

KINO

In *The Pearl*, John Steinbeck makes his characters very life-like, in that they feel, do, look, and say. Most likely, Kino is based on someone that John Steinbeck once knew, making Kino as real as possible. Kino is a poor man living in La Paz, Mexico, with his wife, Juana, and child, Coyotito. This is a description of Kino throughout the story, *The Pearl*.

Kino feels many things throughout his life described in *The Pearl*. Most of the things that Kino feels are negative, such as anger and pain. In the beginning of the story, Kino hears the music of the family, making him happy and content. Soon after, a scorpion stings his son and he feels anger and hatred towards the scorpion. The second event of happiness in the story is when Kino opens the oyster and finds the pearl of the world. During Kino's life, he also feels anger toward the racist town doctor, his wife for trying to destroy the pearl, unknown persons for burning down his home, and attempting to steal the pearl, and towards his trackers and pursuers. Kino is a very tough man as well, because he endures the pain inflicted when struck in two chase attempts and when he loses his child, Coyotito in yet another battle. Through these many events, Kino still remains strong and remains mostly unharmed by the evil of the pearl.

In *The Pearl*, Kino does many things as well. In the very beginning, Kino kills the scorpion that stung Coyotito. During this event, he stomps many times on it, until all that is left is a stain on the dirt floor. Likely the most important action of Kino is when he finds the pearl of the world in an oyster. This event leads to many other things Kino does, including actions like hitting, cutting, and shooting in the several battles that the evil pearl brings to him. In the end Kino walks back into La Paz, having left for fear, and walks to

the ocean, throwing the pearl as hard as he can to rid himself from the evil.

There are not many words to describe Kino's appearance, however I will attempt to do so. Kino has a dark brown skin and is of Indian ancestry. He wears white clothes, a blanket, and sandals on his feet. All of his clothing is somewhat ragged and dirty, because he does not have a chance to clean and change clothes. Kino looks like a typical lower class person from Mexico at this time period.

Kino is not much of a speaker, but he does say some inspiring things through the tale of *The Pearl*. The first time that Kino speaks is to the town doctor's servant, telling of the scorpion bite and of his need for a healer. The next words that Kino speaks are of his wishes for his son, himself, and his wife, now that they will have money. Kino wishes that he and Juana have a real wedding in a real church, for Coyotito to go to school, and for a rifle. The next important conversation Kino has is at the pearl buyer. Kino, knowing he will be cheated if he sells there, tells the audience that he will go to the capital to sell his pearl. The last important words that Kino whispers to his wife are "I am a man." What Juana takes from this short statement is that Kino is half-insane and half god. That statement is the most meaningful out of all the things he says in the story.

When you are reading the story, you know that Kino is a real person, because you are able to visualize him, see him doing what he does, feel the same emotions, and see the meaning behind what he says. Kino is a real person, even if only in your mind, and can allow insight upon your life. John Steinbeck wanted you to gain something from Kino, and I hope you have.