

John Steinbeck

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

1.) SUMMARY

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 thousands 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 loose 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.

2.) WORD STUDY

1. **wrath** (noun) – srd, jeza

- extreme anger

EX1:

EX2:

pauper (noun) - revež, siromak

a very poor person

EX1: We've never been *paupers* before.

EX2: He died a pauper.

tenant (noun) - zakupnik

a person who pays rent for the use of a land to the person who owns it; ones who do not own their own farms

EX1: They forced the *tenant* farmers off their farms.

EX2: They have been tenant farmers for their whole life.

parole (noun) - pogojni izpust

permission that is given to a prisoner to leave prison before the end of their sentence on condition that they behave well

EX1: Their son, Tom, has just been freed from prison and is on *parole*.

EX2: She got the parole already after one year.

to hesitate (verb) - obotavljati se, odlašati

to be slow to speak or act because you feel uncertain or nervous

EX1: The two men *hesitated* on the edge of the shade, than walked into the yellow sunlight.

EX2: I didn't hesitate for a moment about taking a job

beam (noun) - tram___

EX1:

EX2:

crop (noun) - letina, pridelek

the amount of grain, fruit, etc. that is grown in one season

EX1: It can't wait for next year's *crops*.

EX2: I think we're going to have a fall in this year's coffee crop.

chimney (noun) - dimnik

a structure through which smoke or steam is carried up away from a fire and through a roof of a building

EX1: Smoke was rising from the metal *chimney*.

EX2: He threw a paper onto the fire and it flew up the chimney.

screw (noun) - vijak

a thin pointed piece of metal with a raised spiral line along it and a line or cross cut into his head. It's turned and pressed into wood, metal, etc. in order to fasten two things together

EX1: Tom held the part in place while Al tightened the screws.

EX2: One of the screws is loose.

ragged (adj.) - razvcapan, raztrgan

wearing old or torn clothes

EX1: Near the edge of the porch a ragged man stood.

EX2: I saw only a bunch of ragged children there.

porch (noun) - veranda

a small area at the entrance to a building, such as a house or a church, that is covered by a roof and often has walls

EX1: Near the edge of the porch a ragged man stood.

EX2: He didn't move off the porch for a whole day.

stiff (adj.) - trd, tog

firm and difficult to move

EX1: The man became stiff.

EX2: I've got a stiff neck.

handbill (noun) - letak

a small printed advertisement that is given to people by hand

EX1: I have a handbill that says there are good wages.

EX2: We need some volunteers to distribute these handbills among people.

anxious (adj.) - zaskrbljen, vznemirjen

feeling worried or nervous

EX1: The gas station boy in his white uniform seemed anxious until the bill was payed.

EX2: Parents are naturally anxious for their children.

grain (noun) - žito

the small, hard seeds of food plants such as wheat, rice, etc.; a single seed of such a plant

EX1: The grain fields golden in the morning.

EX2: America has a huge grain export.

to kneel (verb) - klečati, poklekniti

to be in or move into position where your body is supported on your knees, with the lower legs bent back

EX1: Ma knelt beside the fire.

EX2: We knelt on the ground to examine the tracks.

to ache (verb) - boleti

to feel a continuous dull pain

EX1: I ache all over and I deserve it.

EX2: Her eyes ached from lack of sleep.

bucket (noun) - vedro, čeber

a round open container with a handle, used for carrying or holding liquids, sand, etc.

EX1: The four men took their buckets and went into the field.

EX2: They were playing on the beach with their buckets and spades.

dawn (noun) - zora

the time of day when light first appears

EX1: The dawn came finally.

EX2: I woke up just before dawn.

bent (adj.) - upognjen, ukrivljen

EX1: You have a bad wound and your nose is all bent.

EX2:

wound (noun) - rana, poškodba

EX1: You have a bad wound and your nose is all bent.

EX2:

chin (noun) - brada

EX1: Uncle John dropped his chin on his chest.

EX2:

shiny (adj.) - _____

EX1: The roads were shiny with water.

EX2:

shovel (noun) - lopata

EX1: Twenty men helped build the wall, digging the mud with shovels and buckets.
EX2:

barn (noun) - skedenj

EX1: She looked up and across the barn and smiled mysteriously.
EX2:

reverend (noun) - prečastiti

EX1: I was the preacher, Reverend Jim Casey.
EX2:

layer (noun) - plast, sloj

EX1: The surface of the earth had formed a dry hard layer.
EX2:

crack (noun) - ___

EX1: A little light came in through the cracks in the old boards.
EX2:

board (noun) - ___

EX1: A little light came in through the cracks in the old boards.
EX2:

platform (noun) - ___

EX1: We can take down the sideboards of the truck and build a platform.
EX2:

to sew (verb) - šivati

EX1: When a bag broke, they sewed up the open end.
EX2:

rust () - ___

EX1: Their old cars were covered in rust.
EX2:

hammer (noun) - ___

EX1: Ma loked surprised at the large hammer in her hand.
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