

**Riverton Street Charter School
Summer Reading Assignment
8th Grade**

The Pearl
by: John Steinbeck

A PDF version will be available on the Riverton Middle School Website

Your requirement this summer is to read *The Pearl*. After you have read the novella, answer **one** of the essay questions listed at the bottom of this page.

- You must include an **introduction paragraph, body paragraph(s), conclusion, and evidence from the text.**
- Your essay must be 1-2 pages in length Times New Roman font, size 12.
- This essay is your first grade of the year and will be due on the **first day of school.**

Have a wonderful summer! ☺

Essay Questions (choose one):

1. Describe in detail Kino and Juana's simple life before and after the discovery of the pearl. How did it change? Use examples from the novella to support your response.
2. A symbol can change its meaning during the course of a novel. How does the pearl change its meaning during the course of this novella? Use examples from the novella to support your response.
3. Steinbeck is trying to make a point about the effect that power, money, and greed can have on a person. What is his point? Use examples from the novella to support your opinion.
4. Is the pearl itself really evil? Defend your answer. Use examples from the novella to support your answer.
5. Analyze the character Juana. What does she represent?
6. Many people consider *The Pearl* to be a story that relates to “the American Dream”. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with examples from the novella.