

***The Grapes of Wrath* Study Guide**

Chapters 7-11

Chapter 7

1. Give three examples from Chapter 7 that illustrate how the car salesmen were taking advantage of the farmers going west.
2. What effect is created by the style of writing in Chapter 7.

Chapter 8

1. How does Tom Joad approach his father after being away from home so long?
2. What plan does Pa have for greeting Ma and the rest of the family?
3. Quote at least two examples of Ma's behavior as "the citadel of the family."
4. What is "strange" about Noah?
5. What has happened to Al while Tom was away? What has happened to Rosasharn?
6. What skills does Al possess which seem to assure Tom and the family that they will survive the "exodus" to California?
7. Report the reference Grampa makes to grapes.
8. Casy says, "But when they're all working together, not one fella for another fella, but one fella kind of harnessed to the whole shebang – that's right, that's holy." Explain how this statement expands on his philosophy of life. (See Chapter 4, Question 8)

Chapter 9

1. The following are typical statements of the dispossessed families: "You're not buying only junk, you're buying junked lives. "How can we live without our lives? How will we know it's us without our past? Explain the phrases "junked lives" and "live without our lives."
2. In meaning and form, paragraph ten parallels the opening lines of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." State what Steinbeck is implying in this parallel.

Chapter 10

1. Quote statements by Ma and Tom that serve to foreshadow difficulties.
2. Describe Casy's appearance when he returns to the Joad family. Why does he want to go west?

3. What potential problem does Tom's parole cause?
4. What is typical about the behavior of all these families in the evening, after the trucks have been parked? Write a simile (or metaphor) *of your own* to describe their behavior.
5. How is Grampa "persuaded to go on this trip?"
6. Report Ma's and Grampa's reactions to leaving the farm.
7. Why is Al the driver and not Pa? What does this suggest?

Chapter 11

1. Following are two descriptions from the chapter: "the dead motor of a tractor" and "a machine man, driving a dead tractor on land he does not know and love." What overall picture is portrayed in the first half of this chapter?
2. How does this behavior and outlook differ from the Joads' attitude toward farming?
3. Give at least three details of life in the barren and broken homes portrayed here.

Extra Credit

1. Compose a poem portraying an abandoned house.