

The Pearl

Note-Taking and Summarizing

For some students, reading can be a difficult, arduous task. Part of the problem is that many students do not have the tools to read for meaning, and become disinterested because they cannot follow the action or do not understand, or cannot relate to, the events or the characters. To develop good reading habits, there are a few steps that you can take that will help you to understand and appreciate what you are reading.

As you read each chapter of *The Pearl*, identify the following:

Plot – What events occurred in this portion of the text and in what order?

Characters – Which characters played an important role within the plot events mentioned above?

Setting – How does the setting give readers deeper insight into the plot and the characters?

Conflict – What types of conflicts exist within this portion of the text? Between whom or what do the conflicts arise?

Theme – Identify a theme at this point in the story, if possible.

Questioning/Predicting – Generate a question about something you have read so far in the text, OR develop a prediction about the next chapter.

Complex Text – Identify a complex direct quote from this chapter and copy it exactly, along with the page number. Then, try to decipher the meaning of the text, including author's word choice, any literary techniques used, vocabulary, etc., using the suggested prompts.

Researching Elements of Nonfiction – Choose one element of this chapter that you could research for another subject area class. Identify the topic and find one reliable Internet source. Write a one-paragraph introduction to this topic citing your source, using your own words.

To help you become a more successful, active reader, you will be completing an activity based on the information above for each chapter of *The Pearl*. Each activity is designed to help you understand the action, conflict, and characters involved in the story, and to help you eventually appreciate the author's reasons for writing the novella. On the next page is a sample of the graphic organizer you will be completing, along with hints to help you complete each section.

Name _____ Period _____

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Note-Taking and Summarizing Example

Plot	Identify, in order, the five most important events from the chapter. Provide as much detail as you feel necessary to be able to explain them to someone else later.		
Characters	List the characters involved in the events you listed above with clues about who each character is to help you.		
Setting	Setting may include any of the following: location, time, weather, social conditions, and mood/atmosphere.		
Conflict	Identify the type of conflicts (man vs. man, fate, nature, society, self, etc.), and who/what was involved in the conflict		
Themes	What has one of the characters learned at this point in the story? When stating the theme, be sure not to include specific character names or story details. (ex. "Greed has the power to control people." But <i>not</i> "Greed influences Kino's decisions.")		
Question/ Predict	If you are confused about anything in the novella, be sure to ask a question here. If you are feeling confident, make a prediction about what will happen next in the story.		
Complex Text			
Quote: Write a quote here that is important to the novella in some way. Include the page number above and copy the quote exactly as it is in the novella.			
Page #	It is confusing that the author...	The author probably wrote this because...	This is an example of...
The author chose this word because...	This word actually means _____, but when it is used here...	This part of the text connects to another part of the text because...	The author included this phrase in order to...
Response to quote: Using the suggested prompts above, write a response to your quote. If you can think of other prompt stems, feel free to use them as well. Be sure you are focused on the author's purpose.			
Researching an Element of Nonfiction	Choose a topic from the novella that is related to another content area, such as science, history, geography, mathematics, technology, sociology, economics, etc. To find a reliable source for your research, try an online database or encyclopedia, education website, or other reliable content-based site. Your teacher will have suggestions for you. Once you have found your source, read through the information provided. Summarize the topic in your own words in a short introductory paragraph of at least five to ten sentences to share with your classmates.		

Name _____ Period _____

The Pearl
Note-Taking and Summarizing
***Chapter* _____**

Plot	1.	
	2.	
	3.	
	4.	
	5.	
Characters with descriptions		
Setting		
Conflicts		
Themes		
Question/ Predict		

Name _____ Period _____

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Complex Text			
Quote:			
Page #	It is confusing that the author...	The author probably wrote this because...	This is an example of...
The author chose this word because...	This word actually means _____, but when it is used here...	This part of the text connects to another part of the text because...	The author included this phrase in order to...
Response to Quote:			
Researching an Element of Nonfiction	Source:		