

William E. Tolman High School
Advanced Standing (AS) English 9: Genre Studies

June 2009

Hello,

As your English teacher for next year, I am assigning this material as preparation for the first week of school. Be sure to read the assignment clearly, and fulfill the requirements bulleted below. I am looking forward to an interesting and enjoyable discussion!

- Required reading:

The Good Earth - Pearl S. Buck

The Pearl - John Steinbeck

- Please answer the following thoroughly in a paragraph or two for each. Include relevant and supportive details from the novels.
 1. Analyze Kino and Wang Lung's devotion (or lack of) to their family.
 2. Discuss in detail, how the acquisition of the pearl /land transformed from a symbol of hope to one of destruction.
 3. Traditions played an important role in both of the novels. Identify and analyze a **minimum of three** from each novel, and discuss the effect each had on the major characters.
 4. In your opinion, are Juana and O-lan weak females, or are they good role models for women in today's society? Be sure to support your response well.
 5. "Theme" in a story is the universal message brought forth by the author. Analyze the themes of "greed" and "ambition" in each novel.
 6. To what extent are Kino and Wang Lung responsible for their own demise? Were there any outside influences that each could not control?
 7. In **one** sentence of no more than 25 words, summarize both of the novels.
- Lifelines are lines/paragraphs/quotes in a literary piece that you particularly like because of its structure, imagery/ meaning.

Choose a **minimum of ten life lines** from each novel and **explain** why you liked/or were drawn to them.
- Create a visual product that relates to **both** of the novels. It could be a board game, several drawings, video presentation, diorama, detailed poster, etc.

See you next year!!!

Mrs. Spenard