

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Pearl*

Themes & Quotes

The theme in a story is its underlying message, or 'big idea.' In other words, what critical belief about life is the author trying to convey in the writing of a novel, play, short story or poem? This belief, or idea, transcends cultural barriers. It is usually universal in nature. When a theme is universal, it touches on the human experience, regardless of race or language. It is what the story means. Often, a piece of writing will have more than one theme.

Major Themes in <i>The Pearl</i>		
A. Community	C. Race, Tradition & Oppression	E. Nature
B. Good vs. Evil	D. Value & Wealth	

Directions: Continue filling-in defining characteristics for each theme. An example has been provided for each theme to get you started.

**A. Community**

Ex: Social structures like family, village and town are created in *The Pearl*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Good vs. Evil**

Ex: The plot is driven by constant struggle between the morally opposite forces of good and evil.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Race, Tradition & Oppression**

Ex: Kino and Juana's racial heritage provides them both ritual and tradition, but deprives them of power under the European colonizers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Value & Wealth**

Ex: The value and evaluation of material entities permeates the novella.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Nature**

Ex: Natural elements often serve to instigate crucial plot-points. (Protect, destroy, etc.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Major Themes in *The Pearl*

A. Community  
B. Good vs. Evil

C. Race, Tradition & Oppression  
D. Value & Wealth

E. Nature

Directions: Match the quote with the most appropriate theme. Each quote addresses more than one theme.

**Prologue**

\_\_\_ & \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ "In the town they tell the story of the great pearl—how it was found and how it was lost again. They tell of Kino, the fisherman, and of his wife, Juana, and of the baby, Coyotito. And because the story has been told so often, it has taken root in every man's mind...If this story is a parable, perhaps everyone takes his own meaning from it and reads his own life into it. In any case, they say in the town that..." ~Narrator

**Chapter 1**

\_\_\_ & \_\_\_ "Juana sang softly an ancient song that had only three notes and yet endless variety of interval. And this was part of the family song too. It was all part. Sometimes it rose to an aching chord that caught the throat, saying this is safety, this is warmth, this is the Whole."  
~Narrator

**Chapter 2**

\_\_\_ & \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ "But the pearls were accidents, and the finding of one was luck, a little pat on the back by God or the gods or both." ~Narrator

**Chapter 3**

\_\_\_ & \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ "I hope thou wilt remember to give thanks, my son, to Him who has given thee this treasure, and to pray for guidance in the future.'" ~The Priest

**Chapter 4**

\_\_\_ & \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ "His senses were burningly alive, but his mind went back to the deep participation with all things, the gift he had from his people." ~ Narrator

**Chapter 5**

\_\_\_ & \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ "The killing of a man was not so evil as the killing of a boat. For a boat does not have sons, and a boat cannot protect itself, and a wounded boat does not heal." ~Narrator