

The Grapes of Wrath
Lesson 1

Choose one of the following activities. Each activity presents a problem or conflict situation. As you respond, think of actual experiences or use your imagination to invent experiences or combine actual and imaginary experiences. Also, follow the steps or clues for development outlined in the directions. To help you get started, jot some notes on this paper.

1. You suddenly have to leave your house or apartment. You must leave your belongings behind, and, aside from a few clothes, you can take **only four** of your possessions. What would you take? In a letter to a friend, identify these possessions. Then explain what those items mean to you and why you chose as you did. Include your feelings about the items you had to leave behind and any anger, frustration or sadness you felt.

2. Possessions can give you a sense of your past, of your family's history, and a sense of "belonging." Choose one object that has been in your family for years. Write a letter on the occasion of a family reunion or anniversary, sharing with an aunt or other non-immediate family member how you feel about the family and what that object says to you.

3. An individual may have special feelings of contentment or accomplishment in working with the earth. Plowing or preparing the soil, planting and nurturing seedlings, placing a shrub, or weeding a garden can be enjoyable activities for specific and individual reasons. Write a newspaper article describing and sharing the joys you have in working with the earth.