

## GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR *GRAPES OF WRATH* BY JOHN STEINBECK -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Page numbers listed are for gray, rust, and tan books.

**CHAPTER ONE** -(pgs. 1-7) *Intercalary (presents general picture to provide background and support for narrative) (The Drought)*

1. As the dust settles, how do the women know they are safe? p.6
2. The image of dust, repeated 24 times, becomes a symbol. What is the larger meaning?

**CHAPTER TWO** -(pgs. 8-18) *Narrative (storyline begins)*

1. Why does the driver give the hitchhiker a ride? p. 11
2. What predicament concerning the sharecroppers does the driver reveal to Tom Joad? 12, 13
3. What is Tom's current philosophy? Where did he learn this? 13

**CHAPTER THREE** - (pgs. 19-21) *Intercalary*

1. In his writing, Steinbeck often implies that man is a victim of a hostile universe with little or no control over his destiny. What specific comparisons does he use to relate this idea? Consider how this might relate to the Joads' predicament.

**CHAPTER FOUR** - (pgs. 22-39) *Narrative*

1. A former "Burning Busher" preacher, Jim Casy has reached what decision about sin and virtue? 29, 30
2. Explain Casy's theory about the Holy Spirit. 31
3. How are Jim Casy and Tom Joad the same ? different?

**CHAPTER FIVE** - (pgs. 40-50) *Intercalary (This chapter has two parts.)*

1. What does the land mean to the tenant farmers? 43
2. Why can't the tenant farmers fight the "monster"?

**CHAPTER SIX** - (pgs. 51-78) *Narrative*

1. How does the cat tip off Tom that something is wrong? 55 What are other hints?
2. What has become of Tom's turtle? What is the significance of this movement? 56

3. What does Muley "got a-holt" of? 63
4. Prove that Muley Graves has become animal-like. 58, 60, 62, 73, 75
5. How is Muley Graves "one with the land"? 57, 65, 66, 75, 77
6. What are the preacher's plans? 67, 72
7. When does Tom realize he cannot act freely? 68, 74

**CHAPTER SEVEN** - ( pgs.79-85 ) *Intercalary*

1. Concerning the selling of junk cars, this chapter is told from two points of view. Whose? How is this effective?
2. Describe the style of writing employed in this chapter. How is this effective?

**CHAPTER EIGHT** - ( pgs. 86-110 ) *Narrative*

1. What type of man is Uncle John? Why? 88
2. As family members greet Tom, what question is foremost on their minds? How will this affect them?
3. Describe Ma's role in the family. 95, 96
4. Describe the emotions surrounding Tom's welcome home. 92, 95, 96
5. Why does Ma ask Tom if he's mad? Who else was mad? Why? 98, 99
6. Describe Granpa and Granma's relationship. 100 What is Granpa's goal in California? 107 (Note grapes of plenty.)
7. What is Noah like? Why? Any predictions? 101
8. Why does Ma Joad understand the preacher? 105, 106
3. Describe Al. What are his two main interests?

**CHAPTER NINE** - (pgs. 111-115) *Intercalary*

1. Why can't the tenant farmers start over again in California? 113
2. What prophesy is made concerning their plight? 113
3. Why do they leave immediately?

**CHAPTER TEN** - (pgs. 116-147) *Narrative*

1. What doubts does Ma have about California? Yet, what is her vision of CA.? 117
2. With what advice does Tom ease her worries? Where did he learn this? 117
3. What has Tom heard about the migrant situation in California? Explain the handbills. 118

(Note symbolism of grapes of plenty. 119)

4. Why does Casy want to go along? What does Ma see in him? 120, 121
5. Briefly describe those who arrive with Pa. What is symbolism of Rose of Sharon? 122, 123
6. Describe Uncle John's life. 124
7. How much money did they receive for all of their goods, and what does this mean? 125
8. Why is the truck the most important place? 128
9. Who decides if Jim Casy is going along or not? How is this decision reached? 132 (Note how J.C. enters into the Joad family council and later into the human family.)
10. Why does Casy salt pack the meat? 138
11. How does Ma show her strength and how does this relate to chapter 9? 140
12. What is happening to Granpa? Why? 143, 144

**CHAPTER ELEVEN** - (pgs. 148-150) *Intercalary (Connecting chapter between the Drought and the Journey with the focus on the land.)*

1. How is the land of the tractor different from the land of the horse? 149
2. How is this chapter connected to Granpa in regard to the land?

**CHAPTER TWELVE** - (pgs. 151-156) *Intercalary (Connecting chapter between the Drought and the Journey with the focus on Highway 66)*

1. What is the purpose of this chapter? Which points of view are used? What style is used?
2. Explain the effect and repetition of the line "Danny wants a cup of water." 155, 156

**CHAPTER THIRTEEN** - (pgs. 157-191) *Narrative (Beginning of The Journey)*

1. Explain Ma's words, "When somepin' happens that I got to do...I'll do it." 158
2. What does J.C. try to explain to the gas station owner? 163 How is the owner like the Joads? 164
3. What is the significance of the dog's death? 166-168
4. Whom do the Joads meet and what are they like?
5. How and why does Granma pray? 176 (Note the "shadow of death")
6. Sairy Wilson and Ma both agree that people need "to help." Explain. 180
7. Describe Rose of Sharon's behavior and show how Ma reacts. 165-169, 181
8. Why does Granpa die? 177, 187 How do the others react? 177, 180 What is noteworthy about his burial?
9. What meaning comes from J.C.'s burial words? 184-185 His words are already coming true. Trace the life and death cycle in the chapter.
10. What signs do you have that CA. may not be the "promised land"? 189-191

**CHAPTER FOURTEEN** - (pgs. 192-195) *Intercalary*

1. What tone predominates the chapter? Explain the "causes and results."
2. What is the importance of the change from "I lost my land." to "We lost our land."? 194

**CHAPTER FIFTEEN** - (pgs. 196-209) *Intercalary*

1. Describe the style of writing.
2. What is the purpose of this chapter?
3. How are the restaurants and truck drivers affected by the new migrant society? Give an example of a trucker's concern.

**CHAPTER SIXTEEN** - (pgs. 210-248) *Narrative*

1. Why isn't Ma overly concerned with Rose of Sharon's plan to leave the family? 213
2. Ma adamantly refuses to leave Tom and J. C. behind to fix the car. What is her worry? 218-219
3. Contrast J.C.'s and Tom's views concerning their present situation about the people and the road and themselves. 224
4. What is happening to Granma? 225
5. Why won't Tom tell Al about prison life? 227, 228
6. What is the main point of the advice Tom gives to the "One-eyed" man? 231, 232 Will he listen to Tom? Explain. 234
7. Why won't Tom pay for staying at the campground? What is the proprietor's attitude? 239, 240
8. What dark message of gloom does the "Ragged-man" bring to the Joads? 242-245 What does he seem to symbolize? 246

**CHAPTER SEVENTEEN** - (pgs.249-258) *Intercalary*

1. What happens to the twenty or so small families camped together each evening?

2. Prove that these former farmers, the new migrants, are not lawless people. 250-251

**CHAPTER EIGHTEEN** - (pgs. 259-296) *Narrative (End of the Journey)*

1. What message do the man and son at the river deliver to the Joads? What new term is introduced and what does it mean? 264-265

2. How does their dip in the river take on a larger meaning? 267

3. Casy makes an important comment about rich people. Explain. 266

4. Why does Noah stay by the river? 268

5. Ma reveals "Emersonian Oversoul" thinking in her speech to Rose of Sharon. What is her message? 269, 270 (Note how Ma and J.C. influence one another.)

6. Why won't Ma let the Jehovite woman pray? pgs. 271, 272

7. Ma is confused about her stand against the policeman. Why? p. 277

8. What happens to the Wilsons? Explain Sairy's good-bye to Casy. p. 281-282

9. What is said about sin between Uncle John and Casy? 289

10. In the eyes of her family, Ma becomes somewhat of a saint. How? pgs. 294-295

11. Who is really seeing CA.? 295

12. How has Tom become somewhat of a "disciple" of Casy's? 296

13. What is happening to the family? Who is gone so far? Comment on Ma's strength.

**CHAPTER NINETEEN** - (pgs. 297-308) *Intercalary (Beginning of California with the history of the land)*

1. Compare the wants of the Californians to the wants of the Okies. 300-301 (Note the growing tension.)

2. What three historical facts do the great owners fail to heed as they have failed to heed throughout history? 306

3. How do the owners hope to suppress the Okies? 306

4. Does praying work for them? 308

**CHAPTER TWENTY** -(pgs. 309-362) *Narrative (Bakersfield Hooverville)*

1. How does the Bakersfield Hooverville explode the Joads' hopes? 311-313

2. What does "bull-simple" mean? 314, 319

3. How do the cops treat possible antagonistic Okies? Prove it. 317-318

4. What are Tom and J.C. saying about prayer which was mentioned in the previous chapter? 322

5. What is Tom's prediction and upon what experience does he base it? 323

6. What regret does Connie voice? Any predictions? 325

7. Why does Ma feed the little ones? Where was this concept mentioned before? How does the other mother react? 331-333

8. Why does Casy sacrifice himself for Tom's sake? 322, 341-343

9. Why does Uncle John get drunk, and how does he feel? 345, 346, 354, 355

10. Who says "A fella got to do what he got to do."? 346 Who said this earlier?

11. Tom promises Ma that he is trying, but he is bothered about the cop's actions. Why? 358 How does Tom react to the citizen's insults? 359

12. The family is breaking up, but is being replaced by a larger concept which is partly why Casy has to leave the Joads. What is Ma saying as she explains this "larger concept"? 360, 361

**CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE** -(pgs. 362-365) *Intercalary*

1. What three changes affect the migrants? 362

2. Explain the final sentence of this chapter. 365

**CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO** -(pgs. 366-417) *Narrative (Weedpatch Government Camp)*

1. Contrast the government camp with the Hooverville camp in the following areas:

Welcomes-

Order and living conditions-

Inhabitants' attitudes-

Laws and rules-

2. What about this camp impresses Tom the most, and why is this so very important for him now? 369

3. What message is there in the Wallaces' sharing their work with Tom? 374, 377

4. Why must Mr. Thomas lower the workers' wages, and how does he ease his conscience? 378, 380

5. What does Tom's gratefulness for work and his satisfaction doing work tell about his character? 381, 383

6. Why is Mrs. Sandry included in this chapter? 398, 412-413

7. Even though this chapter ends on a positive note, how do you know it cannot last long?

**CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE** - (pgs. 418-425) *Intercalary*

1. What is the purpose of this chapter? 425 Give examples of their pleasures including the rarest type and the ugliest type.

2. Describe the chapter's style.

**CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR** - (pgs. 426-444) *Narrative*

1. What does the fact that the migrants plan to eliminate trouble at the dance without violence tell about them?

2. What conclusion, if any, do Pa, Black Hat and the other reach about their situation? 435, 436

3. What do the "Jesus-lovers" do during dances? 439, 440
4. What is the effect of good organization among this group of migrants? Is this why the land owners are so afraid of the government camps? Explain.
5. How do the migrants get rid of the trouble-makers at the dance? 441 What motivated the "trouble makers to do such a thing to their own? 442
6. Black Hat tells about a Turkey Shoot. Why is this important information? 444

**CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE** - (pgs. 445-449) *Intercalary*

1. What analogy is used to describe the land, and what foreshadowing is implied?
2. What is happening to the small farmers? Why? 447, 448
3. What "crime, sorrow, and failure" is denounced? 449
4. What is the significance of the last sentence? Explain the symbolism. 449

**CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX** - (pgs. 450-519) *Narrative*

1. Why must Ma assume leadership here? 452 Would she if times were better? Explain.
2. What does Ma say, about a man's emotions, which echoes chapter one? 453
3. Briefly describe Al, Pa, and Tom's good-byes." 457-462
4. How do Tom's prison stories compare to the migrant situation? 471
5. Describe their new camp at the Hooper Peach Ranch. 473-474
6. What does Ma declare after the store clerk gives her ten cents credit? 483 Where has this message been implied before?
7. What insight did Casy's experience in jail offer? 490, 493
8. In words, manners, and symbols, how is J.C.'s death Christ-like? 495

9. Is Tom yet ready to assume Casy's role as a leader of the people? Explain.
10. Why is it ironic that Tom hides in a cave of mattresses and later, in a culvert? 513
11. What do you think Tom is preparing for?

***CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN - (pgs. 520-556) Intercalary***

1. Why won't the cotton-picking jobs last long? 522, 523
2. What is the tone and purpose of this chapter? 523

***CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT - (pgs. 524-552) Narrative***

1. How are the Joads doing better? 524, 525 Why won't it last? 552
2. Why isn't Ruthie's action terribly surprising? 529
3. Describe the symbolism in Tom's hideout. 533
4. What do Tom and Ma decide? 534 What is particularly touching about this scene? 534
5. What has Tom learned from Casy? 535, 536
6. How does Tom ease Ma's fear? 537
7. How is Pa struggling? 541
8. What idea does Ma repeat? 542 What plan of Tom's has she adapted? 542
9. Explain Rose of Sharon's odd behavior. 543

***CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE - (pgs. 553-556) Intercalary***

1. What color dominates this chapter? Why?

2. Explain the desperation of the migrants' situation. 555
3. Why are the women relieved? 556 How does this chapter parallel chapter one?

**CHAPTER THIRTY** - (pgs. 557-581) *Narrative*

1. Why do the men work so hard to build the levee? 563
2. How does Rose of Sharon's baby die? Why was this inevitable? 567
3. Is Pa a failure? Explain. 567, 568
4. How has Ma's thinking about the family changed? 569
5. Explain Uncle John's "burial" of the baby and the significance of it. 571, 572
6. How is the family situation worse now than ever? What will become of the Joads? 574-578