NAME:

The Songs of *The Pearl*

At numerous points throughout the novel, *The Pearl*, by John Steinbeck, Kino becomes aware of various songs that match several distinct feelings that he has. There is “The Song of the Family,” “The Song of Evil,” and “The Song of the Undersea,” among others. These songs accompany him in states of fear, desire, and contentment. The songs are described as being not just his own but rather belonging to his culture and his people as well. These songs often guide his thoughts and actions.

For this short writing assignment, I would like you to consider what you have in your life that is similar to Kino’s songs. What is the most common accompaniment to your everyday experience? Is it music, like in Kino’s case? Is it certain values and ideas that have been instilled in you by your family and friends? Is it things you have read or studied? Basically, what influences you in your everyday experience?

Whatever the thing may be, tell me about it, and describe its influence in your life.

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