

**AP English Literature and Composition
Prerequisite Reading Assignment for Spring 2019**

You will be reading *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.

For *The Grapes of Wrath*:

1. **Attached Chapter Questions:**

Answer the questions specifically, not generally, on notebook paper.
(Handwrite these neatly.)

2. **Attached Vocabulary List:**

Write a sentence with each of the vocabulary words **in the context of the novel** (“In context” means to use the characters’ names, setting, etc.).
You may type these.

Due Date:

These assignments are due on the first day of class.

*******We will have a reading quiz on the novel during our 2nd class.**

If you have a question, please do not hesitate to e-mail me:

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The Grapes of Wrath Vocabulary

Townsend

Directions: Write an original sentence with the word in the novel's context on a separate sheet of paper. ("In context" means to use the characters' names, setting, etc.) You may type these.

1. **anlage**: foundation for later movement/development; primordial
2. **parapet**: low wall or railing to protect a platform, roof, or bridge
3. **declivity**: downward slope
4. **shoat**: a young hog, esp. one that is weaned
5. **zenith**: the highest point or state
6. **imperturbable**: cannot be disturbed or excited
7. **doleful**: sorrowful, melancholy
8. **vagrant**: a person who wanders about homeless
9. **derelicts**: the state of being abandoned
10. **fetid**: stinking, having a strong offensive smell
11. **cantankerous**: hard to deal with; peevish
12. **veneration**: a feeling of awe and respect
13. **bravado**: blustering swaggering conduct; a show of bravery.
14. **quid**: A cut or piece, as of chewing tobacco.
15. **lecherous**: a lewd, grossly sensual (sexual) person He's an old lech.
16. **vivacious**: full of animation, lively¹⁸
17. **fallow**: unplanted
18. **hoyden**: a boisterous or ill-mannered girl, tomboy
19. **inveterate**: ingrained habit
20. **raven**: (verb) to feed greedily
21. **ammeter**: an instrument used to measure current in amperes
22. **tappet(s)**: a part of a machine that causes another part to move by hitting it
23. **assail**: to make a violent attack on or be plagued/tormented by
24. **fatuous**: silly, foolish
25. **lucent**: glowing with or giving off light
26. **squidge**: to squash or crush
27. **restive**: unable to keep still or stay quiet
28. **titular**: holding a titled position without any real authority
29. **culvert**: an underground drain
30. **truculent**: cruel, brutal, aggressively hostile, belligerent
31. **wizened**: withered, shriveled
32. **accouterments**: personal clothing, accessories; equipment of a soldier
33. **querulous**: complaining, peevish
34. **ostracism**: exclusion from (usually by general consent)
35. **disconsolate**: lonely from grief, without comfort or the prospect of comfort
36. **pellagra**: a disease caused by deficiency of niacin
37. **tarpaulin**: heavy-duty waterproof cloth, originally of tarred canvas
38. **imperious**: arrogant, domineering
39. **exhortation**: encouragement, persuasion
40. **forlorn**: desolate or dreary; unhappy or miserable; desperate
41. **effluvium**: an unpleasant or harmful odor, secretion, or discharge
42. **iridescent**: displaying a play of lustrous colors like those of a rainbow

(OVER)

- 43.** **flounder:** (v) to struggle with stumbling movements in embarrassment or confusion
- 44.** **tepid:** lukewarm
- 45.** **docile:** obedient
- 46.** **slovenly:** messy, dirty, lax (slatternly)
- 47.** **degenerate:** immoral, corrupt, dissolute (verb – to decline into immorality)
- 48.** **windfall:** Unexpected piece of good fortune (like ripened fruit falling from a tree)
- 49.** **rachitic:** lack of vitamin D and calcium (has rickets – soft bones as a result)
- 50.** **pustules:** small bumps on the skin with fluid or pus
- 51.** **sidle:** to walk in a furtive, unobtrusive, or timid manner, especially sideways
- 52.** **pinion:** to tie up the arms or legs (noun - outer part of a bird's wings)
- 53.** **bevel:** to produce a slanted surface or edge; a tool that makes a slanted edge
- 54.** **stout:** (adj.): bulky in figure, thickset
- 55.** **pall:** dark cloud or covering of smoke, dust, etc.; a cloth over a coffin

Study Guide Questions: *The Grapes of Wrath*

Townsend

Answer the questions specifically, not generally, on notebook paper.

(Handwrite these neatly.)

Chapters 1 – 5

1. What is described in the first chapter?
2. When could the women tell that the men were not going to break?
3. Where has Tom Joad been for the last 4 years?
4. What reasons can you give for the location of the turtle essay?
5. What does Tom Joad do with the turtle?
6. Who does Tom first encounter after the truck driver lets him out?
7. Why is he no longer a preacher?
8. Describe the crime Tom committed.
9. According to Tom, what is the difference between Pa and Uncle John?
10. What is the nature of the monster first mentioned in Chapter 5?
11. Why are the farmers reluctant to leave the land?
12. Steinbeck spends several paragraphs explaining the differences between the tenant farmers owning and working the land and the bank owners having it done with tractors. Briefly state these differences.

Chapters 6 – 11

1. Why does Tom mention, for the second time, that the Joads weren't people to write?
2. What is the significance of the turtle's release?
3. What is the function of Muley Graves?
4. What is Casey's reaction to Muley's tale?
5. How does Tom describe the prison?
6. What is the significance of the car dealer?
7. How are Ma and Pa Joad described?
8. What is the meaning of the reference to Pretty Boy Floyd?
9. What foreshadowing emerges from the conversation between Tom and Ma about California?
10. What characterization is given of Ma?
11. What is the significance of the preparations?
12. What is important in the placement of Chapter 11?

Chapters 12 – 18

1. What ideas emerge in Chapter 12?
2. What is significant about the gas station's attendant's attitude?
3. What is revealed as the Joads make camp the first night?
4. What changes occur as a result of Granpa's death?

5. How does Steinbeck view man in Chapter 14?
6. Why does Steinbeck include the rich people in the car – Chapter 5?
7. What is the significance of Mae's generosity?
8. What happens when the car breaks down?
9. Compare Tom and Casy at this point.
10. What Biblical parallels can be drawn from Chapter 17?
11. What is Casy's reaction to the story of the man with a million acres?
12. What facets of the family's life are stressed in Chapter 18?
13. What is revealed in Ma's encounter with the religious woman and with the law?
14. Why does the proprietor call the ragged man a liar?

Chapters 19 – 24

1. Why is the historical background of California included here?
2. What is the significance of Granma's funeral?
3. What elements of society's attitude toward migrants emerge during their experience in Hooverville?
4. What is the truth about the handbills?
5. What does Ruthie's inability to keep a secret foreshadow?
6. What happens to Connie? Is this significant?
7. What is the result of the incident between Floyd and the deputy?
8. What is the fundamental difference between Hooverville and Weedpatch?
9. What pleasures do the migrants enjoy?
10. How can prices go up and wages stay down?
11. What is Tom's role in the attempt to break up the dance?

Chapters 25 – 30

1. What sin is denounced in Chapter 25?
2. Who takes the lead in Chapter 26? In what areas?
3. What realization does Tom reach?
4. Contrast the Pixley camp with Weedpatch.
5. What happens during the interview with the storekeeper?
6. What is the symbolic value of Casy's death?
7. What is Rose of Sharon's attitude toward Tom?
8. What change does Chapter 27 reflect?
9. What is the significance of the boxcar?
10. What incident shatters the sense of security of the Joads in their new boxcar home?
11. What happens to Tom?
12. What meaning can you attribute to the birth of Rose of Sharon's baby?
13. What is the significance of the ending of the novel?
14. Relate the title of the book to the meaning of the story of the migrant.
15. Do the Joads reach the "Promised Land"? Explain.