

The Pearl

Allusions, Unique Terminology, Sayings, and Slang

Chapter One

1. **Coyotito (1):** Spanish for "little coyote"
2. **brush house (1):** a home constructed of twigs, branches, and other natural materials from the earth
3. **hanging box (1):** a small box made for sleeping that hangs from the ceiling, like a crib for a baby
4. **shawl (1):** a piece of fabric worn to cover the head and sometimes shoulders, often used in cold or damp weather or in bright sun
5. **Gulf (2):** referring to the body of water separating Mexico from the Baja Peninsula; the Gulf of California
6. **chinks (2):** cracks or gaps in something, such as a wall
7. **grinding stone (3):** a stone on which foods are rubbed vigorously to break them down for cooking
8. **corncakes (3):** tortilla; a food made of ground corn and other ingredients
9. **brush fence (4):** a structure that divides two places, made out of natural materials like twigs, branches, and mud
10. **doves (4):** small white birds, symbolic of innocence and gentleness
11. **pulque (4):** a milky, alcoholic beverage made from the agave plant
12. **fiesta (4):** the Spanish term for a festival, party, or celebration
13. **scorpion (5):** an arachnid with eight legs, a slender, segmented tail, often with poisonous stingers, claws for grasping, and a noticeably curved back
14. **Hail Mary (5):** a prayer to the Virgin Mary in the Christian faith
15. **old magic (5):** ancient beliefs based on a strong sense of spirituality, great understanding and respect for nature, and fear of the unknown or misunderstood
16. **lymphatic (6):** a portion of the circulatory system of the body responsible for eliminating toxins
17. **iron (6):** strength or toughness
18. **plaster (7):** a mixture of lime or gypsum, sand, water, and sometimes hair or other fibers, combined to make a paste that is used to build or coat walls and other structures
19. **procession (8):** a group of people moving along in a line or lines
20. **flanks (8):** sides
21. **bougainvillea (8):** a tropical climbing plant with small flowers and bold purple or red leaves
22. **flagstones (8):** flat stones put in place to act as a pathway
23. **scandal (8):** an offense that negatively impacts someone's reputation or credit
24. **abortions (9):** voluntary terminations of pregnancy
25. **alms (9):** money, food, or other items given to those who need it
26. **old language (10):** the language spoken by the natives prior to being influenced by other cultures

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27. **Paris (10):** the capital of France
28. **eggshell china (10):** a thin, transparent, and delicate porcelain originally made in China; considered expensive and of high quality
29. **hammocks (10):** places for lounging made of canvas, rope, netting, etc. that hang from supports at either end – in this case, the doctor's eyes are being compared to hammocks
30. **Oriental gong (10):** a round percussion instrument common in Asian music
31. **Masses (10):** Catholic church services
32. **France (11):** the largest country in Western Europe; the third largest country in all of Europe
33. **ulcers (11):** irritations or sores on the skin or membranes where tissue is missing and pus is forming, often within the lining of the stomach

Chapter Two

1. **estuary (13):** the portion of a river that meets the sea or ocean; often considered the mouth of a river
2. **Nayarit (13):** a prosperous area of Mexico around the turn of the 20th century that experienced growth and improvements within the economy, transportation and communication, but still contained many citizens considered lower class and experiencing poverty
3. **canoes (13):** narrow, open boats, propelled by paddles, often made from a single, large piece of wood, coming to a point at the front and rear
4. **bow (13):** a nautical term referring to the front of a boat or ship
5. **stern (13):** a nautical term referring to the rear of a boat or ship
6. **mast (13):** a pillar-like structure standing vertical on a ship to hold the sails
7. **lateen sail (13):** a triangular sail on a ship or sailing vessel
8. **algae (13):** sometimes considered plant-like, but other times like a fungus; an organism largely dependent on water to feed itself (photosynthesis) and reproduce
9. **fiddler crabs (13):** tiny crabs that tunnel in the sand – males have one large claw
10. **lobsters (13):** green marine crustaceans, often sought for food, that turn red when cooked
11. **currents (13):** the flow of water in a constant course
12. **eel grass (13):** a marine plant with ribbon-like leaves
13. **spotted botete (13):** a type of poison fish
14. **mirage (14):** an illusion that causes images to seem out of place in relation to one another due to refracted air
15. **mangroves (14):** tropical plants with above ground roots growing in marshy areas or tidal regions
16. **poultice (15):** a moist, warm medical application of cloth covered in mud, clay, or herbs for the purpose of increasing circulation to an irritated area of the body

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17. **double-bladed paddles (15):** oars for propelling a small boat by hand; both ends have flattened blades and are meant to be alternately placed into the water while pulling backwards to propel the boat forward
18. **pearlers (16):** people who search/dive for and trade pearls
19. **pearl oysters (16):** mollusks often found in eastern Asia and off the coasts of Panama and Baja California, known for creating valuable pearls
20. **King of Spain (16):** Spanish rulers who had control of Mexico for almost 400 years before the setting of the novella *The Pearl*; Spanish rulers would have sent pearl divers looking for pearls, which they then collected for their own wealth.
21. **God or the gods (16):** one or more supreme beings believed to have created the universe and in control of it
22. **hummock (18):** a raised area of land adjacent to a marshy area
23. **flutes (19):** ruts, grooves, or gullies in a surface
24. **barnacles (19):** hard-shelled marine crustaceans that attach themselves to rocks or the underside of boats
25. **lever-wise (19):** back and forth against a single point
26. **silver incandescence (19):** a grayish light coming from within

Chapter Three

1. **colonial animal (21):** an animal living in a shared system, consisting of separate organisms dependent on one another for survival
2. **nervous system (21):** the structure within a body that controls responses to internal and external stimuli
3. **priest (21):** one trained to carry out and spread the message of a religion
4. **baptized (21):** to have water sprinkled or poured on one's head as a ceremony in the Christian religion as a right of initiation
5. **client (22):** a customer or patron of professional services
6. **almsgiver (22):** a person who generously gives food, money, clothing, etc. to those in need
7. **agents (23):** people with the authority to speak or act for someone else
8. **patron (23):** a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, cause, or activity
9. **capital (23):** accrued or collected wealth
10. **Peninsula (23):** a thin strip of land that juts out into a body of water, attached to a mainland, in particular the Baja Peninsula of California
11. **high altar (24):** the main raised platform in a church
12. **blue sailor suit (24):** an outfit for children, usually dark blue and white in color with a squared collar, meant to resemble that of a crewman aboard a ship
13. **harpoon (25):** a weapon blasted from a gun or thrown to kill large fish in water
14. **shaft (25):** the rod or handle portion of different types of weapons or tools

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15. **Winchester carbine (25):** a type of rifle known for being a part of the acquisition of the western portion of the United States
16. **silken (25):** made of silk, a glossy material often considered elegant
17. **fire hole (27):** a pit used for building fires
18. **Father (27):** a term used when referring to a priest
19. **benediction (27):** a blessing or ceremony for sacred purposes by a church official
20. **Him (28):** a reference to God in the Christian faith
21. **capsule of gelatine (31):** a small, enclosed casing or pill usually for giving someone a dose of medicine
22. **ammonia (34):** the result of combining nitrogen and hydrogen gases, clear but with an overpowering smell, which can be combined with water to make a liquid form and very dangerous if ingested in large quantities
23. **consecrated (38):** pronounced holy or sacred
24. **He must break out of the pot that holds us in. (39):** An expression to mean that Kino must get himself out of the societal class he is currently in
25. **a wall against insult (39):** protection from offensive treatment
26. **It closed a door on hunger (39):** they would have enough money for food

Chapter Four

1. **altar boys (41):** boys responsible for assisting with various tasks during a church service
2. **Holy Father in Rome (43):** the Pope; the head of the Roman Catholic Church
3. **marriage skirt and waist (44):** clothing worn by a woman at her wedding
4. **quarter high (44):** approximately nine o'clock in the morning
5. **freshet-washed (45):** cleaned by flowing water
6. **to leave their station (46):** to change the social class or status they were born into
7. **sermon (46):** a religious speech delivered by a member of the church authority
8. **retirement (46):** the act of removing oneself from a situation
9. **wooden slats (47):** thin strips of wood used to create blinds for windows to allow only partial light into a room
10. **scarlet hibiscus (47):** a plant with large, vibrant red flowers
11. **blue roots of his beard (47):** it is often said that under the skin, the roots of extremely dark hair sometimes appear blue
12. **legerdemain (48):** a nimble trick with the hand(s)
13. **fool's gold (49):** a natural substance of iron or copper pyrite often mistaken for gold
14. **pesos (50):** Mexican form of currency

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15. **appraiser (50):** a person with the responsibility of estimating the value or worth of something
16. **collusion (50):** a deceitful agreement between two or more people to gain something unlawfully from another
17. **creeping of fate, circling of wolves, the hover of vultures (50):** all examples of evil or ominous situations
18. **chalky (51):** dry or flaky
19. **Maybe Kino cut off his own head and destroyed himself (53):** an expression meaning that he has ruined his own chances at making a deal by being too stubborn
20. **woven tules (53):** interlaced long thin grasslike strands of a plant common to California
21. **the game (54):** continuing to try to get more money for the pearl
22. **new ground you are walking on (54):** a situation or experience that no one has tried before
23. **I am a man (57):** I have the situation under control

Chapter Five

1. **felt his knife go home (59):** connected or met another object or being; stabbed someone or something
2. **herring clouds (60):** a type of cirrocumulus cloud that appears streaked across the sky
3. **dark bladed (61):** with blood on the blade
4. **The killing of a man was not so evil as the killing of a boat. (62):** With the loss of a man's life, one person is lost. With the loss of a boat, the ability to feed an entire family is lost.
5. **the dark ones (63):** people whose identities are masked by the darkness
6. **formal lament (64):** a passionate outcry expressing grief or sorrow
7. **leprosy (65):** a chronic disease of the skin common to tropical and subtropical regions, characterized by ulcerations and nodules under the skin which can lead to severe damage, paralysis, and the need for amputation
8. **gourd (66):** a fruit whose dried shell is commonly used for bowls, water jugs, and other household items
9. **turned the water white (66):** the water was tossed about and foaming
10. **stood formally (67):** stood together as a united gesture of respect
11. **Kissed him on both cheeks (67):** a custom performed often in friendship or with family members as a gesture of care or support, common to many cultures
12. **Go with God (67):** an expression meaning "good fortune and God's protection"

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Chapter Six

1. **Loreto (68):** the first Spanish camp set up in Baja California, located on the Gulf of California
2. **ancient thing (69):** a feeling Kino felt was passed on to him from his ancestors
3. **animal thing (69):** uncivilized, primal urges that cannot be controlled with reason
4. **waning moon (69):** after the full moon, when the moon appears to be getting smaller in size and illumination
5. **covert (70):** a place to be concealed within; a hiding place
6. **instep (70):** the upper portion of a foot between the toes and leg
7. **stone mountains (73):** mountains made of stone where animals would not leave tracks or scents for someone to easily follow
8. **trackers (73):** people hired to pursue someone or something
9. **spurs (74):** pieces of u-shaped metal placed on boots and used by horseback riders to encourage a horse to move forward or speed up
10. **bit (74):** a device placed in the mouth of a horse attached to a bridle; used to help steer the horse
11. **bit-roller (74):** a device placed under a horse's tongue to help them relax with a bit in their mouth
12. **monolithic (76):** massive and rigid
13. **furred (76):** coated with or covered in fur
14. **water-rounded (76):** rounded or made smooth by a process of continued exposure to moving water
15. **Santa Rosalia (77):** a city on the peninsula of Baja California
16. **outcroppings (78):** protruding surfaces, such as rocks
17. **cleft in the range (78):** an indentation or space in the rock
18. **pumas (79):** cougars
19. **ferns (79):** tropical plants with delicate triangle-shaped branches or leaves
20. **wind-hollowed scoops (81):** voids or depressions made in rock by the constant force of wind
21. **amulet (83):** an item believed to keep danger, sickness, etc. away; a good luck charm
22. **black unhuman things (84):** evil spirits and forces some feel work against their family
23. **cicadas (84):** large insects the males of which give off high-pitched, piercing noises
24. **pillars (88):** a vertical structure built as support or simply for show
25. **brokers (88):** people who act as negotiators between two or more parties