

# SUMMER READING FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HONORS

The summer reading book will be, *The Pearl*, by John Steinbeck. Your assignment will be to read the novella, and complete a reader's notebook (also called a **Dialectical Journal**). A dialectical journal is a method of annotating or notetaking while reading. It encourages you to both read closely, and reflect on the text, thus increasing your understanding of the text. The journaling format is set up to aid you in tracing specific, important and meaningful elements as they occur, and then develop throughout the novella. It will aid you in analyzing, evaluating, and connecting these elements of the text. An insightful, well-thought out notebook is an excellent resource for class discussions, and a study guide for the exam, as well as a resource for providing supporting evidence when writing a literary essay of the novella.

- You will be required to select five quotes from the novella. Your responses should reflect high order thinking. Simplistic, surface-level answers are not acceptable, as it is summarizing. Dig deeper into the meaning of the text. Ask thought-provoking questions, debate the author, predict, clarify and explain connections. Compare and contrast the quote to other parts of the novella, or to other texts, cultures, or historical contexts. Consider the passage from the perspective of another character, etc.
- **Due date is Thursday, August 13th.**

## Sample Sentences Starters for Responses:

- I really disagree/agree with this idea because....
- I was surprised that....
- I think the author is trying to say that...
- This reminds me of a time when...
- This character reminds me of because...
- If I were (name of character) at this point, I would....
- I don't understand this because....

## CATEGORIES

**Grading Criteria: Three of your quotes and responses must be from the categories with an \*asterisk. You can pick the other two from the remaining categories. Each category will be worth 20 points.**

- 1- \*Symbolism of the pearl – note color changes and their meanings. (1)
- 2- \* Setting/Conflict (1)
- 2- \*Theme (1)
- 4- Characterization (1)
- 5- Literary Devices – irony, personification, allusion, simile, metaphor, etc. (1)
- 6- Musical motifs: Kino's songs (1)
- 7- Parable form (1)

**5 categories of 5 quotes and 5 responses**

- **Category 1**..... \_\_\_\_\_/20pts.
- **Category 2**..... \_\_\_\_\_/20pts.
- **Category 3**..... \_\_\_\_\_/20pts.
- **Category 4**..... \_\_\_\_\_/20pts.
- **Category 5**..... \_\_\_\_\_/20pts.
  
- **Total**..... \_\_\_\_\_/100pts.

- **The table below provides instructions explaining the procedure to follow when selecting quotes and writing your responses.**

<b>Evidence:</b>	<b>Commentary:</b>
<p>First, provide contextual information the reader needs to fully understand the quoted passage. You may accomplish this by answering each of the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who is speaking (e.g. the narrator, a character, the author)?</li> <li>● To whom is he/ she speaking?</li> <li>● Why?</li> </ul> <p>Next, insert a quoted passage from the text. Begin this section by clearly identifying the source of the quoted passage (e.g. the narrator, a character, the author). Use a present- tense attribution verb (e.g. says, states, promises). Enclose the quoted evidence in quotation marks.</p> <p>Finally, at the end of your entry, provide the page number of your quotation in parenthesis. Ex: (45)</p>	<p>In the commentary section, analyze the significance of the quoted passage. Do not restate the evidence. Analysis requires “pulling apart” the evidence and discussing its deeper meaning/ significance. The following guiding questions will help you work through this process. While composing the commentary, please take care to fully answer the question or questions contained in at least one of the bullet following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why is this passage important? What important lesson does it help readers better understand?</li> <li>● Why do you connect with this passage on a personal level: What does the shared experience help you better understand about yourself or life?</li> <li>● What does this passage reveal about how the character is changing, learning, or growing?</li> <li>● What tools (e.g. literary devices) or techniques does the writer use in this passage? What are their effects?</li> <li>● How does the passage reveal a theme or idea?</li> </ul>

- **Each of the five entries must be on separate sheet of paper. Use the attached form as a guide for your journal. Either print this form off, or copy it for all five entries. The other choice is to draw the form on five different pieces of paper. Keep all the entries in a folder.**

# ***THE PEARL*** by John Steinbeck

## Dialectical Journal

**Category:**

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<b>Evidence/ Quote</b>	<b>Page #</b>	<b>Commentary/ Response to text</b>
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