

For *Critical Insights* volume under contract: CFP on *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

Seeking submissions for a *Critical Insights* volume on John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* under contract with Salem/Greyhouse Publishers. Known for its simplicity and universal themes of greed, power, and economic oppression, *The Pearl* was originally published in installments in *Women's Home Companion* (1945) with its original title, "The Pearl of the World." *The Pearl* is universally appreciated for its accessibility, classroom applications, and suitability to theoretical approaches. With current trends and political climate considered, it is time to revisit this classic text for a contemporary audience.

Submissions should be representative of current critical discourse about Steinbeck and/or *The Pearl* and conceptually within reach of current students at the secondary and undergraduate level. All essays should strive to provide instructional value to secondary and college students.

Submissions may cover such areas as:

- **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND essays** address how the time period influenced the author or work (or focus on a particular theme in literature), as well as what makes the author or work relevant to a modern audience.
- **CRITICAL RECEPTION essays** review the history of the critical response to the author or work, surveying the major concerns to which critics of the author or work have attended over the years.
- **CRITICAL LENS essays** offer a close reading of the author or work from a particular critical standpoint, such as, for example, gender studies, narratology, or New Criticism.
- **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS essays** analyze the work or author in the light of another (similar or comparative) work or author though comparing or contrasting.
- **CRITICAL READING essays** focus on contemporary readings of the text with emphasis on ways current readers (i.e. students in secondary and university settings) might be able to appreciate or problematize the text with new eyes and current cultural/literary theories.

By March 15, please submit a 250-300-word abstract, a 75-word biographical statement (including your affiliation), and contact information to the editor, Dr. Laura Nicosia: [lauranicosia@gmail.com](mailto:lauranicosia@gmail.com) and [nicosiala@montclair.edu](mailto:nicosiala@montclair.edu)

This volume has a quick turn-around date, and submissions of approximately 5000 words (inclusive of Works Cited) will need to be completed by June 5, 2019.