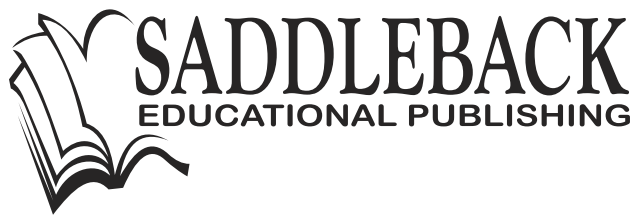




Focus **ON READING**

The Pearl

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Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

covey—a group, especially of birds

fainted—bluffed; made a fake attack

plaintively—sadly; sorrowfully

steely—very hard; cold

strenuous—difficult; intense

avarice—greed

alms—something (food or money) given freely to the poor

indigent—needy; poor

subsequent—following; coming after; next

suppliant—humble

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **hanging box** is a type of cradle that is hung above the ground. Because it does not touch the ground, it keeps some creatures and insects from disturbing the baby.

A **shawl** is a type of large scarf. It can be used as a coat, a blanket, a scarf, or a wrap to protect one's face. A rich woman would have many shawls, but a poor woman often only had one to serve all purposes.

A **scorpion** is a poisonous arachnid (it is a creature related to the spider) that attacks prey by stabbing and stinging with its tail. Scorpion stings can be deadly if not treated properly.

Game chickens are roosters raised to fight each other. When two roosters are together, they are normally inclined to fight, and some people would train their roosters to fight. Rooster fights—and gambling on them—was a popular form of entertainment at one time. It is now illegal in the United States.

Pulque is a fermented, milklike Mexican drink made from the juice of certain plants.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How is music important in Kino's life?
2. Why don't the people expect the doctor to come to Coyotito?
3. Why do so many people go to the doctor's house with Kino?
4. In what ways is the doctor's servant similar to Kino? In what ways is he different? Why are the two different?
5. What does the doctor think of his life and the people around him? Why does he think this way?