

John Steinbeck

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

This story describes the way of the cruel life in South America in the days, when the honest and well working tenant farmers are mass evicted from their lands because of the raising power of the big farmer companies.

Ex farmers, now all paupers, without a choice, decide to try to find a better life in California. They all get the handbills, offering good jobs and even better wages, so they all take their way to that far away land. The same is with the Joad family. When Tom Joad comes home from the prison, he finds ruins that used to be his home. He and a preacher Jim Casy meet an old neighbor Mr. Graves who tells them that Tom's family left everything behind and went to Uncle John's, that's why Tom and the preacher go after them.

Everyone is happy to see Tom after 4 years again, especially his ma. The family has already prepared a truck and next morning they depart. Everybody is on that truck with Tom; ma and pa, his brothers and sisters, Grandpa and Grandma and also the preacher. Slowly they start their long journey to their promised land. But they don't know or don't want to know that as there are thousands of km to California, are also hundred thousand of people doing the same as Joad family and looking for the same jobs. The first tragical incident happens even before they cross the state border; grandpa dies. From now on the things are getting only worse. When they cross California border Tom's younger brother decides to stay there and soon after that, grandma dies too. When family arrives to the first camps with workers, they discover there are too many people waiting for the same job. The people aren't nice to them. They drive to the government camp, where Tom first gets a job on a farm, but the rest of the family not so they leave this camp. Their next stop is peach pickers camp. They promise them good wages but the next day they halve them. There is also no luck in the cotton pickers camp. Tom's sister Rosesharn bears a dead child there and her husband leaves the family.

The end of the story doesn't describe what the destiny of the family is. Although what is sure is that they suffer a lot while they want to live better. They lose a lot of people on the way there but they live in belief in the Promised Land. I think it would be better for them to stay at Uncle John's place as their ex neighbor Mr. Graves.

Layer: an amount or piece of a material or substance that covers a surface or that is between two other things

Ex.: A thick layer of dust lay on the furniture.

Ex.: The surface of the earth had formed

Roadside: the edge of a road

Ex.: A lorry similar to theirs was parked by the roadside and on the site there was feverish activity.

Ex.: A great red truck stood in front of a little roadside diner

Waitress: a woman who serves food and drink at the tables in a restaurant

Ex.: she is waitress.

Ex.: Inside, the truck driver sat on a chair and rested his elbows on the counter and looked over his coffee at the lean and lonely waitress

Windshield: a piece of glass or clear plastic fixed at the front of a motorcycle that protects the rider from wind

Ex.: An effective windshield can save time and fuel.

Ex.: He stopped in front of it and read the No Riders sign of the windshield.

Stiff: firm, hard, or difficult to bend

Ex.: a shirt with a stiff collar

Ex.: His gray cap was so new that it was still stiff.

Broad: a road, river, or part of someone's body etc that is broad is wide

Ex.: We went along a broad passage.

Ex.: He was a heavy redfaced man with broad shoulders and a thick stomach.

Hitchhiker: to travel to places by getting free rides from drivers of passing cars

Ex.: She spent her gap year hitchhiking around the world.

Ex.: I don't have any other shoes, the hitchhiker said.

Slid: to move smoothly over a surface while continuing to touch it, or to make something move in this way

Ex.: Francesca slid across the ice.

Ex.: He slide into the seat.

Tenant: someone who lives in a house, room etc and pays rent to the person who owns it

Ex.: The desk was left by the previous tenant.

Ex.: He is tenant farmer

Wrapped: to put paper or cloth over something to cover it

Ex.: The present was beautifully wrapped in gold paper.

Ex.: He wrapped the shoes in the coat and place them underc his arm.

Wiped: to rub a surface with something in order to remove dirt, liquid etc

Ex.: Bill wiped his eyes (=wiped the tears from his face) and apologized.

Ex.: Tom stoped in the shade and wiped his face with his cap.

Reverend: a minister of a Christian church

Ex.: He is a reverend.

Ex.: I'm reverended Jim Casy.

Parole: permission for someone to leave prison, on the condition that they promise to behave well

Ex.: He was released on parole after serving two years.

Ex.: I'm out on parole.

Hesitate: to pause before saying or doing something because you are nervous or not sure

Ex.: Kay hesitated for a moment and then said 'yes'.

Ex.: The two men hesitated on the edge of the shade.

Fence: a structure made of wood, metal etc that surrounds a piece of land

Ex.: Our fence is brown.

Ex.: Tom pointed to a fence.

Shape: the form that something has, for example round, square, triangular etc

Ex.: What shape is the table?

Ex.: It's all pushed out of shape.

Sack: a large bag made of strong rough cloth or strong paper, used for storing or carrying flour, coal, vegetables etc

Ex.: a sack of potatoes

Ex.: He reached into his sack and three dead rabbits came falling out.

Reached: if someone or something reaches a particular point in their development, they get to that point

Ex.: I had reached the point where I was earning a good salary.

Ex.: He reached into his sack and three dead rabbits came falling out.