*The Pearl* Key

**Pages 16-17: Comprehension Check: Style of the Novella**

1. parable – a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson; prose – written or spoken language in its ordinary form; novella – a short novel or a long short story; theme – the lesson a writer wants his readers to take away from his work; narrative – a story or accounting of events and experiences whether true or fictional.
2. *The Pearl* is a novella, a fictional prose narrative longer than a short story, but shorter than a novel. It is also considered a parable, a short text that focuses on helping the reader to achieve an understanding of one or more essential principles or themes often based on his/her own understanding of the story.
3. Steinbeck heard the story of the pearl during his travels through the Gulf of California in 1940 and held onto it for many years. When he was offered deals in 1944 to create a film, he quickly chose the story of the pearl to work with.
4. He used songs to represent intended moods in the text version. This also helped filmmakers establish appropriate music for the film. Clear direction was given to where characters were situated to help readers visualize the scenes, as well as to help give actors direction in the film. Vivid settings were described to provide readers with clear imagery and to help filmmakers choose appropriate environments for filming.
5. At first, the text and film versions of *The Pearl* received very little attention from audiences.
6. *The Pearl* focuses on themes of modern materialism versus a more simplistic way of life, in addition  to learning that to ensure survival, one must not be greedy.