

C1 Mark Scheme – *The Pearl*

Read lines 1-9

0.1 List five things you learn about Kin in these lines. [5]

Award **one mark** for each point and/or inference identified by the candidate, **to a maximum of five**:

- Kin came in through the door/he got home
- He squatted by the fire pit
- He rolled a hot corncake
- He dipped his food/corncake into hot sauce
- He ate his corncake
- He drank pulque
- He sighed with satisfaction/contentment/pleasure

No mark should be awarded for unabridged quotation of whole sentences.

Read lines 10-19

0.2 How does the writer present the family's situation in these lines? [5]

Some points that candidates may explore:

- 'Kin and Jan froze in their positions'/suddenly understand there is danger
- 'a scorpion moved slowly'
- 'stinging tail was straight out behind him'/the weapon is highlighted to show the danger
- 'whip it up in a flash of time'/focus on the speed of the scorpion. It can attack quickly.
- Kin's physical response: 'breath whistled/startled look gone/rigidity of his body'/Kin's body responds first – sensing the impending danger.
- Kin's mind moved to a 'Song of Evil'/music of the enemy/'foe'/'savage' – illustrates the growing sense of danger. Kin knows this is a difficult/dangerous situation.

Read lines 20-39

0.3 What impression does the writer give of Kin in these lines? [10]

Some points that candidates may explore:

- 'But Kin was in motion'/he is trying to save the child
- Kin's physical movement and the care he takes to be undetected: 'body glided quietly across the room'/'noiselessly and smoothly'/'His hands were in front of him, palms down, and his eyes were on the scorpion'. He knows how to respond to the enemy.
- The baby does not realise the danger/is not scared about the scorpion: 'Coyo laughed and reached up his hand toward it'
- The scorpion 'sensed danger'
- The build-up of suspense and tension as 'Kin almost reached it'/fearless
- The scorpion 'stopped and its tail rose up over its back'/'the curved thorn on the tail's end glistened'/getting ready to strike/highlights the danger
- Kin is frozen in fear at the scorpion's movements/trying not to make any sudden movements 'stood perfectly still'

- 'He could not move until the scorpion moved'/the importance of his next steps
- Kin's movements: 'slowly/smoothly'/tentative and careful
- Kin's worst fears 'thorned tail jerked upright'/'shook the rope and the scorpion fell'
- Kin tries to intercept the scorpion before it reaches the baby 'leaped to catch it, but it fell past his fingers'/brave and despite the danger to himself is happy to try and get the scorpion
- 'It landed and struck'/Kin's fear finally realised
- Kin 'snarling'/explosion of anger
- Kin's actions to punish the scorpion 'rubbing to a paste'/beat it and stamped the enemy'
- Kin's anger grows/shows his immense love for his child 'teeth were bared and fury flared'.

Read lines 40-60

0.4 How does the writer make these lines tense and dramatic?

[10]

Some points that candidates may explore:

- Urgency of the situation
- 'Jan had the baby in her arms'/Jan's speed of responding/takes the lead
- 'She found the puncture with redness starting from it already'/suggesting the bite is quickly taking effect
- 'She put her lips down over the puncture and sucked hard and spat and sucked again'/desperate to remove the poison from her son
- 'Covo screamed' emphasises the pain and urgency
- 'Kin hovered; he was helpless, he was in the way'/Kin is frozen in fear at the situation unfolding
- 'The screams of the baby brought the neighbors'/emphasises the noise and alerts the neighbours that something is wrong
- 'from houses they poured'/the response of neighbours shows the gravity of the situation
- 'Scorpion. The baby has been strung'
- 'Jan stopped sucking the puncture for a moment'/sense of pausing the drama
- 'The little hole was slightly enlarged, and its edges whitened from the sucking'/graphic description of the wound
- 'the red swelling extended farther around it in a hard mound'/the spreading of the poison/poison taking over the baby despite Jan's attempts to stop it
- 'And all of these people knew about the scorpion'/suggests the baby is in grave danger/the villagers know this is a dangerous situation
- 'An adult might be very ill from the sting, but a baby could easily die from the poison'
- 'First, they knew, would come swelling and fever and tightened throat, and then cramps in the stomach, and then Covo might die if enough of the poison had gone in'/describes the process of the bite/highlights the bite might be fatal to Covo
- 'But the stinging pain of the bite was going away'/a sense of relief/the possibility of Covo surviving
- 'Covo's screams turned to moans'

To answer this question you need to focus on lines 61 to the end and also consider the passage as a whole.

0.5 "In the last 20 or so lines of this passage, Jan shows real courage'. How far do you agree with this view? [10]

Some points that candidates may explore:

Whole text

- At the beginning Jan seems calm/ 'combed her black hair and braided it in two braids and tied the ends with thin green ribbon'
- 'Jan came back to the fire and ate her breakfast'/Jan seems to put her family first
- Jan takes the housewife role in the family
- 'Kin and Jan froze in their positions'/Jan is alert and always watching her son
- 'Jan repeated an ancient magic to guard against such evil'/she understands the dangerous nature of the situation/reliance on faith to avert the threat
- Kin initially takes the lead in attempting to save the child/appears the dominant character/quick witted
- 'Jan repeated an ancient magic to guard against such evil'/continued faith
- 'Jan had the baby in her arms'/Jan's speed of responding/takes the lead
- 'She found the puncture with redness starting from it already'/she knows what to do
- 'She put her lips down over the puncture and sucked hard and spat and sucked again'/desperate to remove the poison from her son

Lines 61 to the end

- 'the iron in his patient, fragile wife'/Kin understands the two sides of his wife/use of the word 'iron' to show her strength
- 'she could arch her back in child pain with hardly a cry'/highlights the hidden strength in his wife
- Kin admires his wife's actions/her strength/'She could stand fatigue and hunger almost better than Kin himself'
- 'In the canoe she was like a strong man'/compares his wife's strength to that of a man
- 'The doctor," she said. "Go to get the doctor.'/Jan shows a determination to save her son. The doctor's presence to the village is unusual
- 'She looked up at him, her eyes as cold as the eyes of a lioness'/image of the lioness to show her response to the doctor not coming to save her son
- 'was nearly everything there was in Jan's world'/highlights her desperation to save her son. Strong bond to her son
- 'her determination and the music of the family sounded in his head with a steely tone'
- "Then we will go to him,"/refusal to take no for an answer/prepared to go against the norm/fight for her son's survival