

# The Pearl

## Chapters One and Two

### Literature Focus: Literary Devices to Affect Tone and Mood

RL.9-10.4; RL.11-12.4

The tone of a piece of literature can be defined as the author’s attitude towards the subject of his work. The author carefully chooses words to convey his own feelings about the characters and the work, using those words to set the tone. For instance, he may choose words with a *tone of exaggeration* in order to create a *humorous mood*. He could write in a *frenzied tone* to create a *mood of impending terror*, much like the music does in a horror movie.

Steinbeck uses literary devices and figurative language to liven up the text, set the tone, and help readers visualize the setting and events within the novella. Listed below are some of the specific types of literary devices and figurative language and their definitions.

| Device                   | Definition   |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Alliteration</b>      | The repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of two or more words in a sentence, usually sequential        |
| <b>Hyperbole</b>         | Extreme exaggeration   |
| <b>Imagery</b>           | Descriptions with a heavy emphasis on one or more of the five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching |
| <b>Metaphor</b>          | A comparison of two unlike things without the use of “like” or “as”  |
| <b>Onomatopoeia</b>      | A word formed from the sound associated with it, (i.e. buzz, ding)   |
| <b>Personification</b>   | When a nonhuman object is given human characteristics  |
| <b>Simile</b>            | A comparison of two unlike things using the words “like” or “as”   |
| <b>Situational Irony</b> | When a situation occurs that is the opposite of what one would have expected to happen                             |
| <b>Symbolism</b>         | An object used to represent an idea, meaning, or ideal   |

**Directions:** Using the information above, identify which device is used in each line of text below. Write the best answer on the line before each number. Portions of some sentences have been underlined to assist you. Below each sentence, analyze the impact of Steinbeck’s specific word choices on meaning and tone by explaining either how the language evokes a sense of time and place, or how it helps to set the tone and mood.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. “In the canoe she was like a strong man” (7). \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. “...and the canoe creased the water and hissed with speed” (15). \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ 3. "...and the beggars set Juana and Kino down as poverty people..." (8).

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. "...the day had drawn only a pale wash of light in the lower sky to the east" (1).

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. "Juana went to the fire pit and uncovered a coal and fanned it alive" (2).

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. "A thin, timid dog came close and, at a soft word from Kino, curled up, arranged its tail neatly over its feet, and laid its chin delicately on the pile. It was a black dog with yellow-gold spots where its eyebrows should have been" (3).

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. "The procession crossed the blinding plaza..." (8).

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. "The glaring sun threw the bunched shadows of the people blackly on the white wall" (10).

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. "He kicked his foot free from the rock loop..." (18).

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. "The flutes were shining black to brown, and only a few small barnacles adhered to the shell" (19).