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Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

The Grapes of Wrath

by John Steinbeck

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The Grapes of Wrath

To The Teacher

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

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Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Date_____

[illegible]

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 1

1. The author describes the cumulative effects of the drought on the land and especially the corn crop – all made worse by a prolonged windy spell that's temporarily let up. "The people, lying in their beds, heard the wind stop. They lay quietly and listened deep into the stillness." This merciless, extreme weather sets the menacing tone of the story. Has threatening weather or another adverse event ever frightened you? Write a short poem describing your feelings and what caused them.
2. "After a while the faces of the watching men lost their bemused perplexity and became hard and angry and resistant. Then the women knew they were safe and that there was no break....The women knew it was all right, and the watching children knew it was all right. Women and children knew deep in themselves that no misfortune was too great to bear if their men were whole." Is there anyone in your life who gives you a strong sense of security? If so, write a letter to that person explain how you feel about the role he or she plays in your life.

Chapter 2

3. A truck driver picks up Tom Joad and correctly suspects that his hitchhiking passenger is a released convict. “That big old nose of yours been stickin’ out eight miles ahead of your face. You had that big nose goin’ over me like a sheep in a vegetable patch.” Have you had the experience of someone trying to ferret information out of you that you’d prefer to keep to yourself. Describe the incident and how you felt about it in a paragraph or two.
4. Do you know anyone who’s ever been in jail? How do you think it might feel to be a former convict? How might others – family, friends, and casual acquaintances – react to you? Write a paragraph or two about your thoughts.

Chapter 3

5. In his description of the turtle’s struggle to cross the highway, the author makes the creature seem almost human. List some other instances in literature of such animal personification and tell why they did or didn’t appeal to you.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 4

6. The Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung put forth the theory of a “collective unconscious.” When the preacher Casy tells Tom, “ ‘Maybe all men got one big soul ever’body’s a part of.’ Now I sat there thinkin’ it, an’ all of a sudden – I knew it. I knew it so deep down that it was true, and I still know it.” Do a little research on Jung’s hypothesis in the library or on the Internet and write a brief essay about your opinion on the beliefs expressed by Jung and those in Casy’s speech.

7. Tom Joad received a seven-year sentence for manslaughter in self-defense. Do you think his sentence was justified? Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper where you’ve read a story about the trial and the sentence. Tell him or her why you agree or disagree with the sentence Tom was given. Include whether you think he deserved parole after serving only four years of his sentence.

Chapter 5

8. “The bank is something else than men. It happens that every man in a bank hates what the bank does, and yet the bank does it. The bank is something more than men, I tell you. It’s the monster. Men made it, but they can’t control it.” Sometimes the institutions people create can also destroy them. Charitable institutions can sometimes be heartless; institutions of learning can also stifle creativity. Do you know of any such institution firsthand? If so, write an E-mail to a friend describing the institution and how you have experienced its destructive forces, as well as how you think it might be changed for the better. If not, write an E-mail explaining your feelings about banks in general.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 6

9. Tom returns to find his family home abandoned. Have you ever undergone a sudden loss that left you disoriented? In a letter to a friend, describe the experience and how it made you feel.
10. Muley describes his wanderings over his and his neighbor's properties, recalling the significant events that occurred there. He tells Tom and Casy, "Place where folks live is them folks." Almost everyone has a place that is special that feels like a part of home or safety or security. Write a paragraph or two describing your special place and why it is important.
11. Tom tells Casy and Muley about a fellow prisoner who was secretary to the warden and read all the time. He talked with the man about prisons and his attempt to make sense of his experience there. "An' he says it don't do no good to read books. Says he's read ever'thing about prisons now, an' in the old times; an' he says she makes less sense to him now than she did before he starts readin'. He says it's a thing that started way to hell an' gone back, an' nobody got sense enough to change her." Do some research about current movements for prison reform and write an op-ed column for your local newspaper, describing the changes that you think ought to be made in today's prison system. Explain why reading can bring real value to your life, despite what the prisoner says.

Chapter 7

12. The used car dealer tells a prospect, "Now look here, mister, I ain't got all day. I'm a business man but I ain't out to stick nobody" – but his actions reveal the truth behind his words. Since ancient Rome, a business motto has been, "Let the buyer beware." Do you think it's fair or ethical for a business to take advantage of customers? Do you think it's proper for government to take a role in the regulation of businesses to protect consumers? Pretend you are a customer at this used car lot. Write a letter to your state representative describing how the Joads were treated and what should be done about unscrupulous salespeople.

Chapter 8

13. Imagine that the Joads are a family that you've never met before, and your parents are sending you to visit them for the summer to give them a hand on their impoverished farm. Write a letter home to your parents, describing the Joads' home, their dress and the way they live, talk and act. Compare it to your own home experience.
14. The author writes about Ma Joad that "since old Tom and the children could not know hurt or fear unless she acknowledged hurt and fear, she had practiced denying them in herself. And since, when a joyful thing happened, they looked to see whether joy was on her, it was her habit to build up laughter out of inadequate materials." Tom's mother was raised in a culture that established emotional restraint as an ideal, unlike our contemporary culture, which values fuller emotional expression. Imagine you are a therapist that Ma Joad has approached for help in expressing her emotions. Write a dialogue or a monologue in which she talks about her feelings when she saw Tom again. It might begin:

Ma Joad: When Tom walked in the door, I was almost overcome with emotion, but...
15. When Casy asks Tom if his family had written to him in jail, he replies, "No. Like I said, they wasn't people to write. Pa could write, but he wouldn'. Didn't like to. It give him the shivers to write...he wouldn' write no letters just for ducks." Later, Tom's father tells him, "Tommy, we are goin' to California. But we was gonna write you a letter an' tell you." Write the letter to Tom that his father never wrote. Explain what's happened to the farm and the family and the decision that was made to go to California.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 9

16. The sharecroppers forced off their land suffered a second trauma of having to sell most of their possessions to raise the money needed to go west in search of a better life. Have you ever had to part with a treasured possession? Write about the object and how its loss made you feel. If this never happened to you, try to imagine losing one of the things you value most and write about it from that perspective.

17. The sharecroppers had to sell their belongings for only a small fraction of what they were once worth. What is your opinion of the people who profited from their misfortune? Were they justified in taking advantage of these unfortunate people? Write a letter to one of these buyers and tell him what you think of his actions.

Chapter 10

18. After the truck has gone to town to sell the family's belongings, Ma confides to Tom her misgivings about the undertaking. "An' it'd be nice under the trees, workin' in the shade. I'm scared of stuff so nice. I ain't got faith. I'm scared somepin ain't so nice about it." Tom tries to reassure her about the family's decision. Have you ever been in Tom's position with a family member or a friend who has doubts about a decision? Write a note to the person and offer your own words of encouragement.
19. When the preacher's request to go west with the Joads is brought up in the family council, Pa wonders if there's room for him or if they can feed him. Ma responds, "It ain't kin we? It's will we?... As far as 'kin,' we can't do nothin', not go to California or nothin'; but as far as 'will,' why, we'll do what we will. An' as far as 'will' – it's a long time our folks been here and east before, an' I never heerd tell of no Joads or no Hazletts, neither, ever refusin' food an' shelter or a lift on the road to anybody that asked." Do you know anyone with a similarly generous instinct? How have you experienced it? Write a brief character essay describing the person and how you have experienced his or her generosity.
20. When the decision is made to take Casy with the family, Tom relays the decision to him. Casy "knew the government of families, and he knew he had been taken into the family." Explain what Steinbeck means in the quote by "the government of families" to a classmate who just can't figure it out.
21. The family is undecided about when to leave, when Tom suggests everyone can be ready to leave by morning. The idea catches on quickly, and preparations begin. If you were part of the family discussion, would you have been in favor of leaving right away or waiting and preparing in a more orderly fashion? List the arguments different family members make for going right away or delaying, then add your views.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 11

22. The author describes the large-scale mechanization of the farms that has forced families to abandon their homes. The decline of family farms is still a subject of controversy today. Research this decline, from today's perspective, and write a newspaper editorial detailing your position for or against the process.
23. The Luddites were nineteenth-century English opponents of technology in use during the Industrial Revolution. Research their history and beliefs in the library or on the Internet, and in a brief essay compare and contrast their views with Steinbeck's romantic and mystical attitude toward non-mechanized farming. What do you think are examples of Ludditism in today's society?

Chapter 12

24. "The whole United States ain't that big. It ain't that big. It ain't big enough. There ain't room enough for you an' me, for your kind an' my kind, for rich and poor together all in one country, for thieves and honest men. For hunger and fat. Whyn't you go back where you come from?" The unnamed speaker is complaining about all the people from other states coming into his state. The rate of immigration today – legal and illegal – is a concern in many quarters. There has been much political discussion statistics on the level of illegal and legal immigration into the U.S. Write a letter to the editor of your school paper stating your position on this controversy. Make sure to back up your opinion with some facts if you can find them.

Chapter 13

25. The travelers stop for refueling at a dilapidated roadside gas station whose owner keeps wondering what is happening to the country because all the migrants passing through each day. The country is in the grip of a transformation too large for him to comprehend. What are the significant issues that the U.S. needs to confront today? Interview several older relatives or acquaintances and find out what they see as the major social issues today. Then describe their responses in a short essay with your own thoughts on the matter.
26. Rose of Sharon “was all secrets now that she was pregnant, secrets and little silences that seemed to have meanings... Connie was pleased with her too, and filled with wonder that she was pregnant. He liked to think he was in on the secrets she had.” Write an entry for Rose of Sharon’s diary where she talks about her “secrets” and her sharing them with Connie.
27. When the family encounters a couple from Kansas, the first thing Ivy notices is the differences in speech. “Ever’body says words different. ...Arkansas folks says ’em different, and Oklahomy folks says ’em different. And we seen a lady from Massachusetts, an’ she said ’em differentest of all. Couldn’ hardly make out what she was sayin’.” Write a journal entry about any experience you may have had with the dialect speech of someone from a different area of the country.
28. Write a letter from Ma to a friend back home describing Grampa’s death and burial and the reactions of family members to the event.
29. Sairy Wilson tells Ma Joad, “People needs – to help.” Later on, Ma reminds her, “You said yourself, you can’t let help go unwanted.” Write a paragraph or two about an experience you’ve had where you made an offer of help. How did it make you feel?

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 14

30. Steinbeck writes, “And this you can know – fear the time when Manself will not suffer and die for a concept, for this one quality is the foundation of Manself, and this one quality is man, distinctive in the universe.” Do you agree with the author’s statement of what makes man unique? Write a letter to the author explaining why you agree or disagree with his statement.

Chapter 15

31. The author consistently paints a negative picture of businessmen who reassure themselves that “business is noble and not the curious ritualized thievery they know it is; that business men are intelligent in spite of the records of their stupidity; that they are kind and charitable in spite of the principles of sound business; that their lives are rich instead of the thin tiresome routines they know...” Do you think Steinbeck’s indictment is a fair one today, or have things changed significantly for the better in the intervening years? Imagine what Steinbeck might think about the subject now and write a newspaper op-ed column in his voice expressing what you think his opinion might be.
32. After Mae sells the two nickel peppermint sticks for a penny, the two truck drivers respond to her generous gesture with generosity of their own. Write a brief dialogue between the two as they drive away from the roadside diner. You might begin:

Big Bill: Whad you go leavin’ a fifty cent piece for?

Chapter 16

33. The Joad family structure was a strongly traditional patriarchal one, with the men of the family firmly in charge, and the women in a subservient role. Ma Joad's revolt against the family decision to split up, with one group going on ahead, was a dramatic break with tradition. Write a letter to Ma expressing your opinion about her actions and the family structure.
34. From his time in prison, Tom became accustomed to not looking too far ahead. "I ruther jus' – lay one foot down in front a the other." From the viewpoint of Casy, try to explain to Tom why he needs to start planning for the future.
35. When Al presses Tom about his experience in prison, Tom tells him, "I got a kind a funny idear the bes' thing'd be if I forget about it for a while. Maybe in a little while it won't be that way. Right now when I think about it my guts gets all droopy an' nasty feelin'." Imagine you're Tom and write a letter to an advice columnist detailing your troublesome prison memories. Then write the columnist's advice to Tom about coping with his feelings.
36. Tom has little sympathy for the one-eyed attendant at the auto junkyard and gives him a dose of straight talk. Pretend you are the attendant talking about the encounter with a friend. Describe what Tom said, how you reacted, and what you think you should do after listening to him.
37. The ragged, dirty man in the campground tells a disturbing story about his disastrous time in California. Later on, Pa, Tom, and Casy discuss whether or not he was telling the truth, and Tom wonders, "Is that the truth for us?" Later that evening, Tom calls you on the phone to tell you what happened and asks what you think they should do to avoid the horrors described by the ragged men. Describe your response to Tom in a paragraph or two.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 17

38. As migrant families moved west, a code of behavior developed for life on the road, a code which new families learned as they joined the trek. Have you had a similar experience in which you had to learn the unwritten codes that governed behavior – perhaps on entering a new school or joining a sports team? Think back on that experience and write an E-mail with the advice that you would now give to a friend setting out on the same path.
39. “As the cars moved westward, each member of the family grew into his proper place, grew into his duties; so that each member, old and young, had his place in the car; so that in the weary, hot evenings, when the cars pulled into the camping places, each member had his duty and went to it without instruction...” Does your family have a pattern of activities for its members? List your family members and describe beside each what his or her family duties are.

Chapter 18

40. The Panhandle father heading back to Texas asks if the Joads have been called “Okie” yet. “Okie means you’re scum. Don’t mean nothing itself, it’s the way they say it.” Can you recall if you’ve experienced name-calling directed at yourself or someone else? Describe the incident and explain what you think motivated it and how it made the recipients of the name-calling feel. If this has never happened to you or if you’ve never experienced it, write a short essay for a newspaper about the power that words have to cause pain and to cause joy.
41. The Joads are amazed to hear that someone in California owns a million acres of land. Casy tells them, “If he needs a million acres to make him feel rich, seems to me he needs it ’cause he feels awful poor inside hisself, and if he’s poor in hisself, there ain’t no million acres gonna make him feel rich, an’ maybe he’s disappointed that nothin’ he can do’ll make him feel rich...” Do you think it’s right for someone to have far more than he or she will ever need? In our time, there have been various movements with distinct attitudes toward the accumulation of wealth – Capitalism, Communism, and Socialism. Take these three beliefs and make an argument for the one that you think is the most effective in creating a just and equitable society.
42. Tom watched as Noah walked away from the family and down the river. If you had been there, would you have tried to persuade Noah to stay with the family? What would you have said to try and convince him not to go off on his own?

The Grapes of Wrath

43. Sairy, who is dying, asks Casy, a former preacher, for a prayer, but he tells her, "I got no God." She replies, "You got a God. Don't make no difference if you don' know what he looks like." Casy doesn't know what she means. Write a note to him explaining what Sairy is trying to tell him.
44. The family are all astounded in the morning after crossing the desert to learn that Granma has died, and that Ma Joad had stayed with her corpse through the night so that they could get safely to California. "Casy said in wonder, 'All night long, an' she was alone. ...there's a woman so great with love – she scares me.'" As an/ex-neighbor back home who's heard the story of Granma's death, write a note of condolence to Ma expressing your thoughts about her actions and what it meant to the family.

Chapter 19

45. “Three hundred thousand, hungry and miserable; if they ever know themselves, the land will be theirs and all the gas, all the rifles in the world won’t stop them. And the great owners, who had become through their holdings both more and less than men, ran to their destruction, and used every means that in the long run would destroy them.” In his novel, Steinbeck, writing in the late 1930s, seemed to think that the United States was ripe for revolution – a revolution that never came. Research and make a list of some of the steps the government took to alleviate national distress at the time. What institutions were set up to help?

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 20

46. Connie and Rose of Sharon discuss the need to get situated now that they've arrived in California and must prepare for the baby. "When he looked down at her he saw in her eyes a measuring of him, a calculation of him." After Connie leaves, she stares at the tent roof, then begins to cry. As Rose of Sharon, write an entry in your diary with your hopes and fears about Connie and your relationship with him.
47. You're a reporter for the local newspaper and get the assignment to cover the fracas at the Hooverville outside town where a deputy sheriff has been assaulted and a woman shot. Write up the news story that you would file for the paper. As you write your story, remember the fundamentals of a news story: where, what, when, and how. Be sure to make you lead, opening, paragraph interesting enough that your readers are immediately pulled into the story.
48. To protect Tom and the family, Casy volunteers to take the blame for the assault on the deputy. Al tells him, "I think you're a damn fool..." What do you think of Casy's actions? What might you have you done? Write a note to Casy in jail and tell him what you think of the decision he made.
49. Connie abandons his pregnant wife and leaves the camp. Pretend you are Connie's best friend back home and are replying to his letter to you in which he explains what he's done and why. Write a letter telling him what you think of his actions and what he should do now.

Chapter 21

50. The 1930s saw a migration of people from one part of the country to another, searching for work and food. In more recent years, the nation has experienced another migration: people entering the country from Central America and Mexico. Put yourself in the position of someone ready to cross into the U.S. illegally. Make a list of reasons why you want to leave your home and relocate in a foreign country. Put the reasons in order, from most to least important.

Chapter 22

51. Imagine that you are a staffer for a congressional committee investigating the way the migrant workers are being treated. You've been sent to the West and have gathered information for the committee. Write a one-page report for the committee chairman based on your findings and suggest some follow-up to what you have discovered.
52. When Ruthie bullies her way onto the croquet court, the supervisor encourages the other children to step aside until Ruthie flees the court in tears because they won't play with her. Imagine that you are the supervisor. What explanation would you give Ruthie when she returns to help her understand what happened?

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 23

53. For entertainment the migrants gathered in the evenings to listen to the storytellers – some of them quite gifted. Make a list of at least ten of your favorite types of entertainment. Pick one from the list and explain, in a few paragraphs, why that one is your favorite.
54. The migrants on the road took refuge from their cares in simple pleasures – storytelling, playing musical instruments, dancing, singing, and drinking. Write a brief essay contrasting how people enjoyed their time together in the past and how people enjoy leisure time today. You may want to consult with some older family members for their recollections.

Chapter 24

55. The Entertainment Committee surrounds the three young troublemakers and escorts them off the dance floor before they can start a fight. Ezra Huston, the Central Committee chairman, says they're "our kinda folks." Pretend you are one of the three men. Write a letter home explaining what you did and why you did it, as well as what you might have learned from the experience.

Chapter 25

56. The small farmers are unable to sell their produce for enough to justify harvesting it, so the produce is left to rot. "There is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation. There is a sorrow here that weeping cannot symbolize. There is a failure here that topples all our success. ...in the eyes of the people there is the failure; and in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage." The author is alluding to Julia Ward Howe's well-known song "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." What is the connection he is trying to make? You can probably read the words to the song online. Describe in a brief essay what you think the connection is and whether it is appropriate or not.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 26

57. When Ma Joad makes the decision to move on in the morning, Pa bristles at her taking authority. Ma tells Tom, “Take a man, he can get worried an’ worried, an’ it eats out his liver, an’ purty soon he’ll just lay down and die with his heart et out. But if you can take an’ make ’im mad, why, he’ll be awright. Pa, he didn’ say nothin’, but he’s mad now. He’ll show me now. He’s awright.” Throughout the novel, Ma shows great insight into the thoughts of others, both within and outside the family. Do you think this is a natural gift or something she has learned? Is it a gift that you possess or something that you think you can learn? Write a few paragraphs detailing your thoughts on woman’s intuition, Ma’s understanding of others, or how men and women approach problems differently.
58. Tom tells Ma he’s getting tired and suggests she get him mad. She replies, “You got more sense, Tom. I don’ need to make you mad. I got to lean on you. ...Ever’thing you do is more’n you. When they sent you up to prison I knowed it. You’re spoke for.” Tom is the responsible family member that others can lean on. Families with multiple siblings, usually have one that is the more mature family member. Out of all your friends or relatives, who, would you consider the most responsible? Write a diary entry about that person – it can even be you– and describe why you see him or her in that role.

Response Journal

59. The store clerk uses his own dime, so that Ma can get some sugar. As she leaves, Ma tells him, "I'm learnin' one thing good....Learnin' it all a time, ever' day. If you're in trouble or hurt or need – go to poor people. They're the only ones that'll help – the only ones." You're the store clerk that waited on Ma. Write an entry in your journal about your encounter with her today and your reaction to her remark.
60. Casy tells Tom how the workers who had been hired to pick for five cents had gone out on strike when their wage was cut to two and half cents, not enough to live on. What would the right pay for the job the Joads have if they were alive today? Answer in one complete sentence. Then, compare that amount to the pay they'd get working at a fast food restaurant. Write a short editorial for a newspaper stating your opinion about how people earn a living in today's world.
61. Tom has already killed a man in self-defense, but when he kills George, it is different because his action is precipitated by Casy's murder. Write a diary entry for Tom describing what happened and detailing his feelings about what he has just done.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 27

62. Imagine that you are one of the field workers picking cotton. Write a description of your day's labor – what you did and how you felt about the work, as well as what you think your future prospects are.

Chapter 28

63. As the Joad family finds steady work picking cotton near Tulare, they have enough extra income to buy things other than absolute necessities. Uncle John considers buying a pair of canvas gloves he doesn't need and says, "Stuff settin' out there, you jus' feel like buyin' it whether you need it or not." Imagine you are a visitor from the future trying to explain to Uncle John what our contemporary consumer society is like. Write a page of dialogue. Remember you are talking with someone with a far different experience, who most likely would be surprised by consumerism. It might begin like this:

You: Uncle John, in today's world, I can go into a store and choose from among ten types of tissues or fifty different kinds of cereal.

Uncle John: But what d'ya...

Response Journal

64. In a fit of anger, Ruthie tells about Tom's killing two men. When Winfield runs home with the news, Ma muses, "Why, I wonder did she haf' to do it?" Have you every shared information about someone that you later regretted sharing? Write a note of explanation to the person describing what you did and why, perhaps with an apology as well.
65. Pa can't get over how things have changed in the family now that Ma's making almost all the decisions. She tells him, "An' that's one more thing a woman knows. I noticed that. Man, he lives in jerks – baby born an' a man dies, an' that's a jerk – gets a farm an' loses his farm, an' that's a jerk. Woman, it's all one flow, like a stream, little eddies, little waterfalls, but the river, it goes right on. Woman looks at it like that. We ain't gonna die out. People is goin' on – changin' a little, maybe, but goin' right on." Do you agree with Ma's differentiation of the sexes? How does it strike you compared with contemporary views? Write a note to her based on your own understanding.

The Grapes of Wrath

Chapter 29

66. Uncle John sets the stillborn baby afloat in the surging stream. “Go down an’ tell’ em. Go down in the street an’ rot an’ tell ’em that way...Maybe they’ll know then.” Who are “they” and what does Uncle John hope they will know? Write a paragraph or two explaining your conclusions.
67. “She looked up and across the barn, and her lips came together and smiled mysteriously.” How did you like the conclusion of the story? Were you surprised? disappointed? Write a letter to the author, telling him what you thought of the story’s end and what way, if any, you might have ended it differently.

Wrap - up

68. Almost all popular novels and movies today have a sequel. Imagine that you’ve been hired by a publisher to write a sequel to *The Grapes of Wrath*. Write a summary for the publisher of your sequel’s plot lines.
69. In 1940, *The Grapes of Wrath* was transformed into a great film. Imagine you’re the casting director for a remake of the movie. Who are the contemporary film stars you’d cast in the principal roles? Make a list of the principal characters in the novel, identify the cast you would assemble, and explain the reasons for your choices.
70. Steinbeck has his characters in *The Grapes of Wrath* speak in a stylized, earthy, ungrammatical language. Do you think they still achieve a kind of power and believable eloquence? Give your reasons why or why not.

TEST

1. The first and last chapters in this novel deal with what natural disasters?
 - A. a drought and an earthquake
 - B. a flood and an earthquake
 - C. a drought and a flood
 - D. a blizzard and a flood
 - E. a drought and a blizzard

2. In Chapter Two, the truck driver with whom Tom hitches a ride is surprised to hear that Tom's father
 - A. is not in jail.
 - B. is still alive.
 - C. has not been dusted off his land.
 - D. has not been tractored off his land.
 - E. Both C and D

3. A symbol for the persistence of the migrant families in the trek westward is
 - A. the turtle crossing the road in Chapter Three.
 - B. the family dog that travels two thousand miles to be reunited with the family.
 - C. the olive tree in the front yard in Chapter Four.
 - D. the story that Casy makes up while on the road.
 - E. Both B and D

The Grapes of Wrath

4. One of the reasons Casy gives up being a minister is
 - A. he cannot make a living at it.
 - B. he feels like a hypocrite because he preaches one thing, but he acts differently.
 - C. his wife leaves him for another man.
 - D. that people expect him to solve all their problems.
 - E. All the above

5. In regard to the human soul, both Casy and Tom arrive at the conclusion that
 - A. there is no soul, only body.
 - B. the soul is reincarnated in an ongoing evolution toward complete purification.
 - C. there are not individual souls, but one large soul in which everyone has a small part.
 - D. souls are saved or lost, not by faith, but by good works.
 - E. All the above

6. Steinbeck says banks
 - A. are the modern churches in which money is the god.
 - B. are monsters that need profits to feed on or they will die.
 - C. are the key to a stronger and better America for all people.
 - D. are the cause of all of America's problems.
 - E. Both A and B

7. When the Joads leave for California, who was invited but declined to go with them?
 - A. Noah
 - B. Jim Casy
 - C. Sairy Wilson
 - D. Muley Graves
 - E. Floyd Knowles

Response Journal

8. Uncle John feels a great deal of guilt because
 - A. in a drunken rage he killed someone.
 - B. as a young man, he gave up his only child.
 - C. he has cheated on his wife with other women.
 - D. he pushed many poor people from their farms.
 - E. his wife died when he refused to get a doctor for her.

 9. Which of the following people exploit, cheat, or take advantage of the migrants?
 - A. used car salesmen
 - B. large landowners
 - C. businessmen who overcharge for tires and other auto parts
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. All the above

 10. The fat man in the service station and the one-eyed man in the junkyard are examples of people who
 - A. cheat and exploit migrants.
 - B. will one day come together and fight the revolution.
 - C. talk a great deal but do not act.
 - D. sympathize with the migrants.
 - E. mean well but do evil.

 11. In effect, Jim Casy says that Grampa dies
 - A. because no one cares enough to save him.
 - B. the way he has lived,
 - C. so the children might live.
 - D. but his spirit will roam the earth.
 - E. because he is taken off the land.

 12. Connie goes off and leaves Rose of Sharon
 - A. to find a better life for himself.
 - B. because he is tired of her complaining.
 - C. without an explanation.
 - D. because he doesn't like her family.
-

The Grapes of Wrath

13. In this novel, the people who help the poor people are
- A. the middle-class businessmen.
 - B. churches and religious societies.
 - C. other poor people who have a little bit that they share.
 - D. the state and local governments.
 - E. All the above.
14. Whenever the migrants speak up for their rights to a fair wage, they are usually called
- A. “red troublemakers.”
 - B. “radical anarchists.”
 - C. “lazy, shiftless people.”
 - D. “drunken fools.”
 - E. Both C and D
15. Tom Joad was paroled from prison after only three years because of
- A. his acting in self-defense.
 - B. good behavior.
 - C. prison overcrowding.
 - D. his family leaving the state.
16. Tom is most impressed at the Weedpatch camp by
- A. the fact that the people run and police the camp themselves.
 - B. the fact that if a family did not have money for rent it could work to pay the rent.
 - C. the fact that there are showers and toilets with running water.
 - D. the fact that they hold Saturday night dances.
 - E. None of the above

Response Journal

17. The place and manner of Granma's death shows
- A. the inherent goodness in all people.
 - B. the comfort of religion in bad times.
 - C. the strength and determination of Ma.
 - D. the true spirit of Jim Casy.
 - E. the complete disregard the rich have for the poor.
18. In the government camps the rules were set and enforced by
- A. the Federal Government.
 - B. the migrant campers.
 - C. the local sheriff.
 - D. the camp manager.
19. Tom would have been arrested for assaulting a deputy, except someone else takes full responsibility for the incident. That person is
- A. the deputy, himself, who does not want his friends to know that an Okie beat him.
 - B. Uncle John, who claims that he was so drunk he did not realize what he was doing.
 - C. Ma, who claims that she hit the deputy with a pan, not on purpose but by accident.
 - D. Jim Casy, who feels he has to do something for the family.
 - E. Al, who claims he is too young for jail.
20. By the end of the novel, Ma
- A. has become the decision-maker in the family.
 - B. has changed her thinking about family coming first and everyone else being second.
 - C. comes to realize that Tom is not as innocent as she has always believed.
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. All the above

The Grapes of Wrath

Test
Student Answer Sheet

Name: _____

1. _____

11. _____

2. _____

12. _____

3. _____

13. _____

4. _____

14. _____

5. _____

15. _____

6. _____

16. _____

7. _____

17. _____

8. _____

18. _____

9. _____

19. _____

10. _____

20. _____

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The Grapes of Wrath

Test
Answer Key

1. __C__

11. __E__

2. __E__

12. __C__

3. __A__

13. __C__

4. __B__

14. __A__

5. __C__

15. __B__

6. __B__

16. __A__

7. __D__

17. __C__

8. __E__

18. __B__

9. __E__

19. __D__

10. __C__

20. __D__

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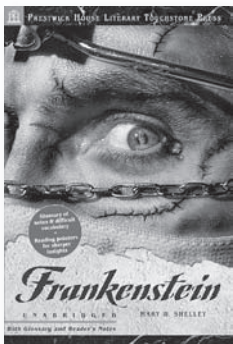
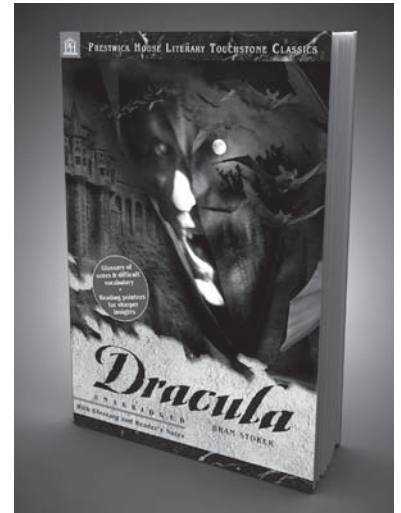
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