

Summer Reading Assignment
American Literature/Composition I
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THE PEARL
by John Steinbeck

Over the summer, you will read *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. This novella is a powerful story about a poor pearl diver, his discovery of a magnificent pearl, and the impact it has on his life, his family, and his community.

YOUR TASKS

You will complete the following tasks as you read:

1. **Read Actively**
Read the novella carefully. Annotate as you go—underline important passages, note questions, and mark examples of important themes.
2. **Vocabulary**
Create a vocabulary list of 15-20 challenging or unfamiliar words. For each word, write the definition and use it in your own sentence. Please make vocabulary flashcards. You will need the following supplies to complete this task: index cards, highlighter, gem clip, and black pen. You will write the vocabulary word on the front of the card. Then, highlight the word. On the back, you will write the definition of the word, and you will write an original sentence. You will write your name on your index cards and place a gem clip on the cards.
3. **Diary Assignment for The Pearl**

Character Diary Project

Objective

You will demonstrate your understanding of the novel by writing diary entries from the point of view of a character in the story. Your entries should reveal character emotions, conflicts, themes, and important events from the novel.

Directions

Choose **ONE** character from the novel:

- Kino
- Juana
- Coyotito
- The Doctor
- The Priest

Write **5 diary entries** as if you are that character. Each entry should focus on a different important event from the novel.

Required Diary Entries

Your diary entries should include these major moments:

1. Life before the pearl is discovered
2. The discovery of the pearl
3. The conflict and greed caused by the pearl
4. The escape from the trackers
5. The ending of the novel and reflection on the pearl's impact

Requirements

Each diary entry must:

- Be at least **1 well-developed paragraph**
- Be written in **first person**
- Include details from the story
- Show the character's thoughts and emotions
- Include at least **one quote or paraphrased event** from the novel
- Use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Creative Component

Include at least 2 of the following:

- Drawings or illustrations

- Decorative borders or symbols
- A cover page
- “Aged” diary paper design
- Quotes from the novel
- Color and creativity

Grading Criteria

Category	Points
Accuracy to the Novel	25
Character Voice & Emotion	25
Text Evidence & Details	20
Creativity & Presentation	15
Grammar & Mechanics	15
TOTAL POINTS	100

Due Date: Thursday, August 15, 2026! NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.