


Symbolism Interpretation

We read in the preface to The Pearl: “If this story is a parable, perhaps everyone takes his own meaning from it and reads his own life into it.” A parable is a story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson.

Symbolism is often used to convey these learnings by using characters, objects, and events to represent abstract ideas or concepts. Bearing this in mind, with a small group (of two to three students), select one symbol from the story (such as the pearl, the scorpion, Kino’s canoe, or a different symbol if you have been given teacher approval) and express your understanding of what it represents using any form you like. Start your planning by tracing its development throughout the novel by looking for instances where the symbol appears, and writing down the context of its appearance. Then, write down your group’s theories for what each appearance might mean. One final mark will be given to all group members.

Choose a Symbol:
 - The Pearl
 - The Scorpion
 - Kino’s Canoe
 - Other...

			
	Emerging / Developing	Proficient	Extending
Connections		Creates connections between ideas with a broad and clear understanding.	
Elements & Devices		Analyzes literary elements and devices with accurate and detailed reasoning.	
Perspectives		Explains perspectives with a logical and justified interpretation.	
Writing & Design		Applies writing and design strategies to organize a progression of ideas.	

Self-Assessment:

Teacher-Assessment:

