THROUGH THE EYE OF AN EXAMINER

There are three papers in English examination that are tested in Kenya today.

All the three papers totals up to 200 marks

101/1 Paper one 60 marks

Paper one is intended to test the candidate's ability to communicate in writing. Communication is established at different levels of intelligibility, correctness, accuracy, fluency, pleasantness and originality. Within the constraints set by each question, it is the linguistic competence shown by the candidate that should carry most of the marks. In a factual essay, attention must also be given to the format, tone and ability to follow instructions.

1. *functional skills 20 marks*
2. *cloze test 10 marks*
3. *oral skills 30 marks*

101/2 PAPER TWO 80 marks

1. This paper is titled, Comprehension, literary appreciation and grammar
2. It is made up of four questions, totaling 80 marks
    a. Comprehension 20 marks.

b. Extract from one of the compulsory set texts 25 marks.
c. A poem, or short fixed forms, or a narrative or a song 20 marks.
d. Grammar 15 marks.

3. A candidate is expected to answer all the questions in the question paper

101/3 ENGLISH PAPER THREE 60 MARKS

Paper three is made up of three questions, two essays and an imaginative, or a discursive composition

Paper three is discussed deeply below:

A student's **essay** must have;

1. The introduction

2. The body

3. The conclusion

THE INTRODUCTION

There are three types of introductions

- General
- Contextualized
- A combination of both.

1. **General**

In the general introduction, a general comment to the society is made based on the question.

Consider the question:

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

"Fate and agency are two contrasting forces that can shape a person's life". With reference to *John Steinbeck's* "**The Pearl**" justify this statement.

General Introduction

In our Society today, we have seen people whose life has greatly been affected by rushing to use a fate that they have been blessed with. The rushed fate mostly destines them to ruined lives.

2. **CONTEXTUALIZED INTRODUCTION.**

A comment is given focusing on the text, and not the society. In this, one can even mention the points they are to discuss in the body.

Example

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

"Fate and agency are two contrasting forces that can shape a person's life". With reference to *John Steinbeck's* "**The Pearl**" justify this statement.

John Steinbeck proves the statement that fate and agency are two contrasting forces that can shape a persons life, in his work the pearl through the likes of Kino and Juana's lives, as discussed below.

3. A COMBINATION OF BOTH.

In this, one combines both the general and contextualized introduction.

THE BODY OF AN ESSAY

-The body is divided into well structured paragraphs.

-Each paragraph MUST carry a single idea

-Each paragraph should have a TOPIC sentence, which gives a general idea about what the paragraph with talk about

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

"Fate and agency are two contrasting forces that can shape a person's life". With reference to *John Steinbeck's* "The Pearl" justify this statement.

(20marks)

- Kino and Juana's lives change irreparably the moment the scorpion bites their child. This is a symbol of malignant fate.
- When Kino finds the pearl , which is a sign of beneficent fate, his and Juana's lives change.
- Human agency in the form of greed, ambition and violence, leads to series of conflicts over the pearl.
- Kino finds himself caught between the forces of fate and forces of human society, between the destiny handed him by fate and

the destiny he seeks to create himself.

CONCLUSION

All essays must have conclusions.

A conclusion can either be

1. A recap of the main points

OR

2. A statement that shows the validity of what you have written.

POINTS TO NOTE

1. Discourage learners from definition of terms in the introduction.

2. Learners must avoid like plague sub headings in their essays.

3. The introductory paragraph must be on its own... Joining paragraph one of the essay (point 1)to the introductory paragraph might cost a learner.

4. Learners must interpret and get the demands of the question before writing their essays.

PENALTIES

1. Essays beyond two pages will cost the learner; for they will be automatically deducted 2 marks, up to 4 marks maximum

2. Anybody point that is not tied to the question fully may score a thin. Translating to only one of the three marks of that paragraph

3. And for the paper three question one, merit ticks almost mean everything.

4. Never define the question topics, proverbial compositions or essays on themes in any of the three questions in paper three.

EXAMPLE OF QUESTION ONE PAPER THREE QUESTION AND ANWERS EXPECTED

1. IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION (COMPULSORY)

(20 marks)

a. Write a composition ending with the following words.

…….that is how I ended up being what I am today.

The expectations of the examiner

- Expect a story
- Must be a narrative, if not deduct 4mks AD
- Must end with the given sentence. If not deduct 2mks AD. The

sentence must not be tagged to the story, if so treat as irrelevant and deduct up to 2 mks

- The story must be an account detailing a situation in which a female characters misses out her fortune(s) because of her high temper
- The composition must not exceed 450 words i.e. 2pgs, if more than two deduct 2 mks

b. Write a story to illustrate the proverb;

Action speaks louder than words.

- Must be a story If not deduct 4 marks Automatic Deduction.
- The story must illustrate a situation in which the person who comes out on top in the end is the one who is ultimately the happiest, or a person who is quick to rejoice/gloat often does not win when all is said and done.
- The candidate must not define the proverb but write a story to bring out the meaning
- Length should be up to 2 pages
- A neat and legible hand writing is paramount
- Good grammar, short sentences, big words, and sweet flowery phrases makes you score better than your friends

AN EXAMPLE OF A SAMPLE QUESTION AND ANSWER TO THE SHORT STORY

MEMORIES WE LOST AND OTHER STORIES.

How Much Land Does a Man Need? By Leo Tolstoy

“Restlessness is discontent — and discontent is the first necessity of progress.” With illustrations from the story “**How Much Land Does a Man Need?**” justify this statement.

Tips;

a) Answer the question, following the guidelines of essays provided above.
b) Do not define restlessness or discontent.
c) Give out a good introduction. Candidates score better, after using the general introduction, more than the other types.
d) Do not give your essay sub titles like introduction, body, conclusion etc.

e) Explain vividly, each point, for the body marks determines what you score in grammar, and the conclusion marks too.

Here are sample expected answers.

- Pahom, the husband of the younger sister, enters the debate and suggests that the charm of the peasant life is that the peasant has no time to let nonsense settle in his head. The one drawback of peasant life, he declares, is that the peasant does not have enough land: “If I had plenty of land, I shouldn’t fear the Devil himself!” The devil, overhearing this boast, decides to give Pahom his wish, seducing him with the extra land that Pahom thinks will give him security.
- Pahom’s first opportunity to gain extra land comes when a lady in the village decides to sell her three hundred acres. His fellow peasants try to arrange the purchase for themselves as part of a commune, but the devil sows discord among them and individual peasants begin to buy land. Pahom obtains forty acres of his own. This pleases him initially, but soon neighboring peasants allow their cows to stray into his meadows and their horses among his corn, and he must seek justice from the district court. Not only does he fail to receive recompense for the damages but also he ruins his reputation among his former friends and neighbors; his extra land does not bring him security.
- Hearing a rumor about more and better farmland elsewhere, he decides to sell his land and move his family to a new location. There

he obtains 125 acres and is ten times better off than he was before, and he is very pleased. However, he soon realizes that he could make a better profit with more land on which to sow wheat. He makes a deal to obtain thirteen hundred acres from a peasant in financial difficulty for one thousand rubles and has all but clinched it when he hears a rumor about the land of the Bashkirs. There, a tradesman tells him, a man can obtain land for less than a penny an acre, simply by making friends with the chiefs.

- Fueled by the desire for more, cheaper, and better land, Pahom seeks directions for the land of the Bashkirs and leaves on a journey to obtain the land that he thinks he needs. On arrival, he distributes gifts to the Bashkir leaders and finds them courteous and friendly. He explains his reasons for being there and, after some deliberation, they offer him whatever land he wants for one thousand rubles. Pahom is pleased but concerned; he wants boundaries, deeds, and “official sanction” to give him the assurance he needs that they or their children will never reverse their decision.
- The Bashkirs agree to this arrangement, and a deal is struck. Pahom can have all the land that he can walk around in a day for one thousand rubles. The one condition is that if he does not return on the same day to the spot at which he began, the money will be lost. The night before his fateful walk, Pahom plans his strategy; he will try to encircle thirty-five miles of land and then sell the poorer land to peasants at a profit. When he awakes the next day, he is met by the man whom he thought was the chief of the Bashkirs, but whom he recognizes as the peasant who had come to his old home to tell him

of lucrative land deals available elsewhere. He looks again, and realizes that he is speaking with the devil himself. He dismisses this meeting as merely a dream and goes about his walk.

- Pahom starts well, but he tries to encircle too much land, and by midday he realizes that he has tried to create too big a circuit. Though afraid of death, he knows that his only chance is to complete the circuit. “There is plenty of land,” he says to himself, “but will God let me live on it?” As the sun comes down, Pahom runs with all his remaining strength to the spot where he began.

Reaching it, he sees the chief laughing and holding his sides; he remembers his dream and breathes his last breath. Pahom’s servant picks up the spade with which Pahom had been marking his land and digs a grave in which to bury him: “Six feet from his head to his heels was all he needed.”

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PEARL BY JOHN STEINBECK

- This novel follows five momentous days in the life of an Indian pearl diver living in La Paz, a small port on the Gulf of California. Though told by an omniscient author, the work most often limits itself to Kino’s perspective as he suffers the gratuitous trials of an innocent tragic hero.
- His sufferings begin when he witnesses a scorpion sting his beloved son, Coyotito, as the child lies happily in his cradle. Beside herself with terror, Kino’s common-law wife, Juana, insists that they take Coyotito to the

doctor because that individual has authority even though he “was of a race which for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved and robbed and despised Kino’s race.” The doctor irresponsibly evades seeing the child, and Kino takes his first step in his tragic growth by challenging the unfair order of existence. He strikes the doctor’s gate “a crushing blow with his fist.” His knuckles give instead of the doorway, but Kino’s gesture shows that he is prepared to become “a man.”

- That same day, he and Juana go to dive for pearls. Juana tries to bargain with her people’s ancient gods and offers a prayer to the Christian God that they might find a pearl. Though she has made a better poultice of seaweed than the doctor could, she still feels the need for his magic and wants the wherewithal to force him to attend her baby. As if in answer to her supplication, Kino finds “the greatest pearl in the world.” He begins to dream about the good the pearl will bring his family. He imagines being married now that they can pay for the service. He pictures a new harpoon and then dares imagine possessing a rifle. That last image is so defiant that he goes even further: He dreams of sending his son to school to learn to read, write, and “make numbers.”
- The people of La Paz have heard the news, however, and they intrude on Kino’s dream. Even the priest comes to express his hope that Kino will

not forget the Church. The doctor rushes over to force a powder down Coyotito's throat, one that will make him temporarily ill so that the doctor can pretend that the scorpion's poison is still working and he can "cure" the baby. The doctor also tricks Kino into revealing the place where he has hidden the pearl, and that night either he or his henchman returns to steal it. In defending his home, Kino draws his first blood. Still, the family begins the next day "with hope."

- This optimism is quickly dashed. The pearl brokers, acting together offer him a pittance. Kino refuses to sell and announces that he will take the pearl to Mexico City instead. His family, his brother, his sister-in-law, and his wife—stick by him, but they are worried. Juana urges him to crush the pearl between two stones and forget it, but Kino answers that he is "a man" and will not be cheated. He does not yet recognize the reversal his fortunes have taken.
- The third day begins with Juana stealing the pearl and trying to throw it back into the gulf in order to avert the evil she senses is bearing down on her family. Kino stops her, but as he returns from the shore, he is attacked. Dropping the pearl, he says his assailant. Juana finds the gem and submissively returns it to her man; she also urges him to flee to save himself from certain arrest. They go to get their canoe and find that

someone has knocked a hole in its bottom. Then their brush house is burned by other searchers, the “dark ones.” Taking refuge with Kino’s brother, the family hides out all that day while Juan Tomas borrows provisions for their flight.

- That night, the three head into the Sierra de la Giganta, planning to go to Lorento, a gulf town to the north, but trackers quickly find their trail. By the evening of the fourth day, Kino and his family are holed up in a cave while the trackers camp in the mountain cleft below them. Kino tries to sneak up on them to steal their rifle, but Coyotito whimpers, and one of the trackers, thinking (ironically, considering the baby’s name) that it is a “coyote pup,” idly shoots in that direction. Kino leaps too late. He kills all three men but finds that the top of Coyotito’s head has been blown off.
- Late in the afternoon of the fifth day, the two return to La Paz, carrying their dead child. They walk straight through the town to the gulf shore. There Kino pulls out the great pearl and offers it to Juana, but she declines, and it is he who returns the pearl to the sea. Because of its tragic dimensions, their story becomes forever one of the town’s legends.

SHORT ANSWER GUIDE QUESTIONS- *The Pearl*

Chapter 1

1. *What in general happens in the first chapter?*

In the town of La Paz, lived Kino, Juana and their infant son, Coyotito, live in a modest brush house by the sea. One fine morning, a scorpion stung Coyotito. Hoping to protect their son, Kino and Juana rush him to the doctor in town. However, the doctor turned away them because they are poor natives who cannot pay enough.

2. *Notice that the townspeople follow Kino. What does tell you?*

The neighbours are curious and as well interested in Kino's situation.

3. *Why did the doctor refuse to treat Coyotito?*

The doctor refuses to treat Coyotito because Kino and Juana are poor and they didn't have enough money to pay him, but instead offering him eight pearls.

4. *What does that tell you about the doctor's personality?*

From the story, the doctor represents the colonial attitudes that oppress Kino's people, because he symbolizes the arrogance, greed, and condescension towards the native. He has no interest in Kino's people, but rather to make money in his human values.

5. *What are the conflicts in the story so far?*

The conflicts strike when Kino and Juana are trying to ask help from the doctor, but he refuses to help, due to Kino is poor and doesn't have enough money to pay.

6. *What is the Song of the Family?*

Throughout the novel, Kino has a particularly powerful feelings or instinct that he hears a song in his head that correspond to that feeling. The Song of the Family represents when he is happy with his family that made him felt warmth and secured with his family behind him.

7. *What is the Song of Evil? When does it first appear?*

The Song of Evil is the music of enemy of any foe of the family, a savage, dangerous, malice and dishonesty that Kino senses in Chapter 1.

Chapter 2

1. *Why did Steinbeck include the first section about the life in the Gulf waters?*

Steinbeck included the idea about the life in Gulf waters, because to make us understand and know better about the people in village and how they reacted. S

2. The canoe is mentioned quite often. Is it a symbol for something?

The canoe was one thing of value that Kino owned in the world. It is a canoe that Kino's father grandfather bought it from Nayarit and passed down to his father and him. It symbolizes the source of food, for a man with a boat guarantee a woman that she will eat something as well as it symbolizes their ways of life.

3. What is the main event of this chapter?

One fine morning, Kino and Juana slid off the shore to finds pearls. After a while that they're settled at the sea, Kino sees one huge oyster, slightly opened, along on an overhang. Then by a heavy rhythm, he opens it. It turned out to be the greatest pearl in the world, perfect as a moon, large as a sea-gull's egg that it captured the light and refined.

4. Do you think it is coincidence that everything goes well on the water, or Steinbeck is trying to show something?

Steinbeck is trying to show destruction will begin once Kino finds that pearl. Steinbeck is putting the action of the story into full motion, in a sense with the discovery of that pearl.

5. To what new Song are we introduced?

That Might Be, for every shell thrown in the basket might contain a pearl and Song of the Undersea that shows indicates a melody of the pearl.

Chapter 3

1. *To what does Steinbeck compare the town?*

He compares the town as a colonial animal, because a town has a nervous system and a head, shoulders and feet. A town is a thing separate from all other towns, so that there are no two towns alike and it has a whole emotion. While, the news seems to travel through a town so fast, which Steinbeck compares it with women and small children where the news travel faster than women can call it over the fences or move faster small boys can scramble and dart to tell it.

2. *The news of Kino's pearl spread quickly across town. What did each person think of when he heard it?*

The news of Kino's pearl travels fast across town. Unfortunately, everyone is self-preserving: the priest hears about the pearl and thinks about repairing the church, the shopkeepers think about the clothes they could sell to Kino and as well as the doctor who knew that Kino was his client before, thinking about Paris and a bottle of wine.

3. *What would Kino do with his riches?*

He says that he's going to marry Juana in the church- dressed in new white clothes and wear new shoes. He's going to buy a new harpoon of iron with a ring in the end of the shaft and buy a rifle. Not only, he wants Coyotito to

go to school and get educated.

4. Why does the doctor come? What does he do?

The doctor came because he sees that Kino has found the Pearl of the World that he could really make use of the pearl such as thinking about Paris and a fine dining. When the doctor arrived at the brush house, he counters and lies to Kino and Juana about Coyotito's condition by giving Coyotito a mysterious capsule that contains poison and then give an antidote to cure, so that he would be able to ask Kino about keeping the pearl.

5. What bad thing happened to make Juana want to throw away the pearl?

Juana sees that the pearl is like an evil plague that it will bring no good to their family, but will destroy their entire family such as Coyotito getting worse and Kino being attacked. It will make everyone self-preserving and selfish towards each other.

Chapter 4

1. in the description of the pearl buyers, what do we find about the market in Kino's village?

The market is a self-regulating system and free market capitalism that proved too costly for the merchants that they can agree on a price that is below the pearl's actual value. The pearl buyers get together and set a low price of the pearl and saying that the pearl is too big and wasn't valuable, so that they could cheat Kino.

2. What happened when Kino went to sell his pearl?

The pearl buyer told Kino that the pearl is too big and odd, but it's not a valuable pearl. The main buyer offered Kino 1,000 pesos. When Kino disagreed, three other buyers were brought in; each one said it was of little value. It is made obvious to the Kino that the buyers had arranged their prices earlier and they were about to cheat off Kino. Then, Kino says he will go to the capitol instead of dealing with these buyers.

3. Juan Tomas says to Kino, "You have defied not the pearl buyers, but the whole structure, the whole way of life. I am afraid for you." What does he mean?

No one of the village men had ever gone against the buyers. No one had "taken on city hall," so-to-speak. It was not Kino's place to try to do better. He was just a lowly village man; that was his station in life. Now, he was trying to improve his station and would have to have a major conflict in order to do so. Juan Tomas thinks this goes against the laws of nature and that bad things happen when you go against the laws of nature. As I heard it put once, "Little fish don't eat big fish."

4. Again at the end of the chapter, Juana wants to throw away the pearl because it is evil. What evil thing happened?

At night when Kino sits awake to protect his pearl, suddenly he senses an evil presence.

He rises and search for the knife and moves toward the doorway. From darkness, a man assaults him and he was bloodied and cut with his clothes

torn and lay down half conscious.

Without waiting, Juana helps Kino cleans his wounds and begs him in desperation to throw the evil pearl, but Kino insisted.

Chapter 5

1. *Where did Juana go early in the morning?*

Early morning, Juana quietly sneaks out to the shore and tries to throw the pearl into the sea.

2. *What did Kino do when he figured out where she went?*

When Kino awakes and barely saw Juana's shadow, he follows her towards the shore. When he saw Juana with the pearl, he grabs the pearl away from her and punches her in the face and kicks her in the side. With rage and anger, he hisses and left without caring.

3. *What happened to Kino up the beach through the brush line on the path?*

Kino was assaulted by a group of men whom Juana refers them as "the dark ones" or the trackers. They attacked him aggressively. Then Kino drives his knife into one of them.

4. *What happened to their hut while they were away?*

As Kino arrives in the neighborhood with anger that someone has punched

a large hole in his canoe, he notices flames and realizes that his house is burning down.

5. Why did they leave the village?

Kino, Juana, along with Coyotito must leave village to the north is because; Kino committed a crime of killing a man that he was trying to defend himself and the search party will come search for him eventually, because the authorities won't believe nor help him anyhow.

Chapter 6

1. What "songs" does Kino hear on the first part of their journey?

Kino heard the music of the pearl in his head and the quiet melody of the family underlay it.

2. What made their music of the pearl become "sinister in his ears.. interwoven with the music of evil"?

The music of the pearl had become sinister in Kino's ears when Kino brought out the pearl and try to find his vision.

When he glazes the pearl, he thinks of having a rifle, but what he saw was only a huddled dark body on the ground with shining blood dripping from its throat.

He then thinks of getting married in the church, but it the pearl, he saw Juana with her beaten face crawling home through the night. Kino lasts to

imagine Coyotito going to school, and there in the pearl shows Coyotito's face, thick and feverish from the medicine.

3. What happens to Coyotito?

At the middle of the night when Kino is trying to kill the trackers, suddenly, Coyotito cries out that accidentally wakes one of the sleeping trackers. At first, they thought it could be the cry of the coyote, however, the watchmen shoots in the direction of the cry, which the bullet hits and kills Coyotito.

4. What happens to the trackers?

Kino confronts the trackers, stabbing the watchmen and seizing the rifle, knocking one of the other men out with a fierce blow and he watches as the last man attempts to move up the cliff. When the man tries to move, then Kino kills him with a shot between his eyes

5. What happens to Kino and Juana?

After mourning the death of Coyotito, the next day Kino and Juana walk along the village of La Paz dazedly and wordlessly, carrying Coyotito's corpse in a sack slung over her shoulder. Then, they decided to throw away the pearl.

6. What do they do with the pearl?

By the edge of the estuary with no words left out, Kino stops and pulls the pearl of out his pocket, stares carefully with a flood of evil memories that destroys him and his family. He holds the pearl out in front of him and decided to throw it away into the sea.

Questions on styles and characters

a. **What characters in the novel are portrayed as overtly good or evil? What characters are portrayed as ambiguous?**

Of all the characters in the novel that of the Doctor is rendered most starkly evil and that of Juana is rendered most steadfastly good.

The scene in which the Doctor dupes Juana by simply re-poisoning Coyotito and then pretends to cure him makes the Doctor seem all the more duplicitous and she all the more innocent.

Ambiguous characters include the pearl buyers who, though they seek to purchase the pearls at the lowest price, are simply acting in accordance with the dictates of their profession and the trackers who doggedly pursue Kino and his family into the wilderness who, like the pearl buyers are not inherently good or bad but merely performing their duty to the best of their ability.

b. **The narrator says that to Juana men were "half-gods and half insane" and that she believed women capable of saving men at times through the woman's natural qualities of "reason, caution and sense of preservation." How are these gender roles vital to the story?**

Kino believes he can capitalize on the wealth of the pearl because as a man in his native society he has always been the decision-maker and source of

physical strength that has provided for its survival.

Though he is initially frightened to go to the city he decides that he must make the journey in order that his family will not merely survive but prosper.

Juana knows that because Kino is a man he will "drive his strength against a mountain" but "in her woman's soul" she knows that "the mountain would stand while the man broke himself."

For this reason she attempts to dissuade Kino. In order for her way of life to continue, however, she must yield to his decisions until he can understand the pearl's evil himself.

c. **Throughout the story Kino and Juana are attuned to ancient songs that warn them of evil or nurture their sense of family. In what way do these songs serve as rhetorical devices to further the parable?**

The use of the songs allows Steinbeck to emphasize Kino and Juana's essential innocence and connection with the natural world and also allows the author to sharply delineate between those things in the story which are to be read as "evil" and those that are understood to be "good".

Thus, the Priest is accompanied by the song of evil and the reader knows, without being told in so many words, not to take his statements at face value.

The stone that Juana uses to grind the corn, although a facet of her family's poverty is accompanied by the song of the family and the reader is

led to infer that in these simple things does the strength of goodness reside for Kino and his people.

d. What is the meaning of the songs in The Pearl?

The Songs in The Pearl are all part of the Song of Life. They are a reflection of the native beliefs that the people of Mexico once had before the coming of the Europeans.

They are for all aspects of life: The Family, Evil, the Enemy, What Might Be, and the Undersea. All these are parts of Kino's life.

Thus Kino refers to the song as "the Whole," meaning all of life. He and Juana sing these songs when an occasion arises that need an expression of emotion. In the good times and the bad times, either Kino or Juana breaks into song.

When Coyotito is stung by the scorpion, Juana sings the song of the family, to protect her child against evil. Kino sings when the priest comes and wants to be part of the pearl and its wealth.

After Kino throws the pearl into the sea, it is stated that the music of the pearl softens into a whisper and then disappears.

e. In what ways does Kino defy the patterns of life in the town and how does this change him?

Kino begins the novel poor and unable to think beyond the confines of his native fishing village. After discovering of the pearl, however, Kino begins to

dream of possibilities for his family, most notably an education for his son that was previously unthinkable.

He sees these dreams materialize when he looks into the pearl's surface. Because he cannot simply ignore these dreams he embarks upon a course of action which eventually makes him a fugitive from his own village and a killer of men several times over.

The people of the town did not trust their eyes due to the effects of the Gulf mist, yet Kino believes the things he first sees in the pearl and is deceived. The image of his son receiving an education is replaced by an image of the boy's dead body; similarly, the image of Kino and Juana being married in the church is replaced by an image of her bruised and swollen face after he has beaten her.

When he returns to the village, defeated by the death of his son, he first offers Juana the chance to throw the pearl into the sea. This indicates that he has learned to appreciate her judgement and is, in a sense, yielding to her.

That she insists that he be the one to throw the pearl into the sea indicates that she remains faithful to their previous way of life and, as she has always done, seeks to preserve it.

f. What is the literal and symbolic function of Kino's canoe?

In *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, Kino's canoe is an important symbol and

has several functions. First of all, the literal function of the canoe is to provide Kino and his family with their livelihood. Without the canoe, Kino could not search for oysters, and without the canoe, he would have never found the pearl.

Furthermore, on a literal level, the canoe is the "one thing of value he owned" (Chap 2, para 6). In chapter two when the canoe is introduced, Kino is filled with the Song of the Family and that is a good song, filled with love.

g. What role does religion play in John Steinbeck's The Pearl?

The community in which Kino and his family live is dominated by the Roman Catholic Church. The priest is extremely influential in the affairs of the town.

Kino and Juana are firm believers in the involvement of God in their lives, yet their belief is also mixed with some superstition. Juana is sure that the discovery of the pearl is an answer to her prayer. This will mean an increase in their standard of living and can only be the result of divine intervention.

As events progress, however, Juana changes her mind and sees the pearl as a curse on their family. Only bad things, not good things, happen after the discovery.

They are victims of attack and attempted robbery, leading to Kino commit murder to protect the pearl. They attempt to go to the city, but in a

confrontation, their son is killed.

Kino now agrees with his wife that the pearl is cursed. Returning home, they throw the pearl back into the sea, hoping to appease God and be released from the evil effects it has brought. This belief in an inanimate object as the focus of a curse is reflective of their superstitious beliefs.

The belief that human beings are subject to the whims of an often vengeful god is reflective of the teachings of some primitive religions among the native peoples.

This influences their understandings of the teaching of the church that is so central to their lives.

Questions on themes

What theme illustrates good vs. evil in "The Pearl?"

One of the motifs that Steinbeck uses to illustrate the theme of good vs. evil is music. When Kino awakens, he is filled with a good feeling and he refers to the music he hears during this feeling as the Song of the Family.

The scorpion is accompanied by the Song of Evil. The Song of the Family cries "plaintively" in response to the Song of Evil. So, there is the sense that the songs, and/or fores of good and evil, are competing against one another.

Everything in Kino's world and culture corresponds with music. This gives the notion of good vs. evil artistic, abstract, and universal qualities. This music can be personal or it can relate to Kino's entire culture and ancestors.

Thus, the battle of good vs. evil is something universal, spiritual, and something that has always been part of their culture:

Kino's people had sung of everything that happened or existed. They had made songs to the fishes, to the sea in anger and to the sea in calm, to the light and the dark and the sun and the moon, and the songs were all in Kino and in his people - every song that had ever been made, even the ones forgotten.

Just as there are songs for both good and evil, the pearl itself contains the potential for good and evil. It represents hope but contains the potential for sin and destruction.

The mix of old and new (Catholic) religions shows how this theme is common to many religious philosophies. This "singing" or praying is a way that Kino's people try to make sense of the world.

Kino is confused when he hears competing songs of good and evil when he speaks of the pearl. (This is initially noticeably when he first speaks with the priest.)

The ancient magic, the Catholic Church, the songs themselves are all ways that Kino's people try to understand the potential for good or evil. One of Kino's tragic flaws is that he initially fails to associate evil intuition/music with the pearl. Of course, it is not the pearl itself that contains evil. It is the pearl's monetary value that brings out the greed and thus, the evil thoughts of anyone who covets it.

What is the major theme of The Pearl?

A major theme of The Pearl is that greed can ruin not only your own life, but the lives of those you love. Kino's life prior to his finding of the pearl is one of contentment. His needs are few, and he finds joy in his wife and child in their modest brush hut. When he discovers the pearl, however, he immediately begins to want.

He does not desire anything outlandish, just a rifle for himself, schooling for his child, clothes for his family, a proper wedding for his wife.

It is not the amount that one craves, but the simple act of craving itself that is the undoing. His greed transitions from the things the pearl can buy to the pearl itself.

He becomes violent toward his wife, knocking her down and kicking her when she tries to throw the pearl back into the ocean.

He kills a man who is trying to steal the pearl from him. He loses his home, journeying toward the city to find someone who will give him more money for the pearl. Yet he never makes it, losing his son in the process. He returns home and rids himself of the pearl. The question remains: Has he lost all chance for happiness because of his past possession of the pearl? Is there any redemption for him?

Questions on plot and setting

What happened to Kino's house in Chapter 5?

Kino's house is described as made of brush. He, Juana, and Coyotito live a simple life with few material possessions. When he finds the pearl, there

are limited places in which to hide it, but he manages to find several spots, burying it in the dirt floor.

When he makes his find known, especially when he refuses to sell it to the local pearl dealers, he has set himself up for the probable theft of the pearl. The doctor, the pearl merchants, even the priest, knows he has it, and their greed makes it likely that they will try to steal it, which someone tries to do. Kino has killed one person who has attacked him in order to steal the pearl.

Juana attempts to throw the pearl away, fearing that it has brought evil into their home. When they are absent, someone has set fire to their hut.

The neighbors fear that they family has been burned to death, but they are in hiding in Juan Thomas's house.

Do you think that the pearl can be a political novel?

The Pearl is the story of a poor Indian whose people have been subjugated for over four hundred years. While the descendents of the Europeans live in stone houses, surrounded by walls, Kino and his people live in grass shacks with earth floors.

Kino's struggle to better the lot of his family and his eventual failure can be read as a condemnation of the economic system which prevents Kino from realizing the value of the great pearl.

Significantly, Kino's most cherished dream is that his son might receive an education and free his people from the cycle of poverty and ignorance.

Coyotito's death, however, destroys Kino's family and serves as a painful

reminder that the injustices, which his people have always suffered, will not be overturned by the actions of an individual.

The horror of Kino's failure reminds the reader of the need for reform and aid in societies where such action cannot be successfully implemented by the dispossessed.

How are pearls created by oysters?

Pearls are made of nacre, which on its own is commonly known as "mother of pearl" (because it is the substance from which true pearls are birthed).

Oysters do not actually make pearls deliberately, as it were; pearls are a by-product of the oysters' need to protect themselves from invaders and irritants. For example, if a piece of grit or sand makes its way into the oyster's sensitive internal area, it will begin to coat that piece of grit in layer upon layer of nacre in order to shield itself from the irritation that would otherwise result.

Sometimes, when pearls are made deliberately by "pearl farmers," an irritant will therefore be introduced into an oyster's shell to encourage this process.

Essentially, however, the process of an oyster making a pearl is similar to the process by which our eyes begin to water when a piece of grit touches the soft surface of the eyeball and needs to be washed away.

However, on a symbolic level, the canoe represents more than Kino's material wealth and his ability to dive for oysters. The canoe functions as

the symbol of the traditions of both his family and culture. It has been passed down from his grandfather to his father and then to Kino and represents their way of life. Later, when the canoe is destroyed, so is Kino's life.

In fact the *killing* of the canoe is considered more important than killing a man: "This was an evil beyond thinking. The killing of a man was not so evil as killing of a boat" (Chap 5, para 15). The canoe represents all that is important in Kino's culture, and once his canoe is destroyed, the Song of Evil overtakes the entire family

In The Pearl, Chapter 3, what specifically will make Coyotito and the family free?

Kino hopes that the Pearl of the World will open new parts of his world for his family and free them from their poverty and ignorance.

The music of the pearl had merged with the music of the family so that one beautified the other. (Ch. 3)

Kino imagines that he and Juana will be married in the church; he will own a harpoon to replace one he lost a year ago, and even buy a rifle. Further, he envisions Coyotito in the future, sitting at a little desk in a school, writing on a large piece of paper. Someday, too, the boy will be able to read books. And, if anyone is ill, the doctor will come.

The Pearl of the World creates music of promise and delight, a guarantee for comfort and safety in the future. Its luminescence will ensure his family against illness and protect them from sickness. They will be free from the worries and the threats of poverty.

Essay questions The Pearl by John Steinbeck

"The doctor does not care about Kino because he is poor, and he refuses to treat the sick baby." This is explained as follows

Kino is suspicious of the doctor. Kino and his wife are aboriginals (Indians) and the doctor is one of the colonists, so he is a white man. The Indians never call a doctor, but when Coyotito gets bitten by a scorpion, Juana asks for the city doctor.

This doctor was not of his people. This doctor was of a race which for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved and robbed and despised Kino's race, and frightened it too, so that the indigene came humbly to the

door. (Ch. 1)

The doctor is not a kind person. Kino is right to be cautious. He seems to understand how the doctor thinks. The doctor looks down on them. He says that he is a doctor, not a veterinarian. Kino is already angry, and does not appreciate being called an animal.

The doctor takes no interest in Kino or his sick baby. Since he knows Kino can't pay him, he dismisses him.

"Has he any money?" the doctor demanded. "No, they never have any money. I, I alone in the world am supposed to work for nothing- and I am tired of it. See if he has any money!" (Ch. 1)

He is right. Kino doesn't have any money. All Kino has are a few small misshapen seed pearls, so the doctor's assistant sends him away with a lie that the doctor has gone out to see a serious case.

Kino was right about the doctor, so they are left to take care of their baby themselves. Juana does her best to help her baby herself, having already treated the wound when the incident first happened. It turns out that Juana does just as well as having a doctor. The baby starts to get better.

"Though bad, social oppression is real in our day to day lives." Discuss this statement using the pearl by john Steinbeck

At first glance, we can see evidence of gender oppression, especially after Kino basically loses it with Juana and physically assaults her. Juana's reaction is quite telling. It is shocking, because it shows the deeply-rooted

ideals that state that men were in charge of women.

He had said "I am man" and that meant certain things to Juana. It meant that he was half insane and half God. . . . Juana, in her woman's soul, knew that the mountain would stand while the man broke himself.

This shows oppression only because, prior to Juana's thoughts, Kino had attacked her, even kicked her, at the thought that she was escaping their home with the pearl.

Still, there is another type of oppression quite evident in chapter 5. When Kino kills the stranger that comes to attack him, he tries to explain over and over that he did this in self-defense. However, Juana mentions a very telling statement:

"Do you remember yesterday?" Juana asked. "Do you think that will matter? Do you remember the men of the city? Do you think your explanation will help?"

Juana's statement brings up that, because of their poverty and their social status, Juana and Kino are disenfranchised. As a result, nothing that they say or do will be believed, accepted, or respected by the men of the city.

This means basically that there is social oppression, and both Juana and Kino are quite aware of it. For all they know, the "men of the city" could just offer them an insulting amount of money for the great pearl. They could even take it without paying them. After all, the two of them are not considered equals, but are instead considered "lesser" than the mainstream folk.

As such, Juana and Kino are in a situation where, no matter what happens to them, they will end up on the losing end, just for being who they are. That is total social oppression, and nobody deserves that treatment in any civilized society.

"fortune can sometimes turn us to calamities and bad omens." Discuss this topic, with reference to the pearl, by John Steinbeck

Introduction

Many people in the world today grow crazy and mad when surrounded by even the slightest bit of wealth and good fortune. Even a strong person who recognizes their priorities can still become corrupt with too much power. There is no better example of a person falling into the path of evil and corruption than in a novel written by John Steinbeck.

Body

In the novel The Pearl, by John Steinbeck, the author writes about a poor Indian man named Kino who becomes corrupt from the wealth of a magnificent pearl. Steinbeck uses the motifs of light and dark imagery, and values to develop the theme that good fortune, wealth, and prosperity steer even the most innocent of people towards a path of evil and corruption.

It's true we learn that one must recognize their priorities and not let material objects affect them.
Steinbeck proves that power and riches lead to evil by the motif of music. Early in the novel Kino finds the Pearl of the World and for the moment

nothing could be better for him and his family.

The author writes, “Kino held the great pearl in his hand, and it was warm and alive in his hand. And the music of the pearl had merged with the music of the family so that one beautified the other” (23-24). Music symbolizes how happy and fortunate Kino and his family are currently feeling. Kino feels grateful for the luck that has brought him the Pearl of the World. Kino cannot believe his good.

As Juan and Kino’s baby, Coyotito, is bitten by a scorpion, the doctor refuses to treat Coyotito as he knew that the Coyotito’s parents were poor and could not afford to pay for their son’s treatment. Kino discovers that he has to get something valuable to pay for his son’s treatment. While oystering, fate provides away. He gets a huge pearl. Hearing of the great find by Kino, the doctor decides to treat Coyotito with hopes of getting the pearl. However, Kino becomes avaricious and decides to sell the pearl.

Regrettably, Kino begins to understand that money cannot afford happiness, but it was too late. He decides to hide his kin. While hiding his family, Kino realizes that he is being followed by the evil men, and murder one of the evil men. Whilst attempting to kill the remaining evil men around their hiding place, Coyotito, Kino’s son was shot by the attackers and dead instantly. Kino and his wife goes home without their son and decides to throw the pearl back to the sea.

Conclusion

In summary, the novel attempts to elucidate that fate cannot afford happiness sometimes. It actually can make on ends up living a miserable

life. Therefore, people should always be contented with what they have and appreciate the importance of everything in their live.

Write an essay, illustrating the effects of greed in a society. Use the pearl, by john Steinbeck for illustrations.

Introduction

There is nothing that can lead to a miserable life in our societies today, than greed. Greedy people never achieves goodness, but leads a life full of regrets and disharmony

Body

Greed can destroy the life of an individual. Kino, a Mexican, pearl diver, is in desperate need of help when his baby, Coyotito, is stung by a scorpion. Kino feels his only hope is to find a pearl beautiful enough to sell. His dream comes true when he discovers a magnificent pearl one morning. At first the discovery of the pearl can be looked upon as not only a miracle but also a life saver. Throughout the novel it becomes apparent the pearl is nowhere close to a miracle. Kino's life becomes a struggle.

The doctor couldn't treat coyotito, for the fact that his parents were poor. No, they never have any money. I, I alone in the world I am supposed to work for nothing—and I am tired of it. See if he has any money! (11)
With these words, Steinbeck tries to show how greedy the doctor is and how he will not help a young defenseless baby from death—just because

they are poor Indians, who have nothing of value to pay him for his services. The doctor's words and actions clearly illustrates humanity's struggle with greed.
Another example of greed is shown when Juana takes the pearl from Kino to throw back into the sea. Kino realizes what she is doing and goes after her. Just as Juana is about to discard the pearl, Kino grabs her arm and wrenches the pearl from her. He punches her in the face and when she falls on the boulders, he kicks her in the side.

The following quote establishes the violence that Kino unleashes on his wife in order to protect his precious pearl from harm, due to his greediness of what the pearl will bring to him and his family: "…Rage surged in Kino. He leaped at Juana and wrenched the pearl from her…with clenched fists, struck her in the face…kicked her in the side…Greedy fingers went through his clothes" (58-59).
This quote shows the greed in Kino is getting greater and greater. The reader can tell this because Kino is willing to hurt the person who he loves the most, and who loves him the most, just to keep his pearl safe.

Too much wealth satisfies individual's heart desires but at times can bring worst out of him or her. The pearl is a novel written by John Steinbeck and examines a man's own destruction through greed. In this novel, hope and evil consume Kino and the entire city of La Paz immediately information goes around that Kino found the pearl of the world. As asserted by Forman, greed, culture, anger, happiness, luck, death, mystery and evil are all major aspects in this book.

Greed can bring out the worst in people. It can turn people into monsters:

Greed is the emotion of people being jealous. An example is when people want money; the greed will take over. That is greed and selfishness. Just like in the novel *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck shows greed in so many different ways. Such as Kino finding “the Pearl of the World” (35).He then turns into one of the biggest greed monsters ever. He lives in a village with his wife, Juana, and son, Coyotito. He is happy and he is happy being a fisherman. They live in the poor part of the village due to the color of their skin. John Steinbeck shows how greed can go from bad to worse through the character of Kino.

Greed makes kino walk for a long distance, barefooted. Enduring hardships, just for the sake of greed. The country, as it rose toward the mountains, changed rapidly. Now there were long outcroppings of granite with deep crevices between, and Kino walked on bare un makeable stone when he could and leaped from ledge to ledge. He knew that wherever the trackers lost his path they must circle and lose time before they found it again. And so he did not go straight for the mountains anymore; he moved in zigzags, and sometimes he cut back to the south and left a sign and then went toward the mountains over bare stone again. And the path rose steeply now, so that he painted a little as he went.

It is greed that makes kino lead a miserable life. The struggle to hide the pearl from people is a true effect of greed, since he would have sold the pearl, long time ago. The sun leads downward toward the bare stone teeth of the mountains, and Kino set his direction for a dark and shadowy cleft in the range. If there were any water at all, it would be there where he could see, even in the distance, a hint of foliage. And if there were any passage

through the smooth stone range, it would be by this same deep cleft. It had its danger, for the trackers would think of it too, but the empty water-bottle did not let that consideration enter. And as the sun lowered, Kino and Juana struggled wearily up the steep slope towards the cleft.

The operations of chance and the effort to discern good luck from bad luck makes kino a greedy man. The pearl itself is the byproduct of a chance grain of sand embedding in an oyster. Additionally, Kino's finding of the pearl is depicted as the lucky moment of collusion of being in the right place at the right time with the right need. The luck that the pearl brings Kino's family, however, is revealed to be bad luck when his attempt to sell it at a fair price leads to the death of his only son. This is clear for a fact, that he had been warned by his wife of the bad fortune that the pearl might bring to their family.

Conclusion

Therefore, with greed, no life can be sweet at all. In order for us to enjoy good life, we therefore have to agree with parting with greed.

"Good without evil is nonexistent." Discuss this statement basing your arguments from the pearl by John Steinbeck.

INTRODUCTION

The most prominent theme in the parable of the pearl is that of the struggle between good and evil. As is the case with most parables, the characters

and events of the story are rendered more definitely, aligned with good or evil than would be possible to appreciate the degree of overlap inherent to the real world.

BODY

Throughout the story the songs that Kino hears in his head reveals to him on an instinctual level of a person or thing's true nature. Good can be characterized by the sympathetic characters such as Kino and Juana and the poor by the country's rich portrayed using unsympathetic characters like the doctor.

In The Pearl by John Steinbeck, evil transforms certain humble citizens into envious savages. It is this evil which moves the story along and adds drama. It causes the beginning of a happy spirit, but the downfall of goodness and humanity. Evil is shown by the doctor many times during the story. At first, he refuses to treat Coyotito because his parents have no money. After the doctor heard of Kino and Juana's fortune in finding the pearl, he rashes to treat Coyotito, something that he could not do, since Kino had no money.

The song of evil accompanies the Priest who treats the Indians like children and the doctor who regards them as animals. The song of the family, or the song of life, accompanies the life-sustaining morning activities as well as the family itself as they flee from their pursuers.

In Kino's conception of good and evil anything that threatens the family is evil. Thus the song of evil can also accompany natural things like the scorpion which stings Coyotito.

Conversely, Juana believes that the great find by her husband is evil and decides to detach herself form it. Kino decides to vend the pearl for fifty thousand pesos; nonetheless, the highest bid was only fifteen hundred pesos. He makes his way to the city to get a higher offer. Unfortunately, the pearl only brings to him unhappiness. On his way to city, Kino is attacked by evil men who attempt to take away the pearl. Being unsuccessful, the evil men destroy Kino's canoe and as well as the house.

The pearl, also a product of nature, is never clearly defined as inherently good or evil. Rather its effect upon the family is shown to be evil once it has proven to be a treacherous repository of Kino's dreams. The pearl's immediate and lasting effect upon Kino is to cause him to dream of better things for himself and for his family. Although the pearl attracts attackers and pursuers, Kino is determined that it shall be the means by which his family rises above their station and, most importantly, his son.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore clear that in every community in the world, evil comes hand in hand with the good in the society

Family

"A united family brings hope for success in life." Discuss the above assertion; using illustrations from the pearl by John Steinbeck

Introduction

It is true that in our societies today, families that lives together with unity,

succeeds. These are families that if a member makes a mistake, he is normally corrected and forgiven. Life moves on well with ease.

Body

Although Kino begins the story with the "song of the family" coursing through his being; he is soon sidetracked by the desires generated by the pearl. Though these desires are for things that Kino believes will make the family stronger in terms of their marriage and their child's education, Juana struggles to maintain the family as it once was.

Significantly, Juana suggests destroying the peal between two stones and actually attempts to free her family of its influence by throwing it back into the sea. She realizes that the family would have no meaning without Kino and relents to his desire to sell the pearl in the city. Just as the family is what drives Kino's desires, so does the sense of family bind Juana to his side when she refuses to part with him during their flight into the mountains.

The struggle for success of his family is highly seen when kino explains to his wife that the essence of getting the pearl is so that they may get rich, and transform their family. He informs her that they will be married in the church and later, they will have new clothes. All that Kino wishes to his family is success.

When his courage and ingenuity falter, kino is supported by his partner, Juana. She shares her husband's work, while acknowledging kinos authority. In the canoes, she was like a strong man. Once Coyotito has been killed, however, the family has ceased to exist and Kino can see that the pearl, contrary to his initial belief, has brought nothing but bad fortune.

Conclusion

It is therefore true that a family should live together, dine together, hustle together and stay together up to the end. Sticking together all through and helping each other, leads to success.