Word count: 413 **The Pearl**

**By: John Steinbeck**

In the book The Pearl the main meaning behind the story is, do not let material things become the most important thing in your life. Kino and his family have found a Pearl that could give them a better life, but this thing becomes powerful in their life and the people around them that they forget what is important. The author used feelings, emotions, and action to show how this material thing over ran Kino’s life,

 Kino lived on the outside of the city in a little bush house. In his house his son Coyotito is bitten by a scorpion. Kino’s family has no money so they search for a pearl. After finding the pearl they realize the power that it brings, the wealth, fame, and the power to help their son Coyotito.

 After owning the pearl for some time now bad things begin to happen, family begin to die, people begin to want it, and Kino has to protect it. This pearl became so powerful in their lives when Kino’s wife Juana tried getting rid of this material thing Kino struck her with his fist and took off; when leaving he saw a man and stabbed him thinking he was going to take the pearl. Kino and his wife realized what they had done over this pearl and decided to leave. Upon the arrival to their house they see that it is being burned down; when Kino reaches his boat he sees that it has a whole in it. So they take off on foot.

 Like Kino’s family we do not want material things to become the number one in our life, because just like other people want it and once they have then you need to get something better. Material things just go in a cycle of what is good today is bad tomorrow. And when Kino realized how this Pearl was becoming between him and his family he put it back where it belonged.

 Kino and his family showed us a great example of how not to let things become first in your life, instead let love and family be your number one in life. The Pearl showed that at first it can be a harmless and valuable thing, but when desires of this thing get put in your heart it can be dangerous to your loved ones. The meaning behind The Pearl is put loved ones first not material things.