries to throw it away, he strikes her badly. Excessive desire turns Kino into an abusive husband that he was not at first.

Desire for money turns Kino into a heartless murderous man. Kino lives the simple life of a fisherman like the other natives of La Paz. When he finds the great pearl, he turns into "an animal". He fights and kills a man on the path that tries to steal his pearl. Having grown tired of Kino's inaction, Juana decides to go and throw the pearl back into the sea. Kino catches her and strikes her with a clenched fist and kicks her on the side. On his way back to the hut, he fights and kills a man forcing them to flee from their home. His obsession with changing their simple lifestyle and acquiring material possession dehumanizes him.

The excessive ambition for riches makes Kino irrational. Kino seems like a wise family man. He provides for his family through fishing and pearl diving. He loves and protects his young family. When he finds the great pearl, he hopes to take his son Coyotito to school so that he frees them from the bondage of ignorance. His preoccupation with this desire blinds him. He fails to see the danger such an ambition puts his family into. While fleeing to the north, he is pursued by three trackers, two on foot and one on a horse with a rifle. His son is eventually killed even when he manages to kill the three men. Had Kino been wise enough he would have gotten rid of the pearl as soon as he saw the red flags. He is blinded by wild desire for wealth.

Lastly, the doctor changes his mind about treating Coyotito because of his desires. When Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, the doctor refuses to treat the child. He has no time to treat "little Indians" for insect bites because they never have any money. He sends them away claiming he was out attending to a serious case. When Kino finds the great pearl the doctor hopes to get it so that his dreams of a "civilized" European lifestyle in Paris could come to pass. He rushes to Kino's home pretending he was there to treat the child. He says Kino is his client. He never goes to the brushwood huts until Kino gets rich. He has no intention of treating the child. He is finally interested in Kino because of his strong desire for money.

In brief, it is indeed true to say that money and desire can change an individual.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 5

5. The villagers in La Paz are highly superstitious. Basing your answer on Kino and Juana in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, Write an essay to validate this statement. (20 Marks)

The villagers in La Paz are ignorant and thus tend to have strong beliefs based on fear of the unknown. Juana has deep-seated faith in magic spells and luck. She believes that Kino's pearl is evil.

Through the prayers, incantations and ancient magic spells Juana is portrayed as a superstitious individual. She mutters an ancient magic incantation when Coyotito is in danger of being stung by a scorpion. She also mutters a Hail Mary. In the boat she does not pray directly for the recovery of the baby. She prays that they find a pearl. She attempts to force from the gods the luck she and Kino need to protect Coyotito. ***(Ancient magic P 21, 33, 35)***

Kino's superstition is clear when he is reluctant to open the large shell first since he doesn't want to show the gods or God that he wants the pearl so much. Kino is afraid that gods will take revenge against him if he finds success. Gods do not love men's plans. While fleeing the village, when Kino looks at the pearl he only sees tragedies that have befallen the family. He begins to see that the pearl is cursed but he still cannot part with it. ***(P 36,37.46, 98)***

Juan Tomas and Juana believe that the pearl is evil. Juan Tomas tells Kino that there is a devil in the pearl. He advises Kino to get rid of it by selling it and buying peace for himself. Juana says that the pearl is like a sin. He warns Kino that it will destroy all of them if they don't throw it away. Kino ignores her warning and keeps the pearl. She tries to throw away the evil pearl but Kino catches and beats her further proving her fears that the pearl is cursed. It has made Kino attack and harm his loving wife. ***(P 90)***

The villagers in La Paz mainly survive on pearl fishing and they believe that the pearls are accidents and finding one is luck, a pat on the back by God or the gods or both. They believe in luck so much that when Juana senses Kino's excitement when he finds the pearl she pretends to look away because it is not good to want a thing too much. It sometimes drives the luck away. ***(P 34, 36)***

In brief, the behavior of most people in La Paz is based on faith and luck as a result of ignorance, fear and false conceptions.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 6

6. Juana and Juan Tomas are depicted as the voices of reason in La Paz. Write a composition to substantiate this claim, drawing your illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl.* (20 Marks)

*In **The Pearl** by John Steinbeck Juana and Juan Tomas are individuals who try to influence Kino to act sensibly. They try to use practical and logical reasons to convince Kino to get rid of the pearl that brings misfortunes to their family. They are therefore voices of reason.*

When Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, Juana is seen as the voice of reason when she suggests that they go to the doctor, which is the most sensible thing to do. This is after she sucks the poison out of Coyotito's body and spits. This shows quick, practical thinking on her part. When the doctor refuses to treat the baby, she accompanies Kino when he goes out pearl fishing. She prays that they may find a pearl with which to hire the doctor to cure the baby-she does not pray directly for his recovery. This shows that Juana is a reasonable woman.

Juana tries to influence Kino to do the most sensible thing-throwing the pearl away. When a thief tries to steal the pearl and Kino bruises his forehead in a bid to protect it, she tells Kino that the pearl is like a sin and will destroy them because it has brought evil. She advises him to throw it away. Kino fails to heed this advice since he plans to sell the pearl. Juana is reasonable since she advises him to throw it away again when he is attacked and slashed from ear to chin. She urges him to destroy it before it destroys them. This is after she tries to stop from confronting his assailant. Kino does not comply claiming he is a man but Juana cautions him sensibly that a man can be killed. The pearl turns out to be destructive since because of it Kino loses his boat, his hut and his son Coyotito. Juana is undoubtedly a voice of reason.

Juan Tomas, Kino's elder brother, is a reasonable and far-sighted man. He advises Kino to be careful that the pearl buyers do not cheat him. Since he is the elder, Kino looks to him for wisdom. He says he is afraid for Kino since he has defied not only the pearl buyers, but the whole structure of life. He cautions Kino about going to the capital where he has no friends or family. Juan Tomas is indeed a reasonable man.

Throughout the novel, Juan Tomas gives his younger brother good meaningful pieces of advice. When Kino kills a man, Juan Tomas tells him that there is a devil in his pearl. He advises him to sell it and buy peace for himself. He offers to protect Kino after his hut is burnt and goes out to divert the neighbours' suspicion. He borrows some supplies like salt, food, and a knife to help

Kino on his journey north. Wisely, he advises Kino to avoid the shore since there is a party to search the shore. Surely, he is a voice of reason.

In conclusion, Juana and Juan Tomas are indeed the voices of reason owing to their invaluable pieces of advice they offer Kino.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 7

7. Write an essay to show how poverty is dehumanizing basing your illustrations on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* (20 marks)

Lack of money and possessions can make one feel or appear somehow less human. Poverty deprives people of human qualities such as feelings for other people. Kino and others in La Paz endure such suffering because they are poor and his efforts to escape the shackles of poverty prove futile.

First, as a result of poverty Kino's family and their neighbours live in semi permanent shacks that are hardly good enough for humans. Kino, Juana and Coyotito live in a brushwood hut in the impoverished neighbourhood of La Paz. Kino and Juana sleep on a mat, whereas Coyotito sleeps in a hanging box. The shelter is barely any good for a baby as he is stung by a scorpion. A thief easily sneaks into the house and Kino bruises his forehead trying to fight him. The hut is razed to the ground in a matter of minutes as thieves look for the pearl. What miserable living conditions! Indeed poverty is dehumanizing.

Apart from that, Kino can barely afford some basic needs and simple luxuries of life. He only dreams of buying a rifle (Winchester carbine) and a harpoon after finding a great pearl. He also hopes to marry Juana in church. Kino sees Juana and Coyotito and himself kneeling at the high altar getting married now that he could finally pay. He hopes to purchase new clothes-blue sailors' suit from the US and a yachting cap for Coyotito for example. He also plans to pay for Coyotito's education. Kino and his family have lived a life of oppression, misery and ignorance as a result of poverty and that is why he has dreams of unshackling his family from the bondage of poverty and to give them a life fit for a human being.

Also, poverty turns people into heartless brutes. When Kino finds the pearl, everyone becomes interested in him with the hope of reaping some benefits. People would do anything to get the pearl. Kino on the other hand is willing to do anything to protect it. Even after seeing the danger and the evil surrounding the pearl he still clings onto it. He strikes Juana with a clenched fist and kicks her in the side when she tries to throw it away. He kills a man on the

path and three trackers who were pursuing him. When someone destroys his bought, Kino turns into an animal because the canoe is all he has. He commits all these atrocities because poverty has stripped him of qualities like reason and compassion. Poverty is surely dehumanizing.

Kino cannot access proper medical care for his son after he is stung by a scorpion because he is poor. When Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, Kino and Juana rush him to the European doctor. The doctor contemptuously remarks that the "little Indians" never have any money. Kino can only offer eight misshapen seed pearls that look ugly and grey like ulcers. He dismisses claiming he was out handling a more serious case-more serious than curing insect bites for "little Indians". He says he is not a veterinary doctor. Kino is so angry that he strikes the doctor's gate with his bare knuckle. The European doctor despises Kino because he is poor.

In conclusion, it is true to say that poverty is dehumanizing.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 8

8. "Juana is portrayed as a voice of reason in La Paz. Basing your illustrations on John Steinbeck's <u>The Pearl</u>; write an essay to validate this assertion."

In a world full of irrational and impulsive people, it's really delightful to have some individuals who have the ability to make sound judgments and offer practical solutions in the face of impending calamity. Juana is one such person. She helps to keep Kino's wild desire for wealth in check and acts as the pillar of the family both in calm days and during the tumultuous days after they found the pearl.

Juana's ability to make swift judgment is first seen when the child is stung by the scorpion. She takes several quick steps to save his life. First, she sucks the poison out of Coyotito's body. She then rushes the child to the doctor to seek treatment when it became apparent that the doctor would not come to the brushwood houses where they lived. After praying and chanting ancient magic spells, she gathers brown seaweed and makes a poultice which she then applies

to the child's shoulder to help reduce the pain. She manages to save the child's life since the poison eventually recedes from his body. Indeed, she is a voice of reason.

Juana is wise enough to see the potentially harmful nature of the pearl. A thief tries to steal the pearl and Kino fights him while trying to protect it. He bruises his forehead in the process. Juana says that the pearl is evil and that they should get rid of it. Kino is obstinate. He is blinded by his desires. He refuses to heed to Juana's warning. Then, after they failed to sell the pearl, someone lurking outside Kino's hut at night injures Kino badly when he slashes him and leaves him with a deep cut running from ear to chin. After this attack , Juana reiterates her earlier sentiments that the pearl is evil and that they ought to destroy it or throw it back into the sea before it destroys them together with their son. Had Kino listened to her, maybe, just maybe they would still have their hut and canoe intact and their son Coyotito would still be alive. Juana is surely rational.

Moreover, she takes a bold step of trying to throw the pearl away. She had grown tired of Kino's inaction. This plan fails. Kino strikes her face with a clenched fist and kicks her on the side. Juana is so considerate since she remains reasonably level-headed even after Kino attacks her. There was no anger in her for Kino. She collects the pearl and hands it back to Kino after he is attacked. She tried to throw the pearl away in a desperate bid to save her family. She is content with the little they have unlike Kino who is blinded by greed. This action makes us conclude that Juana is indeed a reasonable person.

Lastly, Juana is also seen as a voice of reason when she sticks by Kino throughout; appearing caring and protective. She takes care of the family by cooking for her husband and child. Kino could never remember seeing her eyes closed when he awakened. She advises Kino to leave the village after he killed a man. She offers to go with him to the North. When Kino suggests that they split up so that he tries to mislead the trackers, she refuses and says that they stick together. She asks him to remove the white clothes as he readied himself to attack the trackers. After Coyotito's death, she remains close to her husband when they return the village with their lifeless baby. She obviously puts in a lot of effort in trying to protect her family. She is indeed a voice of reason.

In conclusion, it is apparent that Juana is without a doubt a voice of reason.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 9

9. "Kino is over ambitious. As a result he suffers" Write an essay to validate this statement citing illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. (20 Marks)

When one wants something so much, the end result is usually pain, misery or suffering. When Kino finds the pearl, he becomes greedy for material possession (rifle, harpoon, shoes, and clothes) and a change of lifestyle. This excessive desire causes pain to him and his family. Eventually, he loses his property and his child.

Due to greed, Kino loses his son Coyotito. When Kino finds the pearl his desire to change his life blinds him. He hopes to take Coyotito to school. He says that his son will go to school and learn writing. That he will know and they will know through him. They will be free. Even when he suffers attacks and physical pain because of the pearl his ambition clouds his reasoning. He refuses to let go off the pearl. He flees the village with Juana and Coyotito with a view to protect and sell his pearl, hoping to use the funds to educate his son. Coyotito is killed by one of the 3 trackers at the mountains as they were fleeing to the north. Kino suffers the pain of losing his only son.

Kino loses his brushwood hut and canoe as a result of his excessive ambition. When he finds the pearl, everybody else is interested in it. The priest, the shopkeepers, the doctor, the beggars, and the dealers all want a share of his newly found wealth. Someone tries to steal the pearl. Kino is injured trying to protect it. Kino is attacked twice because of the pearl. His hut is set ablaze after intruders ransack it looking for the pearl. He wants to go and sell the pearl in the capital after failing to secure a deal with the local dealers. To stop him someone punches a hole in his canoe. This hurts Kino and turns him into an animal. He inherited it from his father and grandfather and treasured it a lot as a fisherman. Kino loses is valuables as a result of too much ambition.

Kino suffers physical pain because of the pearl. Kino suffers attack after attack. He is determined to get his hands on new material possession. He suffers in the process. When someone tries to steal his pearl, he injures his forehead while trying to protect it. It his sole hope of new wealth. The night they came from the dealers, Kino is attacked outside his hut and slashed. There is a deep cut on his cheek from his ear to his chin. Juana pleads with him to get rid of the evil pearl but he refuses since is so ambitious to give Coyotito education and to acquire wealth. He is attacked again after striking Juana. He manages to kill the man but is left with injuries. Too much ambition causes pain.

Kino lives a life of fear and suspicion after he finds the pearl. Although it causes him to problems he does not want to lose it. This is because he is overambitious. He wants to buy a Winchester carbine rifle, a new iron harpoon, and white clothes for himself, a blue suit for Coyotito, and shoes. Juana asks who he fears. He says that he fears everybody. He lives in constant fear of attacks and intruders since people want to steal his pearl. He is eventually forced to flee from La Paz a place he calls home.

Kino would do anything to protect his pearl and acquire wealth. Juana suffers this violent nature when she tries to throw the pearl away. He strikes Juana in the face with a clenched fist. She falls among the boulders. He then kicks her in the side. This destroys their peaceful co-existence as a poor but happy (contended) family. He kills the man who attacked him on the path. He kills the three trackers who were pursuing him because of the pearl. He could not let them steal his pearl because he has big dreams. Over ambition causes Kino to become a dangerous 'animal' who wrecks his family and structure of life.

To sum up, greed/ excessive ambition causes pain/misery/suffering.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 10

10. "Family members always want the best for us". Write an essay to validate this claim basing your illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. (20 Marks)

In the face of adversity, our relations are always there for us. For instance Juana Kino's wife does everything in her power to protect her husband Kino and their child Coyotito. She risks her life by sucking the scorpion's poison out of the child's shoulder for she cares for her son Coyotito.

First, Juana cares for her son Coyotito. When he is stung by the scorpion, she does everything within her means to save his life. First, she sucks the poison out and spits and sucks again. She suggests that they go to see the doctor. She also sticks with Kino while he was pearl finishing and prays that they find a pearl with which they can hire the doctor to treat their son Coyotito. Meanwhile she gathers brown seaweed and makes flat damp poultice which uses as a remedy for Coyotito's pain. Her quick thinking saves Coyotito from the adverse effect of the scorpion sting; a withered leg, a crumpled back or a blind eye. Surely, family members are always there for us.

Kino is a simple family man who loves and strives to protect his family. Kino finds solace and contentment in the Song of the Family. He knows the value of family since he inherited his only prized possession, a canoe, from his father and grandfather. He cannot take a chance that the doctor is lying to him about Coyotito's health since he doesn't want his child to suffer. When he gets the pearl Kino only thinks of how to improve his family; clothes for Juana and Coyotito, education for Coyotito and a marrying Juana in church. Although the pearl causes pain, Kino only clings on it because he wants the best for his family.

Juan Tomas cares for and values his brother Kino. He shows up when Coyotito is stung and accompanies Kino to the doctor. He advises Kino to be careful so that the dealers don't take advantage of him. He also accompanies him to the dealers. When Kino kills a man, he offers him and his family shelter in his hut and tries to divert the attention of the neighbours and gathers supplies for the journey; a bag of beans, a gourd of rice, dried pepper, salt, a knife and an axe. Although he doesn't manage to convince Kino to get rid of the evil pearl, he does all he can to help him escape it.

Juana cares for her husband Kino and is always there for him. She wakes up early to prepare breakfast for her family. She is always on Kino's side and acts like his chief advisor. She sees the potentially harmful nature of the pearl and asks Kino to get rid of it. She gets tired of Kino's inaction and tries to throw the pearl away. Even after Kino attacks her she has no anger for him in her. She advises Kino to escape the village after he kills a man and sticks with him through thick and thin as they return to the village with their dead son. She is on his side when he flings the pearl back into the sea.

In conclusion, it is indeed true to say that family members are always there for us. Surely blood is thicker than water.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 11

11. Desire without limits can be a source of agony both to ourselves and our family members. Using illustrations from *The Pearl* write an essay in support of this statement. (20 Marks)

Everyone has desire for one thing or the other. However, when this obsession is unchecked, it may cause suffering or pain not only to ourselves but also to our family members.

Kino's excessive desire for a better life leads to untold suffering when he loses his son Coyotito. When Kino finds the great pearl, he desires to take his son to school, marry Juana in church, buy a rifle and a harpoon and purchase new clothes. He expects to do these after selling the pearl at 50, 000 pesos. The fatherly dealer offers a paltry 1,000 pesos which he revises to 1,500. The first and second dealers make no offer. The last one offers 500 pesos. Kino is so enraged that he refuses to sell the pearl hoping to get a better deal at the capital. He embarks on a journey north. The journey is long and harrowing. The day is shimmering hot. At the cave in the mountains Kino is forced to confront and try and kill the tracker with a rifle. Unfortunately, Coyotito makes a sound which the trackers confuse for a coyote. The gunman shoots and kills Coyotito before Kino kills all of them. Kino and Juana return to La Paz with heavy hearts, walking side by side. They are fatigued and distraught for losing their only son. They don't wave back when Juan Tomas greets them. Kino flings the pearl back into the sea.

Kino suffers when his boat is destroyed. Kino plans to go to the capital via the sea in order to sell his pearl. He is so obsessed with dreams of turning his life around. Kino comes from a fishing community where canoes are valued. It is a source of food-a man with a boat can guarantee a woman that she will eat something. He inherited his own from his father who got it from his grandfather who brought it from Nayarit. He takes care of it with a lot of affection and sentimental attachment. He refines it with a shell-like plaster,a secret method he learned from his father. After killing a man on the path from the beach while protecting his pearl, he goes to the beach only to find that someone had punched a hole in it-his grandfather's boat that was plastered over and over. He is hurt badly. He feels that it is less evil to kill a man than to kill a boat. The sorrow turns him into an animal. Kino's boat is destroyed as a result of his obsession with the pearl.

Kino's relationship with Juana is rocked as a result of his obsession with the pearl. When a thief tries to steal the pearl, Kino bruises his forehead trying to protect it. Juana coaxes him to

throw the evil pearl away saying it will destroy them. Kino refuses, claiming it is their chance and that their son must go to school. Kino is later attacked outside his brushwood house and is badly hurt when he is slashed-a deep, bleeding slash. Juana begs him to get rid of the pearl but he says the he is a man. She is afraid for she knows that a man can be killed. When she gets tired of Kino's inaction, she decides to throw it away herself. Kino grabs her and hits her with a clenched fist and kicks her in the side when she falls among the boulders. He hisses at her like a snake and she looks at him with wide, unfrightened eyes like a sheep before slaughter. Although there is no anger in her for Kino, their relationship is ruined because of Kino's obstinate obsession with the pearl and his excessive desires. This creates agony.

Kino's hut is burnt as a result of his excessive desire. When he finds the pearl, everyone gets interested in it-people with things to sell and and people with favours to ask. The priest, the beggars, the shopkeepers, the doctor and the dealers. Many people, including the doctor and the priest, try to get Kino's pearl, forcefully or otherwise. Kino clings on to it and becomes violent and even murderous for he has dreams to achieve. After hitting Juana and killing a man, he notices that his hut is burning. He notices the flame. The neighbours struggle to save their own houses. Juana and Coyotito suffer when they have to seek refuge in Juan Tómas' house. Kino begs Tómas to house them and he's a tad reluctant but offers to protect them. This distavantages him and he reminds Kino that their is a devil in his pearl. He tries to divert the neighbours' suspicion and borrow supplies for Kino's journey north. Losing his hut causes agony to Kino and his family.

Kino suffers when his excessive desire turns him into a killer. When he fails to sell his pearl, he is attacked later that night. Juana decides to throw the pearl away. Kino catches her and beats her badly. He is then accosted and attacked by people trying to steal his pearl. In the altercation that ensues, Kino kills a man. He does this in a bid to protect his pearl. This is because he hopes to sell it and buy a rifle, new clothes, take Coyotito to school and to marry Juana in church. When Juana finds him, he moves sluggishly like a crushed bug, a thick muttering coming from his mouth. She knows that the old life is gone. This forces them to leave their home in La Paz. The agony is as a result of Kino's unchecked ambition.

Kino is attacked several times as he struggles to protect his pearl. He hopes to use the pearl to improve his life by buying a Winchester carbine rifle and take his son to school e.t.c. When a thief tries to steal the pearl, Kino attacks him with his knife, misses then feels the knife go through cloth. His head crashes with lightning and he feels blood running down his forehead. Juana swabs blood from his forehead with her shawl. Her tension boils to the surface and she cries that the pearl is evil. She wants them to throw it away or destroy it but Kino is adamant. Kino is attacked again because of the pearl. Because of his obsession, he goes out in the dark alone. Juana wills to stop him and is terrified when he confronts the attacker. His shirt is torn

badly and clothes half pulled off. Kino is slashed from ear to chin. He bleeds badly. Juana wipes off his thickening blood with her skirt. She is disturbed. She tells him that the pearl is evil but due to his excessive desire he claims that he is a man. He suffers these attacks brcause of his excessive desire.

In conclusion, desire without limit causes pain to ourselves and to our family members.

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 12

12. "For it is said that humans are never satisfied, that you give them one thing and they want something more." Using clear illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, write an essay to validate this claim. (20 marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 13

13. Fate is a force beyond our control. Write an essay to validate this statement basing your argument on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. (20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 14

14. "It is not good to want a thing too much. It sometimes drives the luck away." How true in this in relation to *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck? (20 marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 15

15. Too much ambition leads to frustration. Write a composition to validate this statement with illustrations from the *The Pearl.* (20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 16

16. Too much ambition is often accompanied by misery. Write a composition to substantiate this claim, drawing your illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl.* (20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 17

17. Humans are inherently greedy. Basing your illustrations on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl,* write a composition to back up this statement. (20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 18

18. When Kino finds the pearl, the evil nature of humans is brought out. Write a composition to substantiate this claim, drawing your illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl.* (20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 19

19. Greed brings out evil in mankind. Using clear illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, write an essay to validate this claim. (20 marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 20

20. Write a composition to show the evil nature of greed basing your illustrations on John Steinbeck's The Pearl. (20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 21

21. Write an essay to show how luck brings bitter friends citing illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* .(20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 22

22. Contentment is the key to happy life. Write an essay to validate this statement basing your argument on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. (20 Marks)

THE PEARL ESSAY QUESTION 22

23. "Do not count your chicks before they hatch". Write a composition to substantiate this saying, drawing your illustrations from John Steinbeck's *The Pearl.* (20 marks)

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