

Dear Class of 2022,

I am excited to be your Humanities teacher again for the 8th grade! Next schoolyear, we will immerse ourselves in world history, culture, and literature. In the meantime, enjoy the summer by taking care of yourself, spending time with family and friends, and of course, a bit of reading and writing.

Everyone should have received a copy of *The Pearl* prior to leaving for the summer break. If you lose the book, please purchase one for yourself.

Please complete the following assignments (due on the first day of school):

Please read John Steinbeck's, *The Pearl*, and use the following guide for annotation:

1. Circle/highlight at least one word in each chapter that needs to be defined. Use context clues to define them in the margin of the book.
2. Underline at least two lines/phrases of writing that is striking in imagery. Identify what device(s) is being used in the margin of the book. Pay close attention to the motifs of "songs" and the everchanging "pearl".

In addition to reading and annotating *The Pearl*, write an alternate ending to the novel in the same style of Steinbeck, which means third person, deep characterization, and clear imagery. You may pick up from any point of the story to write your alternate ending. The ending should be typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, and 2-3 pages in length. This will be printed in class and turned in the first week of school.

I look forward to seeing you all after a well-deserved break!

Best,
Michelle Yi Martin