To Our Readers,

This issue of Accents, PCCC’s online ESL magazine, features many creative submissions inspired by John Steinbeck’s *The Pearl*, including poetry, character illustrations and book reviews. This issue also includes inspiring interviews of ESL students throughout Paterson, and an interview of recent retiree and beloved professor, Ronnie Kaufman. The entire college community can be proud of what our ESL students have accomplished.

In an effort to acknowledge top writers and artists, submissions for each issue are juried by a committee of full-time faculty. Awards were given in the following categories:

- Best Non-Narrative
- Best Interview
- Best Fiction
- Best Poem
- Best Art/Photography Composition

Helena Holmes
Editor-in-Chief/Layout & Design

Margaret Holland
& Ana Paula Lawrence
Assistant Editors/Layout & Design

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Thank you to ...

**Spring 2008 Selection Committee**
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Passaic County Community College ESL Department & PCCC’S contributing writers and artists
The Writers

Non-narrative

*Mind Over Truth*, Melquisedec Francis, pgs. 6-10

*How Your Life Would Be Different If You Could Change That Area*,
Luz Fernandez. pg. 11

*Feelings About Writing*, Smith Desir, pg. 12

*Global Warming*, Jose Carlos Gavidia, pgs. 14-17

Interviews

*Interview with Associate ESL Professor Ronnie Kaufman*, conducted by R004 summer students, pg. 17

*One Question for Some ESL Students Around the City of Paterson: Why do you study ESL?*, conducted by Yves Mary Fontin, pgs. 18-21

*Interview with Teacher Patti Mac Cracken*, conducted by Yves Mary Fontin, pgs. 22-23

*Interview with Teacher Sara Elabed-Tolosa*, conducted by Yves Mary Fontin, pgs. 24-25

Poetry

*A Simple Hug*, Yeimy Rivas, pg. 26

*I Like Going Away*, Kamal Alhamawi, pg. 27

*The Pearl*, Elkin Grazziani, pg. 28

*The Pearl*, Shaiddy Perez-Blanco, pg. 29

Award winners are designated in RED.
Fiction- The Pearl

The Pearl, review, Freddy Arismendy, pg. 30
The Pearl: Alternative Ending, Ana Mercedes Guzman, pg. 31
Conclusion from a Critical Review of The Pearl, Marie Ntawizera, pg. 32

The Artists/Photographers

Yves Mary Fontin, photographs: cover & pgs. 2, 10, 11, 18, 21, 23, 27
The Pearl character drawings and descriptions:
Ana Mamani, pg. 30-32
Mabel Cardoza, pgs. 32-33
Diana Salas, pg. 34
Ana Diaz, pgs. 35-36
Humeyra Guven, pgs. 37-38
Upon arriving in the United States, I immediately became a construction worker after the rejection of all my job applications. After humiliating and exhausting months of construction work, and meeting a special someone, I decided to enroll at college. I had excellent grades in math and selected Accounting as my major. In order to fulfill the requirements for a Business Degree I was required to take several advanced reading courses. I did not understand the relevancy of taking courses outside my major. How would I use information related to famous authors, or writers in the Accounting field? The same was for high level mathematics because accounting mostly uses basic addition and subtraction.

As I entered my second semester at PCCC my attitude toward taking these frivolous courses became intense. I was taking a reading class where its major requisite for passing was performing a power point presentation. I believe that a power point project in a reading class is not relevant for my studies or future occupation. Such projects are done in computer classes which I have not yet taken. I heard that this was the first semester that such an assignment was implemented. My lab teacher felt that this assignment would be too difficult for an ESL student to complete. I totally disagreed with his caricature of these students. I was an ESL student and knew that any presentation I made would show exceptional creative talent. After learning of this new requirement I discussed my concerns with my reading teacher. She vehemently told me that if I refused to do it then she would withdraw me from the course. I refused to comply as I was rebellious and believed that forcing students to do these time consuming projects was not justified. It was during these rebellious times that I met a person whose influences changed me completely.

(Continued on next page)
It was the second time that I broke the tip of my mechanical pencil. I was taking a quiz where two wrong answers meant failure. Perhaps I was nervous because my reading teacher has stepped outside to greet someone and an older student was begging me for the answers. Moments later, my teacher appeared on the door’s field of view and called my name. Our power point presentation had been discussed during the previous session. Therefore, I was nervous. She was not smiling when she called my name, but I could see the joy in her blue eyes. I knew I was going to confront somebody, maybe another teacher, or the head of the department, or if I was lucky enough, the President!

When I went outside I met an elder person—exactly what I didn’t expect. During our conversing I noticed that the teacher was still standing beside us. She seemed to be far more interested in our conversation that the incident that was about to take place inside the classroom. At that time, I believed that my teacher was very happy because I now was somebody else’s problem. At the end of his explanation of who he was, and regardless of my inattention, the senior gave me an open appointment and his card which holds a title that I have never heard. Though I was not obligated to see him, by the end of my last class, possessing his card had become extremely mind-boggling.

That semester was when I was assigned to this person (without me knowing it) and when my colleagues perceived rebellious images of me. At first, I did not know what that was all about and why I had to talk to this person. I thought he was just like any other advisor, as I realize that his office was inside the Center for Student Success at my college. Dodging the large photocopy machines along the narrowed hallway, I felt more rebellious as I wondered more and more why I was there. Before reaching his office, I was ready to scream at this person that bore the title of counselor. However, even with my rebellion and anger, I decided to make this my last encounter with this person and as a result of my irony and misjudgment, he far exceeded my expectations.

(Continued on next page)
I sat in front of his desk as soon as I got in. Since he had a phone in his ear, his eyes on a computer screen, and his hands on a keyboard, I decided to look around his office. His desk was full of papers and students schedules, the floor was covered with columns of folders that made me wonder how did I safely made it to the seat in the front of his desk. His book shelves didn’t hold any books but endless amounts of papers and folders. On top of all those papers and folders in the desk and what now appeared to be his folder shelves were thousands of yellow notes that lead me to the conclusion that he was absent-minded. His office looked more like a printing room for a magazine company. On the walls of his office was an unusual portrait. It was a wide picture of New York City. I guess that portrait was not as old as he was because after looking and looking everywhere, I realized that the twin towers were missing.

While gazing at the layout of his office I noticed he had completed his phone call. I remained silent because I felt that I had nothing to say to him. On the other hand, I expected him to explain to me why I was there. Why was a simple refusal valuable enough to intertwine our existence? We spent quite a while staring at each other. Obviously, I was the one expected to start the conversation, but I already had ended it in my mind. For my convenience, during our eye to eye cold war his phone ran every 5 minutes, and I soon learned the existence of a vast army of students seeking his guidance. I do not remember much of that day’s conversation. However, I do remember his convincing way of ending it by using his theory of the “system”. His examples focused most on the workplace—the most important place where I was going. If I couldn’t adapt to the system and its changes then the system could easily replace me. He said this using himself as an example: If my boss tells me to watch a TV show for whatever reason, I watch it and go on with my life. He told me that I could not make a big deal out of something so trivial. Of course he was right, but my rebellion was a statement, which I made clear throughout the rest of the semester.

(Continued on next page)
By the end of the semester, I had a problem with my family and decided to see my counselor again. Since my last visit was mesmerizing, even though I was rebellious and perhaps a bit immature, he managed to leave a positive impression on me. After explaining my situation, I soon learned that I had a too narrow view of life. He told me, “You have to be able to open to new experiences in life.” He made me understand that I cannot reach conclusions about other people without knowing the actual truth. I was convinced into thinking differently. He talked of many things, and with his extensive life experiences he could easily solve my problems and clear my mind. At the end of our meeting he asked me if there was anything else he could do for me. I thought of my grades and asked him for them. In my reading class final grade, I did not get a “W” for withdraw as I was expecting. Instead I got a grade. I explained to my counselor that there was a mistake because my teacher told me that since I was not willing to do the power point presentation, then there was no further need for me to assist her classes. That was the time when I stopped going to her class and believed to have been withdrawn from it. Certainty, that grade was no mistake, it was put there intentionally. My little rebellion has turned big since my reading teacher gave me the lowest grade possible!

Following the discussion of my grade with my counselor, I never got to see my reading teacher again. She seemed to have been absorbed by the crowded hallways of my college, as my remembrance of her got dimmer and dimmer through the passing of time. I wonder what happened to her.

My intolerance to classes that weren’t relevant to my major still kept me rebellious. Many times I though of angrily storming in my counselor office and loudly argue about why I had to take such classes. Of all the faculty members, students, and classmates in my college, I didn’t want to argue with anybody but with my counselor. Not even with the teachers that expertise in those topics. However, thankfully, I was self-controlled and in the inside I really wanted him to explain and convince me as to why be the need of such classes. During his speeches, I randomly looked away while I heard him intently. He succeeded, his examples were formidable. He always made me feel better. He taught me how to look at things differently and not to be so negative. With time, I unconsciously made him my personal psychologist, as I struggled with that vast army of students that I was now a part of.

(Continued on next page)
I have seen my counselor many times outside of his office. I often wondered if he was going to retire soon since he looked so old and fragile. That would be unacceptable. I believe he still have a lot to offer. Sometimes I thought of paying him a visit now that I still have the chance, but I knew he was very busy. He has far too many students in need. If he was busy, then it meant that the student who needed help was getting it. Furthermore, even though I dislike being on the waiting list, that is indeed a good source of joy. I am beginning to believe that I now know why his office was full of yellow notes.

In the end, though the course was lost I learned many new things, both emotionally and intellectually. As time passed by, my problems settle down even though my hatred for arranged writing topics and unrelated classes never ceased. Nevertheless, I was glad to have met him and learned the importance of such classes. His influences and persuasive skills eventually lead me to higher grades and self-esteem. I later understood that my reading teacher’s decision was necessary, that counselors are here to help us and my counselor’s advices still echoes powerfully, and that my mind was clouded and it was my worst enemy. Dear student, when things start to get hard, when it seems is not you but the teacher, when you feel you cannot go any further… seek their help. They will always be there waiting for you.
If life could give me another opportunity to go back and change it, I would change my marital status. I could convince my husband not to join the Marines. I didn’t want to be a widow. As a widow, I have to do everything by myself. However, if he were alive, everything would be different. I wouldn’t be lonely or stressed out. I would like to go out with him again. If I could live with him again, I would take him to Miami or I could take him somewhere else. I know that he would be so happy too. If I could see him again, I would show him his son, the one that he had never had a chance to meet. I would like to have him back. I would be so happy, but I know that there’s no way to bring him back. All of this is unreal because I know that my husband is dead. My life could be different if he would be here with us.
Feelings about Writing

Smith Desir·ESLW 003

How great and happy you feel when you are writing in your own language. However, you feel pride burning inside of you when you can also write in English. It's all about the will you have to learn or to improve your knowledge.

Writing in your own language is easier and less complicated to do. You feel more comfortable. Many are those who achieve a successful life by writing books in their own language, but being part of the American society requires that you learn to speak and write in English. Anyone who achieves this skill should feel proud. Some people are more interested in learning to speak than write. However, it is necessary to learn to write in the proper way if you wish to have a good job that can help you meet your needs.

Being able to express your ideas in your own language and in English can make you feel deeply proud of yourself. That's why I encourage everyone to look forward to improving their knowledge by going to school.
For several years, scientists from the most important nations have been studying space. They have been using all of their knowledge to find an explanation for the origin of life, and to explore the possibilities of other life forms in the universe. During these studies, they have also been watching the earth’s environment. They have detected that the earth’s temperature is getting warmer every day. This is a serious problem that we need to be concerned about. Remember, the earth is our residence. We all live here and we are all responsible for taking care of our home.

Nature makes up the wonderful planet we have with vegetation and animals, oceans and rivers, and the sun every morning. All nature works in harmony. Nothing is extra and nothing is missing. We have all of the benefits of this in our hands.

We love our families and friends. We have goals for the future, but none of them are going to be realized if we aren’t concerned for our planet. I will try to explain what global warming is, and what we can do to help prevent it.
What is global warming?

The sun reflects its energy over the earth and generates life conditions. This is the natural process. Unfortunately, every day pollution levels are increasing. The accumulation of pollution does not permit solar energy to leave the atmosphere. Therefore, the globe gets warmer and produces several changes in all life systems. In other words, global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans. Increasing global temperatures will cause sea levels to rise, increase the intensity of extreme weather events, and change the amount and patterns of precipitation. Other effects of global warming include changes in agricultural yields, trade routes, glaciers, species extinctions and increases in the types of diseases people get.

What kinds of changes are happening?

Many cities have hotter temperatures than they ever have before. Seasons are being affected. Winter has warmer days, and summer is coming later. Natural parks, lakes and rivers are also changing. Several species of animals are becoming extinct. The glaciers are disappearing, and oceans’ water levels are rising. Satellite pictures from ten years ago confirm how the earth is changing.
Who is responsible for these changes?

New technology brings many benefits, but also irreparable consequences. Weapons, bombs, and nuclear practices are affecting our planet.

Human activity since the industrial revolution has increased the concentration of various greenhouse gases, leading to increased radioactivity from CO2, methane, tropospheric ozone, and nitrous oxide.

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What can we do?

Climate change is the most serious problem we face in the 21st century. Future generations are depending on us to do whatever we can to turn things around. The goal is to bring global warming under control by curtailing the release of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping "greenhouse" gases into the atmosphere.

We can reduce electricity usage around the home by energy-efficient lighting. Painting our homes with lighter colors will also help. Improving vehicle fuel-efficiency, recycling air conditioner coolant in your car, and driving less can also help cut down on how much pollution is released into the atmosphere. Recycling is an easy way to help conserve energy and resources. By recycling aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, and glass whenever possible, we reduce the energy needed to create new products. Making energy conservation a part of our daily awareness is essential to the goal of reducing global warming.
After 21 years serving the PCCC community, Prof. Ronnie Kaufman is retiring. Throughout these years, Prof. Kaufman has taught Grammar, Writing and her favorite, Reading. She has also served as a Level Leader and as the ESL Department Chair. The students in the ESLR 004-50 had a chance to interview her for this issue. This is also our way of saying “Thank you” for the work she has done.

**What inspired you to be an ESL teacher?**

When I was in college, I wanted to be a social worker. One of the classes I wanted to take was psychology, but the class was always closed. Then I decided to take a phonetics course, and the teacher mentioned English as a Second Language, which was not very popular at that time. Because of my love for languages and immigrants, during my sophomore year I decided to change my major to Linguistics.

**What do you like the most about teaching ESL?**

ESL is the best teaching job. Students are here because they want to be here; they know what they need. I learn from your stories, your experiences, and about your countries.

**What was the most pleasurable experience at PCCC?**

I think the reading class every semester. I love when the students are into the book and when the ideas come from my students, not from me. When the students enjoy the book, it’s enjoyable for me as a teacher.

**What is your favorite memory?**

There are so many... but my favorite activity is the ESL Awards Ceremony. It is a happy occasion when we celebrate our students’ success. It’s good to see all the students.

**What would you have done if you were not a teacher?**

Not a dancer, nothing in medicine, science or math. I would have been a translator because I love languages or a social worker because I like to help people.

**What are your plans for the future?**

In 1995, I went back to school and got a Master’s Degree in Social Work. I want to work part-time, but there are a lot of free time activities that I’d like to do... go to New York, have lunch with my friends, exercise and spend more time with my family.

**How would you like to be remembered?**

As a competent teacher who cared about and respected students and most people were happy to be in my class.
One Question for...
Some ESL students around the city of Paterson

Why Do You Study ESL?
By Yves-Mary Fontin

Every immigrant has many reasons to study English as a second language (ESL). The first reason of studying ESL is to communicate. The second reason is to continue school. The third and the most important reason, immigrants study ESL to have a better job in the USA.

It is a pleasure to share with you the responses of some students from different ESL schools around the city of Paterson followed by their name, age and nationality.

“I study ESL because I want to be better in my future. I have been here for 4 years. It's time for me to learn English.”
Ivania Amuero Cascante, 28, Costa Rican

“I study ESL because I need it in my job, and I want to change my situation.”
El Houari Abdelaazi, 25, Moroccan

“I study ESL because I want to continue my education.”
Cesar Bautistz, 42, Mexican

“I studying ESL because I finished my Years College in my Country, I want to get a degree, and English is the first language in the U.S.A.”
Aslan Kadweh, 24, Syrian

“I study ESL because I am living in the USA. I also would like to have a degree in pharmacy school and communicate to the American people.”
Marc Samy Lebon, 28, Haitian

(Continued on next page)
“First of all I would like to say I want to continue my education until I get my Doctorate in Sociology.”

Abdo Sebbar, 22, Moroccan

“I study ESL because I wish speaking English fluently”

Barbara Ozga, 32, Polish

“I study ESL to have a chance reach my goal and get higher education. Right now, I don’t know what I will do.”

Tamara Ezmat, 34, Russian

“I study ESL because I want to have a better job. After that I want to study my major.”

Mario Lavado, 20, Peruvian

“I study ESL because I want to get a better job, get more American friends and grow intellectually”

Mauricio Caceres, 21, Dominican

“I study ESL because I have too much problems with English. I am new here. I think it will help me in the future”

Bhadresh Rana, Indian

“I decide to study ESL because I would like to be a professional in the USA, and I want to do my career.”

Ariel A. Rodriguez, Dominican

“I study ESL because I have to do my career in the USA, and I want to be able to help my little boy to do his homework.”

Marc-Nyl Bien-Aimé, Haitian

“I study ESL because I would like to be a journalist, and I’m looking for a better life in The USA.”

Any Ventura, 19, Dominican

(Continued on next page)
“I study ESL because I want to have a better job to get more money. I would like to be a kid’s teacher.”
Yesica Bardoles, 28, Peruvian

“I study ESL because I want to continue my studying in Business Administration and to know a new language.”
Lima Kadkweh, 25, Circassian

“I study ESL for many reasons. First, I want to have a good job with better income. Second, I want to understand the American culture.”
Daniel Bajdough, 35, Syrian

“I choose to learn ESL because I want to improve my English and get a better job.”
Belkis Fernandez, 24, Dominican

“I study ESL because this is an obligation in this country to speak English. The more you speak English, more doors are opening for you.”
Ricardo Ramirez, 26, Dominican

“I study ESL because I would like to have a better job, and help my daughter to do her homework.”
Diego Perez, 44, Colombian

“I decide to study ESL because I want to have a better job, and have a good future.”
Yosenia Marmalejoz, 31, Dominican

“I study ESL because I want to have a better life in this country.”
Greg Wielgus, 22, Polish

(Continued on next page)
“I study ESL because English is the key to succeed in the USA.”
Fiordaliza Beriguete, Dominican

“I study ESL because I want to improve my English. I want to do my career…”
Miguel Flores, 22, Peruvian

“I study ESL because I am living in the USA, and I want to be able to help my little boy to do his homework.”
Marie D. Fontin, 28, Haitian

“I study ESL because I would like to get a better job. It’s very important to learn English when you live in the USA.”
José Aguirre, 29, Mexican

“I study ESL because I want to have a better life in the USA and to have a social relation with the American people.”
Luciano Ferreira, 27, Brazilian

“I study ESL because English is the best language in the world.”
Dol Suliman, 23, Sudanese

"I study ESL to being better in my life. English could give me more opportunity to find a better job in this country."
Calina Cromliouk, 47, Ukranian
Interview with Teacher Patti Mac Cracken

By Yves-Mary Fontin

YMF: How did you begin teaching?

PMC: I began teaching ESL in the fall of 2007. This was my first official teaching experience, and at this point the only subject I teach. I enjoy teaching, particularly ESL because it gives me the opportunity to help others with a practical and needed skill.

YMF: What does teaching mean to you?

PMC: For me, teaching is sharing your knowledge to the students and learn from them that you didn't know.

YMF: Did your parents accept your choice?

PMC: My parents approve of my decision to teach. My dad was a Reading teacher and an ESL teacher for many years at the high school level. He is excited that I am doing the same work he had done for so long.

YMF: What is your best and your worst experience in teaching?

PMC: My best moments in teaching are when I see how students improve in their understanding. It's great to see students move on to the next level. At this point in my teaching career, I can't say that I have a worst teaching moment. I enjoy my job.

YMF: What is (are) your goal(s) for the future?

PMC: My future goals include going back to school. At this point, I am not in any official classes. There are points when I need to review for classes, especially grammar rules. I hope to get my Master's in Social Work, and have more opportunities to make a difference.

(Continued on next page)
Basic Information and more...

First name: Patti
Last name: MacCracken
DOB: 12/08/76
Place (City, State): Atlantic City, NJ
Children’s name (if....): Jocy, Nathan, Lan
Origin of grandparents: Ireland
Languages spoken: English, Spanish, French
Religion: Christian
Pass time: Drinking coffee
Sport practiced: Hiking, kickboxing, yoga, soccer with my dog
Favorite food: Mexican food
Favorite Color: Green
Favorite Writer(s): Anne Lamott, Brenda Manning
Favorite Book: Ragamuffin Gospel
Favorite Movie: Too Many To Note
Favorite Pet: Shea! My very cool pointer/Lab mix
She’s living in: Paterson, NJ.
Interview with teacher Sara Elabed-Tolosa
By Yves-Mary Fontin

YMFD: How did you begin teaching?

SET: I always wanted to be a teacher. When I was an ESL student here at PCCC, I felt that teaching ESL was the career I was looking for. I wanted to be able to help students learn English the way was help by my teachers here at the College.

YMFD: What does teaching mean to you?

SET: My life!

YMFD: Do you teach only ESL?

SET: I also teach Bilingual Arabic and Spanish in Paterson Public School. I am a first grade teacher.

YMFD: Did your parents accept your choice?

SET: Yes, and I am sure they are proud of me.

YMFD: Do you still study?

SET: Yes, I am working on my Ed.D. in Language Education.

YMFD: What is (are) your goal(s) for the future?

SET: My goal for the future is to write bilingual books, Arabic/English and Spanish/English for bilingual students. There is a tremendous lack of resource for students who are new in this country.

(Continued on next page)
Basic Information and more...

First name: Sara
Last name: Elabed-Tolosa
Place of birth (City, Country or State): Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
Height: 5’4 inch.
Children’s name (if....): Sharihan and Urabi
Orig. of grand parents:
  Mother’s side, Colombia
  Father’s side, Palestinian
Languages spoken: Arabic, English, Spanish
Religion: Muslim
Pass time: Reading
Sport practiced: None
Favorite food: All kinds of Halal food
Favorite Color: Black
Favorite Writer(s): Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Favorite Book: Cien Anos de Soledad
Favorite Actor: Harrison Ford
Favorite Movie: Top Gun!
Favorite Pet: I don’t like pets!!
She’s living in (City, State): Clifton, NJ.

* For religious reasons (Muslim), she doesn’t want anybody take her picture. That’s why we don’t have her picture.
We always give a hug to say

I love you

We always give a hug to say

I miss you

Sometimes we give a hug to say

I need you

Give a hug to someone you love and

Let them know that they have someone to

hug.
“I Like Going Away”
By Kamal Alhamawi

I like going away
every year for a better day.
Why don’t I give myself a break
to see fascinating new things and to relax by a lake.
To have a bar-b-que for lunch and
For dessert, some cake.
Why don’t you enjoy your life
because the time passes as quickly as a knife.
Go for a holiday for one week or two,
And forget work to enjoy the sky so blue.
The Pearl
Elkin Grazziani  ESLR002

Your eyes are like beautiful pearls
Shining in the darkness of heart
White purity like your soul
Soul that fills me with tranquility
In the cold nights of the sea
Sea surrounded by shells
Waiting to open to show
The beautiful pearls that are your eyes

La Perla

Tus ojos son hermosos como perlas
Relucientes en la oscuridad de micorazon
Blancos como la puresa de tu alma
Alma que me llena de tranquilidad
En las noches frias del mar
Mar rodeado de conchas esperando abrize ,
para mostrar las hermosas perlas
Que son como tus ojos
A pearl is something beautiful
which is at the bottom of the sea
which brings us happiness
And sometimes sadness.

We find it in the depth,
In the depth of a beautiful sea
inside of an oyster
which is hard to break.

The pearl is something big,
something really nice,
which provides wealth
and spiritual poverty.

Sometimes it is better
not to have that precious sea egg,
because even it being small
it can destroy parts of the world.

A man who unknowingly,
destroyed his humble home
by causing the pearl buyers
wanted the pearl even more.

So I’m going to tell you a story
about a poor fisherman,
who by finding the pearl of the world,
he became a killer man.

It’s the story of Kino, Coyotito and his mom,
that when he got the pearl,
they were faced
with an unfortunate rivalry.

There were three trackers
who wanted to steal the pearl
by putting an end to the life
of a baby who was in the cave.

He was an innocent little boy
barely one year old
dying of a bullet
by someone who wasn’t bold.

After Kino unfortunately realizes,
that his son already died,
he decided to return the pearl,
to the place that he will never go back.

The Pearl
Shayddy Perez-Blanco
ESLR 002

Una perla es algo bello
que se encuentra en el fondo del mar
que nos trae alegrias
y a veces infelicidad.

La encontramos en lo profundo,
en lo profundo de un bello mar
dentro de una ostra
que se encuentra sin decansar.

La perla es algo grande,
algo lindo de verdad,
que proporciona riquezas
y pobreza espiritual.

A veces es mejor,
no tener ese huevo del mar,
porque siendo incluso pequeña
destruye una humanidad.

Así les cuento la historia
de un pobre pescador
que al encontrar la perla del mundo
se convirtió en un matador.

Un hombre que sin darse cuenta
destruyo su humilde hogar
al provocar que los compradores
la desearan aun más.

Es la historia de Kino, Coyotito y su mama,
que cuando la obtuvieron
se enfrentaron
a la desgraciada rivalidad.

Eran tres rastreadores
que querían robar la perla,
acabando con la vida
de un bebe que estaba en la cueva.

Era un inocente pequeño
de apenas 1 año de edad
que muere de un balazo
por alguien sin escrúpulo, ni dignidad.

Al darse cuenta el pobre Kino
que su hijo ha muerto ya,
decide regresar la perla
al lugar que nunca volverá.
The Pearl

By John Steinbeck

Review by Freddy Arismendy ESLR 002

The pearl is a Mexican folktale that took place in the lower parts of California in the early 1900s. Kino, the main character, is a simple pearl fisherman who finds an enormous pearl and is able to become rich. However, this pearl brings disaster for Kino’s family. I think that Kino’s story has symbolic interpretation for students. Nowadays, it is possible to see this story in our society.

The pearl is an extremely interesting story about a family living in an impoverished Mexican village near La Paz. The family is extremely poor and they don’t have any luxuries. One day their son Coyotito gets stung by a scorpion and needs immediate medical attention. Unfortunately his parents cannot afford the medicine that can save his life. The doctor knows about the pearl of the world that Kino found. However, he doesn’t save Coyotito’s life. The poor child dies!

Things begin to change in Kino’s life. He thinks that his life is saved and it isn’t the pearl that brings problems, but finally he decides to throw the pearl back to the ocean.

In conclusion, the pearl can be compared to the lottery today. The winning ticket can help you get out of your financial troubles, but it might end up leaving you in tragedy. Sometimes things are better just the way they are. We want better things for ourselves without losing the small things that are dear to us.
...Kino leaped over the dead tracker and began a hard fight with the other tracker. Kino ended it by sticking his knife into the abdomen of the tracker until it left him without breath.

Kino was exhausted and went to find Juana and Coyotito. When he arrived at the hiding place where Juana and Coyotito were, he couldn’t believe what he was looking at. Juana looked stiff and she had a cool expression like an ice float. Coyotito was crying without causing a minor movement in Juana. Kino got close to her and screamed, “Juana, Juana, talk to me woman,” but Juana didn’t respond to Kino’s desperate screams. Then Kino became aware that Juana’s foot was extremely swollen, and he found that she had been bitten by a mortally poisonous snake. The venom was lethal and Kino cried miserably. At that moment, Kino recognized that Juana was right when she said, “The pearl will destroy us.” Now Juana was dead and he didn’t have any cure. Kino made a decision to throw the pearl into the place where he had found it. Kino recognized that his stubbornness was the cause of the loss of his lovely wife. He felt guilty for Juana’s death and had to live with his shame.
Conclusion from a Critical Review of the Pearl

Marie Ntawizera ESL R002

In this world, we are passengers. The true treasures are not here but somewhere else in heaven where nobody would steal from us and destroy them. People should think about this and know that riches don’t last. Those who have big money do not necessarily have happiness. Steinbeck’s story gives us a typical example from Kino’s experience that we should learn how to identify the riches that give us joy in our hearts, rather than run after what we don’t know because that leads us to our own destruction.
"Kino lifted the flesh, and there it lay, the great pearl, perfect as the moon."

"Kino heard a murmur behind him. Juana was whispering, "Coyotito! She was begging him to be quiet."

"For a long time Kino stood in front of the gate with Juana beside him."

"For a long time Kino stood in front of the gate with Juana beside him."
Kino
He was coyotito's father. He was a fisherman, good person, and undecided person.

Juanita
She is coyotito's mother. She was plain and obedient with her husband. She was very poor and indigenous.

Juan Tomas
He was a selfish man and he was always worry about him. He was wealthy, bad person and he did not like poor people.

Doctor
He took advantage of people and manipulate them.
Kino finds the Pearl.

Kino, Juana, and Coyotito went to the doctor.

Kino tries to sell the pearl.

When Kino killed a man.
When Kino Hit Juana.

When the Kino's and Juana's brush house got burnt.

When the trickeros killed Cipilo, also Kino killed the trickeros.

When Kino and Juana went back to the town.
The Doctor was fat and lazy.
He thought his travel in Franco.

Kino looks the pearl and he thinks to married with Juana in the church.

Kino finds the pearl.
Juska thinks to throw the pearl.

Kiao tries to throw the pearl.

Kiao looks some trouble.
Submission Guidelines

Requirements ...

- All writers must be ESL students enrolled in a 2-year community college.
- All submissions MUST be original work.
- All submissions must be submitted electronically.
- Writers may submit a maximum of one piece of work in each genre: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Narrative, Reaction, Poetry, Art, Photography.
- All work MUST be submitted as MS Word files. Art and Photography submissions must be submitted as JPEG files.
- Submissions MUST be typed, double-spaced in a 12 pt. font and shouldn’t exceed 2000 words.

Contact Information ...

Please send all submissions to:
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NEXT DEADLINE FOR FALL ISSUE — December 1st, 2008