

Merit English 11th Summer Reading 2024

Students in Merit English III will **choose one** of the following books to read. **Both are available via Audible on audiobook.** In reading these texts we will be looking for examples of pride, suffering, resilience and respect.

Guided reading questions for the book the student chooses are due the first day of class for a quiz grade.

Class discussion and a written assessment will take place during the first week of school.

1. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck **ISBN-13** : 978-0140177374

The Pearl is a retelling of a Mexican parable involving tragedy and injustice.

2. *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. **ISBN-13** : 978-0684801223

The Old Man and the Sea recounts the battle an old Cuban fisherman makes to regain his honor.

The Old Man and the Sea

1. Who wrote the novel "The Old Man and the Sea"?

- a. Ernest Hemingway
- b. F. Scott Fitzgerald
- c. Mark Twain
- d. John Steinbeck

2. What is the name of the old man in the story?

- a. Santiago
- b. Diego
- c. Mateo
- d. Carlos

3. What is the setting of the novel?

- a. Havana, Cuba
- b. Key West, Florida
- c. Barcelona, Spain
- d. The Gulf Stream

4. What is the name of the old man's young companion?

- a. Manolin
- b. Pedro
- c. Esteban
- d. Rafael

5. What does the old man catch that he struggles to bring in?

- a. Marlin
- b. Tuna
- c. Swordfish
- d. Shark

6. How many days does the old man struggle with the big fish?

- a. 3 days
- b. 5 days
- c. 10 days
- d. 15 days

7. The old man and the boy discuss the great baseball player

- a. Babe Ruth
- b. Lou Gehrig
- c. Joe DiMaggio
- d. Ted Williams

8. What is the name of the old man's wife?

- a. Maria
- b. Elena
- c. Carlotta
- d. Beatrice

9. The old man refers to the sea as a woman. What does he call her?

- a. La Mar
- b. La Mujer
- c. La Vida
- d. La Reina

10. What does the old man dream about while he sleeps?

- a. Lions
- b. Tigers
- c. Bears
- d. Elephants

11. How does the old man prove the size of the fish he caught?

- a. By showing the fish to other fishermen
- b. By weighing the fish at the local market
- c. By measuring the fish against his mast
- d. By taking a photograph with the fish

12. The old man shows deep respect and admiration for

- a. The fish
- b. The sharks
- c. The sea
- d. The boy

13. What does the old man use as bait to catch the big fish?

- a. Sardines
- b. Shrimp
- c. Squid
- d. Flying fish

14. Who helps the old man unload his gear when he returns to land?

- a. Manolin
- b. Tourists
- c. Other fishermen
- d. No one

15. What color is the sail of the old man's boat?

- a. White
- b. Red
- c. Blue
- d. Yellow

16. What weapon does the old man fashion to defend his catch from sharks?

- a. Harpoon
- b. Machete
- c. Club
- d. Spear

17. How long had it been since the old man caught a fish before his epic struggle?

- a. 84 days
- b. 100 days
- c. 3 months
- d. 6 weeks

18. What lesson does the old man learn about worth and struggle from his ordeal?

- a. The value of friendship
- b. The importance of humility
- c. The dignity of labor
- d. The necessity of defeat

19. How does the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" end?

- a. The old man dies at sea
- b. The old man catches a bigger fish
- c. The boy returns to fish with the old man
- d. The dream of lions on the beach

20. What is the overarching theme of "The Old Man and the Sea"?

- a. Perseverance
- b. Betrayal
- c. Revenge
- d. Deceit

The Pearl

1. What is the name of the main character in "The Pearl" by John Steinbeck?

- a. Kino
- b. Juana
- c. Esperanza
- d. Esteban

2. In the novella, where does the story take place?

- a. Mexico
- b. Spain
- c. United States
- d. Philippines

3. What is the significant item that Kino discovers in the story?

- a. A diamond
- b. A pearl
- c. A gold coin
- d. A seashell

4. What is the occupation of Kino, the protagonist?

- a. Fisherman
- b. Carpenter
- c. Teacher
- d. Doctor

5. Who gets stung by a scorpion in the beginning of the novella?

- a. Kino
- b. Juana
- c. Coyotito
- d. Apolonia

6. What is the name of Kino's infant son?

- a. Jose
- b. Pablo
- c. Juanito
- d. Coyotito

7. What is the symbolic meaning of the pearl in the story?

- a. Wealth
- b. Love
- c. Wisdom
- d. Courage

8. Who advises Kino on the value of the pearl?

- a. The doctor
- b. Juana
- c. The priest
- d. The village chief

9. What does Kino hope to achieve by selling the great pearl he finds?

- a. A new boat
- b. A better home
- c. Education for Coyotito
- d. Medical treatment for Coyotito

10. How does the discovery of the pearl change Kino and Juana's lives?

- a. They become celebrities
- b. They are able to escape the village
- c. They face greed, violence, and tragedy
- d. They decide to donate the pearl

11. What tragic event occurs as a result of the pearl's discovery?

- a. A fire destroys their home
- b. Coyotito falls ill
- c. Kino is attacked by bandits
- d. Juana goes missing

12. Who ultimately destroys the pearl at the end of the story?

- a. Kino
- b. Juana
- c. Coyotito
- d. The village chief

13. What does the doctor refuse to do for Coyotito without payment?

- a. Provide medicine
- b. Perform surgery
- c. Say a prayer
- d. Share food

14. What role does Juana play in Kino's journey with the pearl?

- a. She wants to sell it immediately
- b. She wants to keep it as a family heirloom
- c. She tries to destroy it
- d. She supports Kino despite the consequences

15. How does the pearl impact Kino's relationship with the village community?

- a. He becomes a respected leader
- b. He is exiled from the village
- c. He starts a rebellion against the chief
- d. He shares the wealth with everyone

16. Which character best represents greed in "The Pearl"?

- a. The doctor
- b. Juana
- c. Kino
- d. Coyotito

17. What is the overall theme of "The Pearl" by John Steinbeck?

- a. The destructive power of greed
- b. The importance of family
- c. The beauty of nature
- d. The pursuit of knowledge

18. How does Kino's perspective on the pearl change throughout the story?

- a. He sees it as a curse
- b. He becomes obsessed with its value
- c. He decides to give it away
- d. He throws it into the ocean

19. Who warns Kino about the dangers of possessing such a valuable pearl?

- a. The doctor
- b. Juana
- c. The priest
- d. The village elder

20. In the end, what lesson does Kino learn from his experiences with the pearl?

- a. Family is more important than wealth
- b. Material possessions have no true value
- c. Greed leads to destruction
- d. Happiness comes from within