

Chapter Three in Focus: Break Me Off a Piece of that Pearl

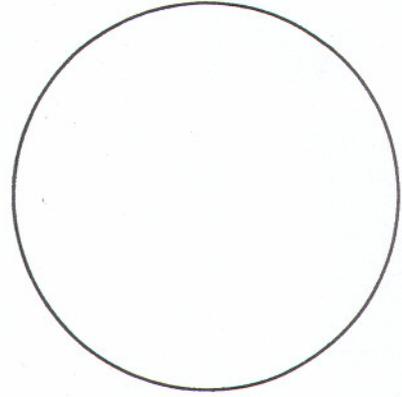
You may have heard the saying "Money changes everything." Notice how news of Kino's great pearl begins to change everyone's thoughts and behavior in this chapter.

And in the incandescence of the pearl the pictures formed of the things Kino's mind had considered in the past and had given up as impossible. In the pearl he saw...

In the diagram to the right, draw the images Kino sees in the surface of the great pearl.

...Kino was already making a hard skin for himself against the world. His mind probed for danger before it happened.

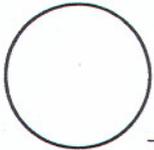
How is Kino beginning to see the world, and people, differently?

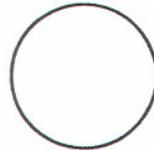


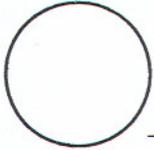
Kino is not the only one affected by the pearl: its effect spreads throughout the town.

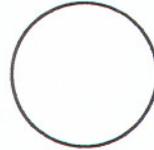
The essence of the pearl mixed with essence of men and a curious dark residue was precipitated. Every man suddenly became related to Kino's pearl, and Kino's pearl went into the dreams, the speculations, the schemes, the plans, the futures, the wishes, the needs, the lusts, the hungers of everyone.

In the pearls below, name four other individuals/groups that the Pearl of the World has already begun to affect. What desires and lusts come to the mind's surface for each of these?









In the middle of the chapter, Steinbeck shifts the perspective to the activities out in the surf:

Out in the estuary a tight woven school of small fishes glittered and broke the water to escape a school of great fishes that drove in to eat them. And in the houses the people could hear the swish of the small ones and the bouncing splash of the great ones as the slaughter went on... And the mice crept about on the ground and the little night hawks hunted them silently.

As with his description of the Gulf, Steinbeck places this description immediately before important events of the chapter. Keep this description in mind as you continue to read, then tell what you think the little fish and the big fish are being compared to in this chapter.

Give three examples of how human behavior is mirroring the animals' behavior in the remainder of the chapter. Write in complete sentences.