

*A*  
*Literature Unit*

**THE BIG WAVE**

by Pearl Buck

Pearl S. Buck was born on June 26, 1892. In honor of her birthday, read *The Big Wave*.

NOTE: There are no definite divisions of the book. For the purposes of this literature unit, the novel has been divided into three parts. Page numbers may vary according to the edition of the book you are using.

## Part I

Part I ends after Jiya's village has been destroyed and Jiya has fallen unconscious. Kino's father has carried Jiya into their home and has laid him upon a mattress. (Page numbers will vary, but in the edition used for the preparation of this guide the pages were 9 to 39.)

### VOCABULARY I: SYNONYMS

For each vocabulary word on the left circle its **synonym**, the word that is **most like** it in meaning.

1. **ancestor:** great-grandfather    son    mother
2. **heave:** lower    knock    slide
3. **fathomless:** deep    shallow    rough
4. **channel:** water    passage    surf
5. **corded:** smooth    swollen    ribbed
6. **zenith:** bottom    peak    center
7. **trickling:** dripping    pouring    running
8. **unconscious:** unconcerned    uncovered    unaware

### VOCABULARY II: MATCHING

Match the vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| ___ 1. thatched | A. inclined upward or downward                   |
| ___ 2. cobble   | B. covered with plant stalks used for roofing    |
| ___ 3. staff    | C. small, rounded hill or mound                  |
| ___ 4. nuzzling | D. paved with naturally rounded stones           |
| ___ 5. sloped   | E. a stick used as a walking or climbing aid     |
| ___ 6. nosing   | F. with a sense of pressing importance           |
| ___ 7. knoll    | G. pushing forward with caution                  |
| ___ 8. urgently | H. rubbing against gently with the nose or snout |

**COMPREHENSION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What did Kino like about being high up on the mountain? What didn't he like about it?

---

---

---

2. What puzzled Kino about the houses of the people in the fishing village?

---

---

---

3. Why did Jiya's statement that the sea was their enemy surprise Kino?

---

---

---

4. What did Jiya work about while they were on Deer Island?

---

---

---

5. To whom did Deer Island belong?

---

---

---

6. Why did the boys collect pebbles from Deer Island?

---

---

---

7. What was there to be afraid of on Deer Island?

---

---

---