

John Steinbeck

## THE GRAPES OF WRATH

### Chapters 1-3 before you read

1. The family in this story works on farms. Have you ever worked on a farm or wanted to work on one? Discuss what it was like or what you think it might be like.

I've never worked on a farm and I have never wanted to. I never even thought about it. It must be hard to work on a farm. You must get up early and take care for animals.

2. Which words are for people?

Appendix – privesek

Barn – skedenj

Diner – prisklednik

Fellow – družabnik

Folks – ljudje

Handbill – letak

Headlight – sprednja luč

Horizon – obzorje

Parole – beseda, geslo

Pauper – revež

Peach – breskev, izdati

Porch – veža, veranda

Ragged – hrapav, skalnat

Reverend – častitljiv, častit, duhoven

Tenant – najemnik, zakupnik

Tractor – traktor

Trespass – prestopiti

Wage – lotiti se, voditi

Windshield – vetrobran

3. The word ain't has a number of meanings. Which of these meanings does it have in the sentence below?

hasn't

haven't

isn't

aren't

am not

- a) I ain't heard lately. HAVEN'T
- b) That ain't my business. ISN'T
- c) Ain't you young Tom Joad? AREN'T
- d) Well, I ain't going. AM NOT

### After you read (1, 3)

4. How have these changed since Tom went to prison?

- The land – is dried and dusty
- The Joad place – the family is at Uncle John's place. House is lonely
- Casy – he isn't a preacher any more
- Rosasharn – she is going to have a baby. When Toms last saw her she was a kid.

➤ Al – he is 16 now. He only thinks about girls and engines

5a. Why are the Joads being forced off the land?

Because the land was getting poorer and the bank had no profits. One man on a tractor could take the place of 12-14 families so the owners didn't need them

5b. Casy says that Grandpa died the minute he left the family home. What does it mean?

It means he couldn't leave the land because he lived there his whole life so it was very hard for him to leave it.

5c. Why is Ma scared about crossing the State line?

She is scared because Tom is on a parole so he shouldn't cross the line. It is a crime so if police found out about that he'd be sent back to prison.

6. Who says these words? What are they talking about?

- a) I like it here. I feel like no one can get me – Muley - they are talking about a cave in wooded area that Tom dug years ago.
- b) I have paper right here. – Tom – he is talking about that he is on a parole and that he didn't escape from prison.
- c) I don't want any stupid oranges and grapes. – Grandpa – he says that when they are making him to go to California.
- d) We're paying our own way. – Pa – when they stop at a gas station. He is talking with a man who works there.
- e) Maybe they have crimes in California we don't even know about. – Ma – she is talking with Tom about crossing the state line and crimes in California. Because he says that they'll notice him only if he does some crime.
- f) If I could only fix a car, but I don't know anything about cars. – Wilson – he talks about getting in California. He is afraid that they'll never get there because they're running out of money and the car has broken down again.

## Chapter 4- 5 before you read

7. Do you think the Joads and Wilsons will find work? Why (not)?

I think they won't get work because too many people are asking for a job in California.

8. The roads were full of migrants. Their old cars were covered in dust. The cops watched for trouble.

## After you read (4, 5)

9. Discuss these questions.

- a) Why does Ma get angry and swing a large hammer around? Are you sympathetic to her feelings? – She is angry because the family wants to split up (because of the broken down car). I'm sympathetic to her feelings but maybe it would be better to split.
- b) Tom explains to Casy that he is "just putting one foot in front of the other." What does he mean? – That means that he is living from a moment to a moment and he is not thinking about his future a lot.
- c) Why do some of people in California call the migrant workers "Ookies"? - At first that expression means that they're poor, dirty and they work just to survive.
- d) Why does Ma not want to take Grandma to a doctor in Brastow? – Because they need to get across and Grandma in real already died but she didn't want others to know before they come to California.

## Chapters 6- 7 before you read

11. Noah has left the Joad family. What were his reasons for leaving? Do you think he made a good decision? Will anyone else leave the family?

He said that people are nice to him but they don't really care for him and that he can't leave the river they stopped by. I think he made a good decision in he felt like that, but maybe too quickly. Maybe Connie and Rosasharn.

12. Read these sentences. What do the words in Italics mean? Check in the dictionary

- a) There are ten people on the *housing committee*. → prenočitveni odbor
- b) The dead man has to be take to the *coroner's* office. → mrliški oglednik
- c) There are six different *units* in this apartment block. → enote

## After you read (6, 7)

13. Answer the questions

- a) How does Floyd feel about the contractor and the sheriff? Can you understand his feelings? – He wants the contractor to write down how much he will pay (a contract). He hits sheriff because he wants him to go out with them.
- b) How does a woman get shot in a hand? – Floyd hits sheriff and starts to run. Then Tom put out his foot and sheriff fell over. Than sheriff reached for his gun but Floyd was out of his sight. The sheriff fired from the ground and hit the woman's hand.
- c) Why is Mr. Thomas angry? – He had a meeting at Farmer's Association (on the Bank of the West who runs it) and a person from the bank told him to pay less to his workers because he'll need to borrow money next year if he'll go on like this
- d) How do the police try to get into the government camp? Why do they do it? – They sent three young men to create a fight at the Saturday's dance and then wanted to come in because of the fight. But there wasn't any fight because campers controlled everything – Mr. Thomas tolled Tom and Wallaces about it. Because they don't like camps like that.

14. Who says these words? What are they talking about?

- a) "If I'd know that it was going to be like this, I wouldn't have come." – Connie – they are talking about getting in California and about Hoover Ville where they are staying → with Rosasharn
- b) "Somebody has to take the blame." – Casy – when he turns up to the sheriff instead of Floyd
- c) "I just have to get drunk." – Uncle John
- d) "We sold our car. Had to, for food." – Timothy Wallace
- e) "This is a nice place. We could be happy here." – Ma – she was talking about the government camp

## Chapter 8- 9 before reading

15. What do you think will happen next? Will the Joads stay at the government camp? Why (not)? – No they won't because of the police or maybe they will because Tom got a job.

16. Discuss possible endings to the story.

17.

- a) Boxcar: a part of a car/ a part of a train/ a part of a bus
- b) Fist: a closed hand/ a bent arm/ a broken leg

## After you read (8, 9)

18. Answer these questions

- a) Why do the Joads leave the government camp? – Because they don't find any work
- b) Why are the police outside the Hopper Ranch? – Because there was a strike led by the preacher Casey. He came to the Hooper Ranch to work for 5 cents a box (a box of peaches) but then they dropped the price to two and a half cent and the workers decided to strike.
- c) How does Tom find Casey? – Tom wants to know what's going on outside the gate and why are the police everywhere so he climbed over the gate and followed some voices. He met Casey there and some other man.
- d) What reasons are suggested for the death of Rosasharn's baby? - That he never breathed.
- e) What does Rosasharn do at the end of the story? – She, her mother and kids go to find a dry place. They find an old barn and a man and a boy in it. A man is dying because he can't eat so Rosasharn gave him her milk.

20.

- a) Why do you think that the book is called The Grapes of Wrath?
- b) Why do you think Rosasharn smiles at the end of the story?

21. Describe how you feel after finishing the book. Would you recommend it to your friends?  
It's a very sad book. I thought it was different and that it will have a happy end.

22. How and why does Ma change during the story?

At first she wants family to stay together but later she finds out that it just isn't possible.

23. Write the endings for 3 brothers Noah, Al and Tom.

Tom will go very far away and find a good job; Noah will become a fisherman and live beside the river and Al will get married and lived happily ever after and he'll get a job in the city!

24. Compare life at the government camp at Weed patch to life in Hoover Ville.

At the government camp it was nicer and there were friendly people but no steady work but at the Hoover Ville was work but not paid enough to survive.

25. Compare the Joads' experiences of picking peaches to picking to picking cotton.

Peaches – paid less, they were working harder

Cotton – they lived fine but in a boxcar with another family. They were paid more.

26. How would you feel if you were a member of the Joad family? Would you be able to live as a migrant worker?

I don't know. I probably wouldn't have any other chances.