

NAME:

The Pearl - Chapters 1 - 2

During this novel unit, I am going to be giving literary response questions. They are going to be a little bit different than the short story literary response questions though. The novel questions will be more open-ended than the short story questions. They will require longer answers, but there will generally be fewer questions altogether.

**Answer each question with at least four sentences.**

1. Kino is often aware of certain “songs” that are associated with different activities, people, and states of mind. What do you think these songs are? Are the songs unique to Kino and his emotions, or are they related more to the general experiences of his culture?
2. Steinbeck repeatedly writes of Kino’s fear and his anger. What is the relationship between these two emotions in Kino, and how do they compel him to think and act?
3. How do you think Steinbeck wanted his readers to feel about the character of the doctor? Does the doctor really work for the health and well-being of the people? Give evidence from the text to support your statements.

4. Steinbeck repeatedly creates contrasts between different elements of life in La Paz. For instance, he contrasts the more natural world of the villagers with the concrete world of the colonists; he contrasts the spiritual worldview of the villagers with the more materialistic worldview of the colonists; and he contrasts the poverty of the villagers with the wealth of the colonists. Why do you think Steinbeck stressed these contrasts? What effect did these contrasts have on your understanding of the characters and the setting?