

By
Scott O'Dell

A Novel Study by Nat Reed

By Scott O'Dell



Table of Contents

Suggestions and Expectations	3
List of Skills	4
Synopsis / Author Biography	5
Student Checklist	6
Reproducible Student Booklet	7
Answer Key	56

About the author: Nat Reed has been a member of the teaching profession for more than 30 years. He is presently a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites www.reedpublications.org and www.novelstudies.org.

Copyright © 2012 Nat Reed
All rights reserved by author.
Permission to copy for single classroom use only.
Electronic distribution limited to single classroom use only.
Not for public display.

By Scott O'Dell



Suggestions and Expectations

This 60 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on two chapters of *The Black Pearl* and is comprised of four different activities:

- · Before You Read
- · Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language and Extension Activities

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

<u>Many</u> of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . and many others.

Students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included as well as a **Student Checklist**.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include the struggle between good and evil, courage, personal initiative, overcoming greed and selfishness; the maturation process (personal growth), overcoming difficulty.

By Scott O'Dell



List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

- 1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
- 2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
- 3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
- 4. Use of capitals and punctuation
- 5. Identifying syllables
- 6. Identify anagrams
- 7. Identify *personification*

- 8. Use of singular / plural nouns
- 9. Listing compound words
- 10. Identifying parts of speech
- 11. Determining alphabetical order
- 12. Identification of root words
- 13. Identify/create similes
- 14. Identification of a *cliffhanger*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

- 1. Complete a *time line* of events
- 2. Identify conflict in the story
- 3. Identify the climax of the novel
- 4. Five W's Chart

Character Activities

- 1. Determine character traits
- 2. Protagonists and antagonists
- 3. Relating personal experiences
- 4. Comparing two Characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

- 1. Research
- 2. Write a newspaper story
- 3. Write a letter to a friend
- 4. Complete an Observation Chart
- 5. Conduct an interview
- 6. Write a description of personal feelings
- 7. Write a book review
- 8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

- A Storyboard
- 2. Create a collage

- 3. Design a cover for the novel
- 4. Design an Information Card

By Scott O'Dell



Synopsis

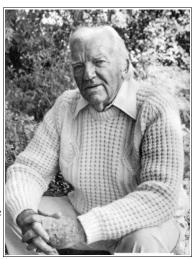
Ramon Salazar knows that someday he will become a partner with his father, pearling in the waters off Baja California. But at sixteen, he's more interested in pearling alone. Ramon wants to find the great pearl – the magnificent Pearl of Heaven – for with it comes untold riches.

But what Ramon doesn't realize is that the pearl brings more than riches. It brings danger, jealousy, and even death.

Ramon must ask himself: How much is the pearl really worth? [The Publisher]

Author Biography Scott O'Dell

Scott O'Dell (1898 – 1989), one of the most respected authors of historical fiction, received the Newbery Medal, three Newbery Honor Awards, and the Hans Christian Anderson Author Medal, the highest international recognition for a body of work by an author of books for young readers. His many books include *Island of the Blue Dolphins*; *Black Star, Bright Dawn; Streams in the River, River to the Sea*; and *The Black Pearl*. He was born O'Dell Gabriel Scott in Los Angeles, but when his name appeared incorrectly on a book, he decided to keep the name Scott O'Dell. He served in the air force during World War I. Before becoming a full-time writer he was a cameraman and technical director.



Adapted from the Publisher

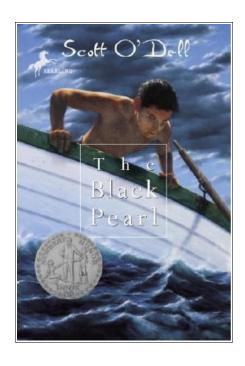
By Scott O'Dell



Student Checklist

Student Name:	

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments



By Scott O'Dell

Name:

By Scott O'Dell



Chapter 1 - 2



Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or "good guy". The protagonist of **The Black Pearl** is a young boy, Ramón Salazar, who goes through a number of exciting adventures as the story unfolds. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you've seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

	ambergris consent	recite notation	banished flaw	monstrous benediction	accuracy lamentation	
1.	The scientists n			in their invo	ention which caus	ed
2.	The colonel's cr believe it even h			_ that most peopl	e could scarcely	
3.	It was April's res	sponsibility to)	the Gettysburg	Address at the	
4.	The computer h conference in N		gh rate of	that it	is being featured a	at a
5.	Professor Samu	-	k assignment	on the blackbo	ard to remind his	

6.	His eyes were the color of	 	
7.	The kind priest offered a final battle.		before seeing the soldiers off to
8.	The family found the old woma	an's	to be very moving.
9.	Do you think Sally will receive	her parents'	to attend the party?
10.	Napoleon was	_ to a remote isla	and after losing the battle.
1.	What is the setting of Chapter	Questions One?	
2.	How does Ramón describe the	e Manta Diablo?	
God	d to Know		
to 30 and	000 pounds (1350 kg). They hav paddle-like lobes extending in fr	ve a distinctive bo cont of their mout	feet (7 meters) and can weigh up ody shape with triangular 'wings' hs. They are generally dark on the rge mouth with 18 rows of teeth.
3.	Why did Ramón think his grar	ndfather was the	most learned man in their town?_
4.	Describe the role that Father I	_inares played w	ith regard to the Manta Diablo.

5.	Foreshadowing is a literary device in which the author provides hints as to upcoming events. Give an example of foreshadowing from Chapter One.
6.	Ramón's father's name was
7.	How did Ramón's father earn a living?
8.	As Chapter Two opens we find out that it is <i>the happiest day of</i> Ramón's <i>life</i> . Why was this the case?
9.	Describe how Ramón's father tested him when he was grading the pearls.
10.	Why do you think it was so important for Ramón to go fishing with his dad?

A. The Manta Diablo

Using your imagination and the description of the Manta Diablo in Chapter One, draw your own concept of this fearsome creature in the box below.
B. Choose <u>ten</u> words from this chapter with two or more syllables . Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. <u>Example</u> : good / bye.

C. How's Your Spanish?

In the first few chapters of the novel we meet a number of Spanish words. Match each Spanish word in the left column with the correct English translation on the right.

Α	diablo
В	baja
С	paz
D	santa
Е	siesta
F	espíritu
G	la
Н	chubasco

1	peace
2	sleep
3	storm
4	spirit
5	devil
6	the
7	lower
8	saint

D. Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human. In Chapter Two the author writes, *Tomorrow it may stand on end under the lash of a chubasco*. In this sentence the chubasco (storm) lashes.

a) Why do you think personification is a literary device used by many authors?
b) Create your own example of personification.



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first two chapters of *The Black Pearl*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6

Map of Baja California, Mexico

