

Grapes of Wrath
AP Literature and Composition
Mrs. Anderson

Directions: Use these questions to help guide your understanding of the literature. These do not need to be responded to in complete sentences. These will be part of our book discussion for the first few weeks of the semester.

Chapters 1 - 10

Ch 1

- 1- What types of English are the most difficult to read, why?
- 2- Do people inherently want to be good? Why or why not?

Ch 3

- 3- Why does Steinbeck choose a turtle? Is there an animal that would be more apt to use?

Ch 4

- 4- Why can't Casy be a preacher any more?
- 5- How does cotton contrast corn as a crop?
- 6- Why does Steinbeck compare Tom Joad to the Prodigal son?

Ch 5

- 7- Who do the landowners blame, why? How do they personify the bank/company?
- 8- Why do the sharecroppers say that they cannot leave the land?
- 9- What makes the operators robotic?
- 10- Who is the only person that can stop the tractor operator from taking land from people he knows, why?

Ch 6

11- What is the parallel between Muley and the cats?

12- Why does Muley refuse to leave Sallisaw?

13- Why can't Muley accept Willy Feely?

Ch 8

14- Why does Uncle John feel so much guilt?

15- Why does Ma want to know if Tom is "mad"?

16- Explain Granma, Granpa, and their relationship.

17- What does it mean that Granpa has McCoy blood? How does that affect his outlook on life?

18- What causes Al to act the way he does?

Ch 9

19- How do the men feel about selling their possessions for such cheap prices? What does it do to them as men?

20- Why do the people that have been "tractored off" burn their memories?

Ch 10

21- Why would people print han'bills if there was no work?

22- Explain the line of Joad women from old to young:

23- Why can't Tom leave Oklahoma? What are the repercussions to him leaving the state?

24- Why is Granpa only a figurehead in the Joad Family? What symbolic value does he have as a character?

25- How does Ma dominate the male conversation? How does Pa take her interjection?

26- Why is all work equal according to Casy?
Chapters 11 – 20

Ch 13

27- How do the businessmen cover their ritual thievery?

28- How is the service station owner hit by corporate America? Does he feel the crushing blow as much as the migrant workers, why or why not?

29- What does Tom's asking if he can camp next to the Wilson's say about his social knowledge?

30- How can Tom's spelling be used as an indication of his socioeconomic status?

31- How is the Psalm selected for Granpa's funeral appropriate for his burial?

32- How does both men having a han'bill in chapter 13 foreshadow trouble?

Ch 14

33- How do the causes Steinbeck speaks about in chp 14 relate to the migrants?

Ch 15

34- How do the men and women in the diner contrast the Okies?

Ch 16

35- Why does Ma have to fight weariness on the journey west?

36- Why is it important that Ma makes the decisions? How does this change the family hierarchy?

37- What Biblical allusion is found in this chapter? What purpose does it serve?

38-How does Tom's use of urine and sand as a first aid tool prove his ties to the land?

39- What is Casy foreshadowing in this chapter, why is it important to the story?

40- How does the Psalm given at Granpa's funeral now apply to Granma as she is sick on the road?

41- How does money divide the society? What is the difference between an Okay guy and a vagrant? How does this parallel Granpa's burial?

Ch 17

42- How does the entire mentality of the migrants change in chapter 17?

43- How does the relation between children differ from that of adults?

Ch 18

44- Why do people hate the Okies?

45- Why do the Joad's carry on west despite the warnings from others?

46- Why is Ma's family theory taken for a cold heart?

47- Why is Ma overwhelmed at this point in the novel??

48- How do the California residents view the Okies, why?

49- Why do the people of California fear foreign food?

Ch 19

50- How has the mechanization of agriculture changed the type of person that farms the land?

51- Why does Steinbeck particularly compare the migrants to ants?

52- Why is it impossible to scare the Okies with fat deputies?

53- How do the Okies use setbacks, particularly death, to come together as a group of people?

54- What do the last three lines in chapter 19 mean? What does this spell for the people of California?

Ch 20

55- What do the authorities fear most in the Hooverville's?

56- Why do the people in authority fear those under their control becoming organized?

57- Why does Uncle John refuse to eat in Chp 20? What relation does this have to the constant guilt he feels?

58- Why does the contractor bring a deputy to the Hooverville?

59- Why does the deputy keep referring to the Okies as "reds"? How does this intensify his threat?

60- What does it say about male/female relations that Ma would bless Connie if he smacked Rose of Sharon?

61- Why is Tom mad and why does Ma fear his regression?

62- Why does Ma feel that the Okies will prevail at the end of chapter 20?
Ch 21

63- What did the California residents do to defend against the Okies?

Ch 22

64- Why did Mr. Thomas drop the rates for the men that were laying gas pipe? How

does he feel about dropping the rates? Is his feeling about dropping the rates the general feelings of the bosses in California, why or why not?

65- Why does the Farm association want to break up the Weedpatch Camp?

66- Why is Pa defensive about Jim Rawley talking to Ma and showing interest in the family?

67- When does Ma decide it is a good time to bring out the earrings? Why does she wait until this time?

68- What does it say about Weedpatch that it has a women's committee?

69- What does Ma and Pa Joad's knowledge of the migration pattern of birds say about them? Why is it important that they see the birds and are able to have the conversation about the migration at this point in the story?

Ch 25

70- What is Pellagra? Why is it such a common occurrence among the migrant workers?

Ch 26

71- Why is it ironic that Uncle John would mention cotton as a cash crop?

72- Is Ma's motivation strategy in chapter 26 plausible with an Oklahoma man?

Why or why not? Is it still plausible in today's society, why or why not?

73- How does Tom completely understand and personify the group man theory?

Does he have a good personal nature, why or why not?

74- What does it say, in a symbolic manner, that Ma gives Rose of Sharon the golden earrings?

75- How does Tom's interaction with the Weedpatch watchman in ch 26 prove that he has become hardened again to take on the world?

76- What does Ma's defense of Purty Boy in this chapter say about her? How does it help explain her feelings for Tom?

77- Why is Tom nervous about seeing "his people" outside of the peach ranch?

78- How is the storekeeper that works on the Hooper's Peach Ranch similar to Willy Feely? Why does this cause tension in society?

79- Understanding Casy's situation in chapter 26, explain why The Grapes of Wrath helped for agricultural labor unions.

80- In detail, describe the working climate in the peach orchard. How does this contrast the nature of the Weedpatch Gov't Camp?

81- Why is Pa concerned that everyone is, "getting' mean"?

Ch 27

82- Compare Ruthie and Winfield getting Cracker Jack to the migrant children featured in Chapter 15.

83- How do Casy's words reiterated in this chapter by Tom solidify his foundation in the Group Man theory?

84- What is the difference between the way Ma and Pa think in this chapter?

Ch 29

85- Though things have changed the women in the novel generally still look to the men for strength. What do women now look to find in their male counterparts?

Ch 30

86- How does Uncle John use Rose of Sharon's labor screams as a sort of motivation, why is this the case?