

BOOK TITLE: *The Big Wave*

AUTHOR: Pearl S. BUCK

POINT OF VIEW: 3rd person

SETTING:

Historical Period

Probably early
1900's

Day/Month/Year:

Covers several
years

Place:

Coastal Japan,
beach and
mountain

Weather:

Varies

Mood:

Alternates
between peaceful
and ominous

Other:

The sea, which
seems a living
creature
A volcano

CHARACTERS:

Protagonist: Jiya, a
Japanese boy whose
family lives on the beach
in Japan. Jiya's family
are fishermen. He is
afraid of the sea.

Antagonist: The sea

Others:

Kino, Jiya's best friend.
He lives on a mountain
farm overlooking the
beach. The story is told
from his perspective.

Kino's family: Father,
mother and sister Setsu

The Old Gentleman, a
rich old man who lives in
a palace.

Plot Stage 3

Climax: One day Jiya and Kino see people building on the beach. They go down to look. People are rebuilding their homes! Old Gentleman is angry because it is not safe. He insists that the building must stop but Jiya says, "This is our home!" He has become a man.

Plot Stage 2

Conflict, Rising Action: The Conflict is introduced when a tsunami, "big wave" destroys the beachside village, and Jiya's family is killed. **Will Jiya ever again have a home and family of his own?** The Rising Action begins when Jiya escapes to Kino's house. He is grief-stricken. Kino's family cares for him. The rich Old Gentleman wants to adopt Jiya as his son; Jiya decides to stay with Kino's family. He grows up and becomes very wise and kind.

Plot Stage 4

Denouement: Jiya works and saves his money to buy a boat so he can start fishing. He asks Setsu to marry him, and she says yes.

Plot Stage 5

Conclusion: Jiya and Setsu build their house on the beach, with the windows facing the sea. Jiya has a home and family, and he has overcome his fear.

Plot Stage 1

Exposition: Kino, a farmer's son, lives on a mountain overlooking the beach in Japan. His best friend, Jiya, lives with his family on the beach in a house with no windows facing the sea because they are afraid. They are fishermen but they consider the sea their enemy because the sea can get angry.



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THEMES

Family relationships
Courage
Enduring loss
Growing up/Coming of age

CONFLICT

Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Himself

Will Jiya ever have a home and family?