Reading Comprehension
The Pearl – Chapters 1 - 3

Please circle the correct answer to the following questions regarding selected excerpts from John Steinbeck’s The Pearl.

1. What type of figurative language is used three times in the following passage?

   Behind him Juana’s fire leaped into flame and threw spears of light through the chinks of the brushhouse wall and threw a wavering square of light out the door. (page 4)

   a) metaphor  
   b) simile  
   c) personification  
   d) hyperbole

2. What type of figurative language is used in the following passage?

   Juana’s eyes were open too. Kino could never remember seeing them closed when he awakened. Her dark eyes made little reflected stars. She was looking at him as she was always looking at him when he awakened.

   a) metaphor  
   b) simile  
   c) personification  
   d) hyperbole

3. For a long time Kino stood in front of the gate with Juana beside him. Slowly he put his suppliant hat on his head. Then, without warning, he struck the gate a crushing blow with his fist. He looked down in wonder at his split knuckles and at the blood that flowed down between his fingers.

   The reader can infer that Kino is...

   a) uneducated  
   b) poor  
   c) angry  
   d) depressed
4. Which of the following passages best shows the doctor’s point of view towards Kino and Juana?
   a) “The doctor has gone out,” he said. “He was called to a serious case.”
   b) “I, I alone in the world am supposed to work for nothing – and I am tired of it. See if he has any money!”
   c) The doctor put his cup down gently before he let his anger rise.
   d) “Have I nothing better to do than cure insect bites for ‘little Indians’? I am a doctor, not a veterinary.”

5. What is the following passage describing?

   An accident could happen to these oysters, a grain of sand could lie in the folds of muscle and irritate the flesh until in self-protection the flesh coated the grain with a layer of smooth cement. (page 17)

   a) making cement
   b) how oysters eat
   c) making a pearl
   d) why oysters clamp shut

6. Which figurative language is used in the following excerpt?

   The black distillate was like the scorpion, or like hunger in the smell of the food, or like loneliness when love is withheld. (page 23)

   a) alliteration
   b) hyperbole
   c) onomatopoeia
   d) simile

7. The mood in chapter 1 changes from
   a) happy to sad to depressed
   b) peaceful to tense to enraged
   c) enraged to tense to peaceful
   d) amused to thankful to envious

8. When does Kino first hear the Song of Evil?

   a) when he sees the scorpion
   b) when he goes to the doctor
   c) when the neighbor comes
9. How is the quick spread of Kino’s news described?

   a) The news swept on past the brush houses, and it washed in a foaming wave into the town of stone and plaster.
   b) It spreads like fire through a brush house.
   c) It infects the town like a scorpion’s venom.

10. Who is being described in this passage?
     ...young and strong and his black hair hung over his brown forehead. His eyes were warm and fierce and bright and his mustache was thin and course.
     a. Juan Tomas
     b. Coyotito
     c. The doctor
     d. Kino

11. Who was described as ...obedient and respectful and cheerful and patient?

     a. the doctor
     b. Kino
     c. Juana
     d. Apolonia

12. What effect did the news of Kino’s pearl have on the priest?

     a) Did he marry the couple?
     b) The clothes had not sold well.
     c) Remembering his luxurious life in Paris
     d) No almsgiver in the world like a poor man.

13. What effect did the news of Kino’s pearl have on the beggars?

     a) Did he marry the couple?
     b) The clothes had not sold well.
     c) Remembering his luxurious life in Paris
     d) No almsgiver in the world like a poor man.
14. Which **figurative language** is used in the following excerpt?

*The town lay on a broad estuary, its old yellow plastered buildings hugging the beach.*

- a) metaphor
- b) simile
- c) personification
- d) hyperbole

15. Coyotito is bitten by a scorpion. This is an example of

- a) man vs. man
- b) man vs. nature
- c) man vs. society
- d) man vs. self

16. Kino faces his fear and anger and honors his wife’s wishes to take Coyotito to the doctor. This is an example of

- a) man vs. man
- b) man vs. nature
- c) man vs. society
- d) man vs. self

17. The doctor refuses to treat Coyotito because his family cannot pay for the treatment. This is an example of

- a) man vs. man
- b) man vs. nature
- c) man vs. society
- d) man vs. self

18. She had not prayed directly for the recovery of the baby-she prayed that they might find a pearl with which to hire the doctor to cure the baby.

- a) man vs. man
- b) man vs. nature
- c) man vs. society
- d) man vs. fate

19. Kino finds the great pearl what does the pearl symbolize to Kino and Juana?

- a) evil
- b) nothing
- c) love
- d) hope
20. Even though Kino and Juana have been part of their community for their whole lives, what is the reaction to their good fortune?
   a) greed and jealousy
   b) hope and good will
   c) ill will and hardship
   d) peace and love

21. As they walk into town, Steinbeck gives this comparison:

   They came to a place where the brush houses stopped and the city of stone and plaster began, the city of harsh outer walls and inner cool gardens.

   The purpose of this explanation was to illustrate the differences in
   a) architecture
   b) social class
   c) scenery
   d) building supplies

22. Which of the following is something Kino does not plan to with the money?

   a) get married in a church
   b) buy a new rifle
   c) pay for Coyotito to be educated
   d) buy a new home