

Chapter One in Focus: One Town, Two Worlds

Each of the characters below is a symbol that suggests a deeper meaning.

<p>Kino is an Everyman who displays typical masculine qualities. The man's role in a traditional family is to <u>provide</u> and to <u>protect</u>.</p>	<p>Juana is symbol for traditional womanhood. The woman's role in a traditional family is to <u>nurture</u> its members, and to maintain <u>unity & order</u> in the home.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is Kino rising so early in the morning? 2. What is Kino's first response when the scorpion threatens Coyotito? 3. After the sting, what is Kino's first action? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is Juana rising so early in the morning? 2. What is Juana's first response after the scorpion stings Coyotito? 3. How does Juana further strive to maintain unity and order in her family?
<p>The Doctor represents the Spanish presence in Mexico. He considers France to be the high point of European life.</p>	<p>The Gatekeeper represents Indians making their living by working within the Spanish system.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the author describe the doctor physically? 2. How does the doctor show his attitude toward the Indians? 3. The doctor's use of the word "veterinary" suggests what about his view of the Indians? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What might he feel when he must shut the gate on a fellow Indian? 2. Infer his feelings toward the doctor. 3. Why doesn't he quit? How might he feel about that fact?

Establishment of Mood

Before Kino notices the scorpion, the first paragraphs of the novella attempts to paint a distinctive mood. How would you describe this mood? What is the major technique Steinbeck uses to create it? What specific words, images, etc. are employed?

Contrast: Nature vs. Civilization

Though they live within a half-mile of each other, Kino and the doctor live in sharply contrasting worlds:

	Doctor	Kino
BEDDING	Sleeps on a plush bed.	
HOUSING		Lives in a one-room brush hut with a dirt floor.
FOOD	Eats Drinks	Drinks pulque from an earthen jug.
EDUCATION		
ATTITUDE ABOUT LIFE		

On the Back: Using what you know about the characters in this chapter, describe what you think is Steinbeck's view of the relationship between the colonial Spanish and native Indians in La Paz.