



The Big Wave Study Guide

by Rebecca Gilleland

**For the novel by
Pearl S. Buck**

CD Version



P
P

Progeny Press

Limited permission to reproduce this study guide

Purchase of this book entitles an individual teacher
to reproduce pages for use in the classroom or home.

Multiple teachers may not reproduce pages
from the same study guide.

Sale of any printed copy from this CD is strictly and specifically prohibited.

The Big Wave Study Guide
A Progeny Press Study Guide
by Rebecca Gilleland
edited by Michael Gilleland
cover art by Mary R. Duban
cover design by Michael Gilleland

Copyright © 2005 Progeny Press
All rights reserved.

Reproduction or translation of any part of this work
beyond that permitted by Section 107 or 108 of the
1976 United States Copyright Act without the written
permission of the copyright owner is unlawful.
Requests for permission or other information should be
addressed to Reprint Permissions, Progeny Press,
P.O. Box 100, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0100.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 978-1-58609-209-2

Table of Contents

Study Guide Author	3
Peer Review Panel	4
Note to Instructor	6
Synopsis	7
About the Novel's Author	8
Background Information	9
Ideas for Prereading Activities	10
Section One	11
Section Two	19
Section Three	25
Word Search	31
Section Four	32
Overview	38
Ideas for Postreading Activities	40
Additional Resources	42
Answer Key	45

Synopsis

Kino is a young Japanese boy who lives on a farm high on a mountainside. His best friend, Jiya, lives below in the fishing village at the seashore. Life is filled with hard work and fun moments with his friend. Then the unthinkable happens, and a great tsunami wave changes their lives forever. Jiya's family and village are destroyed, and it takes Jiya many years to overcome his loss and learn that life is stronger than death, we are brave because we must be, and there is much in this life that is wonderful.

Section One

(Pages 1–15)

Beginning: “Kino lived on a farm.”

Ending: “We need both farmers and fishermen,” Jiya’s father said.

Vocabulary:

A *synonym* of a word is another word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as the original word. Select the word from the Word Box that is a synonym for the underlined word or phrase in each sentence below. Then use the underlined word in a sentence of your own to show you know its meaning.

Word Box

reddish	hill	glowing	harvest
holy	hurried	immeasurable	aroma
worriedly	varnished	stepped	bundles

1. The fields that covered the side of the mountain were terraced by walls of stone. _____

Your sentence: _____

2. The Old Gentleman lived in his castle on a knoll outside the village.

Your sentence: _____

The Big Wave Study Guide

3. The tabernacle was a sacred place. _____

Your sentence: _____

4. The crevice in the ocean floor was fathomless. _____

Your sentence: _____

5. The walls of the undersea cave were phosphorescent. _____

Your sentence: _____

6. The fisherman's face was ruddy from working in the sun and wind all day.

Your sentence: _____

7. The fragrant odor of fresh-brewed coffee and hot bacon and eggs drifted up the stairs. _____

Your sentence: _____

8. The black lacquered furniture was brand new. _____

Your sentence: _____

The Big Wave Study Guide

9. All the children made haste up the hill to meet their friends.

Your sentence: _____

10. The farmer gathered armfuls of oats and bound them into sheaves.

Your sentence: _____

11. The young man began to reap the raspberries and place them in his bucket.

Your sentence: _____

12. The young boy waited anxiously in the waiting room for his dentist appointment. _____

Your sentence: _____

Questions:

1. *Looking at the setting:* Where is the fishing village located? Describe the area near the village.

The Big Wave Study Guide

2. Why do the village houses have no windows toward the sea?

3. Who is Jiya?

4. What do Kino and Jiya do on hot, sunny days?

5. What lives on the island?

6. Who lives in the castle?

7. Explain how Kino's family takes a vacation each autumn.

The Big Wave Study Guide

8. Occasionally, Kino got to go fishing with Jiya and Jiya's father. How does Kino describe the experience?

A *simile* is a figure of speech used to describe something through comparison. A simile uses words such as *like* or *as* to indicate that a comparison is taking place. (For example: The carpet was green *like* moss.) Which part of Kino's description is a simile?

Thinking About the Story:

9. Kino would like to stay overnight on the island, but Jiya is never willing. Why?
10. *Personification* is a figure of speech in which an author attributes human qualities to an object, an animal, or an idea; in other words, the author makes something act like a person. Examine Jiya's description of the "old ocean god" and Jiya's idea of why the sea moves and storms. How does Jiya personify the ocean?
11. When they swim back from the island, Jiya's father is waiting. What about this makes Kino wonder?

The Big Wave Study Guide

Fact or Opinion:

12. A *fact* is a true statement about something. It can be proven and is not based on personal feelings. For example, “My bike is red,” is a fact—it can be proven whether it is red. An *opinion* cannot be proven; it merely states what a person feels or thinks about something or someone. “My bike is best” is an opinion because it cannot be proved. It can be proved that it is bigger, faster, or newer, but not that it is best. One person may think the bike is best, but another may think it is not best.

Below are a number of passages containing thoughts or statements made by characters in the story. For each passage, write an O in the blank if the underlined portion is an opinion or an F if it is a fact.

- a. Sometimes he felt the climb was a hard one, especially when he had been working in the lowest field and he wanted his supper. _____
- b. “The sea is our enemy,” Jiya replied. _____
- c. Sometimes in the evening he came through the castle gate and stood looking out to sea. _____
- d. The island was full of sacred deer. _____
- e. “We must learn to live with danger,” he now said to Kino. _____
- f. In the winter he went to a school in the fishing village, and he and Jiya shared a seat. _____
- g. It was an exciting thing to get up in the night and dress himself in his warm padded jacket tied around his waist. _____
- h. Then she packed his lunch in a clean little wooden box, cold rice and fish and a bit of radish pickle. _____
- i. Fish harvest was much easier than rice harvest. _____
- j. It is stupid to plow and plant and cut the sheaves, when I could just come out like this and reap fish from the sea. _____

The Big Wave Study Guide

Compare and Contrast:

13. To *compare* is to show how two things are alike. To *contrast* is to show how two things are different. Compare or contrast the supper manners and customs of Kino's family to the table habits and customs of your own family.

Write down some of the characteristics of Kino's family's supper customs in the left column. Write down the comparable or contrasting characteristics of your family in the right column. One has already been done for you.

Kino's family's supper customs

Your family's supper customs

a. sit on floor

 sit on chairs

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

Dig Deeper:

14. Kino asks his father, "Must we always be afraid of something?" How does his father answer him?

The Big Wave Study Guide

15. Read Psalm 23, John 14:1–6, and Romans 8:38–39. What do these verses tell us? Why, then, as Christians, should we not fear death?

16. Both Jiya and his father watch the sea anxiously. What does it mean to be anxious? Read Matthew 6:25–34. What do these verses teach us? How would these verses help you or someone else to enjoy life?

Optional Activities:

1. Weave, sew, knit, or crochet a small bag to carry pebbles and special things in like Jiya and Kino did.

2. Keep a goldfish or a beta fish as a pet. Your local pet store will have many small bowls and rocks and fish to choose from. Remember to have your parents' permission and to care for your pet daily.

3. As a science project, figure out why the fish in the cave glittered. To start, look up and research phosphorescence, luminescence, and bioluminescence.

The Big Wave Study Guide

people climbing the path up the mountain to safety. Jiya loses his entire family.

7. His father tells him they will not talk, they will give Jiya warm food and rest, they will help him feel he still has a home. They will also tell him that he is the second son the father always wanted.

8. Jiya feels asleep inside and very, very tired. He is unable to think.

Thinking About the Story:

9. Fear makes a man weak. Your hands tremble, your feet falter, and your brain cannot tell hands and feet what to do. Opinions will vary.

10. The fathers hoped the wave wouldn't come and that they could save their boats and their livelihood. The family stayed with the fathers because they did not want to be separated.

11. 1) Crying all the time—grief, 2) Crying part of the time, 3) Sitting sad and quiet, 4) Becoming hungry again, 5) Crying only at night, 6) Thinking again, 7) Accepting their death, 8) Weeping no more.

12. Answers may vary, but may mention letting Jiya cry, not making him speak, doing their own work, and living as they always do.

13. a. P, b. S, c. I, d. S, e. P or I, f. I, g. I or S, h. P, i. P, j. P, k. P.

Dig Deeper:

14. What they believe: The gods leave man to take care of himself. They test us to see how able we are to save ourselves. What the Bible teaches: The Bible teaches us that the Lord is always with us, nothing can separate us from the love of God and Jesus, we may be tested by circumstances so our faith may grow, but God never tempts us to do wrong or sin. Every good gift is from God.

15. Answers will vary. Kino's father seems to be very wise about how to help Jiya. He does not try to make Jiya act like he is happy when he is not—he is tender and loving toward Jiya. He lets Jiya heal in his heart and his mind and gives him the love of his family.

16. Personal answers will vary.

Section Three

Vocabulary:

1. tenderly: considerately, protectively, gently, lovingly; 2. sturdily: resolutely, firmly, vigorously or robustly; 3. persuade: convincing someone to do something or think a certain way by arguing or reasoning with them; 4. stern: hard or severe in manner or character; appearing grim, gloomy, or forbidding; firm or unyielding; 5. delicate: very fine or dainty, frail, easily broken or damaged; 6. scholar: a learned person, a specialist in knowledge

Questions:

1. His father tells him that life is stronger than death.

2. The Old Gentleman comes to visit. Uchiyama is Kino's father.

3. Old Gentleman wants to make Jiya his own son, to adopt him.

4. His father tells him to not be so selfish and to allow Jiya to make his own choice about where to live.

5. Kino believes that Jiya will choose to go away.

6. Kino's father tells Jiya that he did not cry before now because he was not fully alive, but today he is beginning to live again. It is now good to let the tears flow.

7. He tells Jiya to see the inside of the castle and all Old Gentleman has to offer before Jiya decides.

8. Setsu comforts him by hugging him and he gets comfort from seeing her happy face.

Think About the Story:

9. Answers will vary.

10. Answers will vary, but should mention the money and opportunities that Jiya would have. He could attend a fine school and have fine clothes. It would be for his "own good." Personal answers will vary.

11. Answers may vary, but should mention some of the following: love, family, the friendship of Kino and Setsu, a brother, sister, and mother.

12. Answers may vary, but may mention that Setsu is joyful, fun, loving, and always sees the good in things. She is full of energy.

Dig Deeper:

13. Answers will vary.