

The Grapes of Wrath Study Guide

Chapters 23-25

Chapter 23 (Interchapter)

1. What possible uses of 20 cents exist for the migrants?
2. Why is a harmonica an important prop in this chapter?
3. What kind of dancing do the farmers do?
4. What is the “labor” of a preacher nearby at an irrigation ditch?

Chapter 24

1. Why is Huston worried about Willie’s possible behavior at the dance?
2. How was Al dressed for the dance?
3. What is the “entertainment Committee” actually?
4. Why would some men work for twenty cents an hour even if they were ordinarily “two-bit” men?
5. Report how the troublemakers at the Saturday dance are dealt with. What does the solution indicate about concerted action? About violence?
6. Explain the irony Huston discovers when he talks to the three men.
7. What happened in another part of the USA, when some mountain boys had a turkey shoot? Why do the migrants think the turkey shoot is a good idea?

Chapter 25 (Interchapter)

1. List the bountiful fruit and vegetables that spring produces in California.
2. Why, then, is there “great sorrow” in the State?
3. Quote the reason given for this destruction and wanton waste.
4. The chapter closes with this statement: “In the souls of the people, the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy for the vintage.” Explain both the literal meaning and the symbolic implication of this statement.
5. Explain the contrast between the grapes of this chapter and those of Chapter 8.

Enrichment

1. You are a relative of a migrant worker in the 1930’s. Write a letter to a member of Congress, outlining your complaints about working conditions. Request or suggest specific solutions.