

John Steinbeck

The Pearl



John Steinbeck (1902-1968)

- Born: 27 February 1902, Salinas, CA, USA
- Died: 20 December 1968, New York, NY, USA
- Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962.



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- Social novels dealing with the economic problems of rural labour
- Conditions for migrants and seasonal workers became a recurring theme in Steinbeck's writings
- Sympathy with the downtrodden and the poor characterizes his writing.
- A compassionate sense of humor and a sharp eye for social and economic injustices.



Major Works

- *Cup of Gold* (1929)- first novel
- *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932)
- *To a God Unknown* (1933)
- *Tortilla Flat* (1935)
- *In Dubious Battle* (1936)
- *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939)
- *The Pearl* (1947).
- *East of Eden* (1952)



The Pearl (1947)



- A parable on human fate
- Source: a folktale heard during a visit to the Gulf of California in 1940
- The story first appeared in the Woman's Home Companion (December 1945) under the title, "The Pearl of the World,"
- the novella in book form as The Pearl was published by Viking Press in November 1947
- Extended the original story into a more relatable and realistic one

- “As with all retold tales that are in people’s hearts, there are only good and bad things and black and white things and good and evil things and no in-between anywhere.” - John Steinbeck

