

*The Grapes of Wrath* Study Guide  
Chapters 12-16

Chapter 12

1. List the states that Route 66 traverses. How many mountain ranges are there to cross.
2. Explain the irony in this statement: "It's a free country."

Chapter 13

1. What does the conversation with the gas station attendant reveal about the Joads?
2. How does Ma react to Rose of Sharon's squeamishness at the dead dog?
3. Ma is uneasy about Tom's parole. How do his views and hers differ?
4. Who dies? Why are there problems burying the body?
5. How does Rose of Sharon react to the death?
6. What kind of "farewell" does Casy say at the funeral?
7. What information does Wilson give to the Joads about the orange handbill?
8. How do the Wilsons and the Joads help each other?

Chapter 14

1. Explain what Steinbeck means by the word "Manself?" Why is the word capitalized?
2. Explain the significance of the statement, "This is the beginning – from "I" to "we."

Chapter 15

1. Report one particular image, feeling or tone in this chapter, which presents the viewpoint of individuals in roadside restaurants.

Chapter 16

1. Describe Connie and Rose of Sharon's dreams for the future.
2. When the car breaks down, how do the Wilsons and Joads plan to solve the problem? Why don't they separate and go to California independently?

3. Describe Ma's rebellion. Why is it significant?
4. Explain what Tom means when he says, "I rather jus' – lay one foot down in front a the other."
5. What angers Tom in his conversation with the owner of the campground?
6. The ragged man explains why there is no work in California. Briefly state his explanation, which also serves as foreshadowing of difficulties for the Joads.
7. Generally, how does Ma begin to regard the journey west to California?