

## Benign

"A stout slow man sat in an office waiting. His face was fatherly and benign, and his eyes twinkled with friendship."

Gentle and kindly.

## Clamber

"The neighbours peered around the doorway, and a line of little boys clambered on the window bars and looked through."

Climb, move, or get in or out of something in an awkward and laborious way.

## Clumsy

"On the contrary," said the dealer, "it is large and clumsy. As a curiosity it has interest; some museum might perhaps take it to place in a collection of seashells."

Awkward in movement or in handling things.

## Coagulate

"He felt the creeping of fate, the circling of wolves, the hover of vultures. He felt the evil coagulating about him, and he was helpless to protect himself."

(Of a fluid, especially blood) change to a solid or semisolid state.

## Collusion

"I am only an appraiser. Ask the others. Go to their offices and show your pearl - or better, let them come here, so that you can see there is no collusion."

Secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy, especially in order to cheat or deceive others.

## Contemptuous

"The hand tossed the great pearl back in the tray, the forefinger poked and insulted it, and on the dealer's face there came a sad and contemptuous smile."

Showing contempt; scornful.

## Dignity

"Kino stepped with dignity out of the house, and Juana followed him, carrying Coyotito."

The state or quality of being worthy of honor or respect.

## Extravagant

"But this was a wasteful method, for often, in the excitement of bidding for a fine pearl, too great a price had been paid to the fishermen. This was extravagant"

Lacking restraint in spending money or using resources.

## Legerdemain

"His door stood open to the morning, and he hummed under his breath while his right hand practiced legerdemain."

Skill in using your hands to perform magic tricks.

## Lethargy

"Long after Juan Tomás had gone Kino sat brooding on his sleeping-mat. A lethargy had settled on him, and a little gray hopelessness."

A lack of energy and enthusiasm.

## Monstrosity

"Do not include me in the discussion," he said dryly. "I will make no offer at all. I do not want it. This is not a pearl - it is a monstrosity." His thin lips curled."

Something that is outrageously or offensively wrong.

## Perplex

"Now Kino's face was perplexed and worried. "It is the Pearl of the World," he cried. "No one has ever seen such a pearl."

To confuse (someone) very much.

## Peso

"I can give you, say, a thousand pesos."

The basic unit of money of Mexico and several other Latin American countries.

## Rampart

"The Father made it clear that each man and woman is... part of the castle of the Universe. And some are in the ramparts and some far deep in the darkness of the walls"

A tall, thick stone or dirt wall that is built around a castle, town, etc., to protect it from attacks.

## Scuffle

"The gathering procession was solemn... and any children who showed a tendency to scuffle, to scream, to cry out... were hissed to silence by their elders."

To fight briefly and usually not very seriously.

## Sermon

"I have heard him make that sermon," said Juan Tomás. "He makes it every year."

A speech about a moral or religious subject that is usually given by a religious leader.

## Solemn

“The gathering procession was solemn... and any children who showed a tendency to scuffle, to scream, to cry out... were hissed to silence by their elders.”

Very serious or formal in manner, behavior, or expression.

## Spurn

“The dealer's fingers spurned the pearl so that it bounced and rebounded softly from the side of the velvet tray.”

To reject with disdain or contempt.

## Stalwart

“So important was this day that an old man came to see, riding on the stalwart shoulders of his nephew.”

Loyal, reliable, and hardworking.

## Stout

“A stout slow man sat in an office waiting. His face was fatherly and benign, and his eyes twinkled with friendship.”

(Of a person) somewhat fat or of heavy build.

## Tithe

“Word of it crept in among the nuns; the beggars in front of the church spoke of it, for they would be there to take the tithe of the first fruits of the luck.”

One tenth of annual produce or earnings, formerly taken as a tax for the support of the Church.

## Tremor

“And the dealer heard a little grumble go through the crowd as they heard his price. And the dealer felt a little tremor of fear.”

An involuntary quivering movement.

## Vigor

“Kino put on his large straw hat and felt it with his hand to see that it was properly placed... tilted a little forward to show aggressiveness and seriousness and vigor.”

Strength, energy, or determination.

## Wary

“His eyes were entranced, and he could sense the wary, watchful evil outside the brush house;”

Feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems.