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The grapes of wrath study guide pdf

John Steinbeck has long been one of America's best-loved writers. With his intuitive feeling for folklore and magnificent use of the vernacular, he created works that stimulate the imagination, stir the reader's thoughts and emotions, and leave them with an awareness of life. Steinbeck's use of simple themes and his concern for common human values, combined with thoughtfulness, philosophical presence, and humor, make his works timeless. John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California, on 27 February 1902. He grew up in a fertile agricultural valley about twenty five miles from the Pacific Coast-and both valley and coast would serve as settings for some of his best fiction. In 1919 he attended Stanford University, where he intermittently enrolled in literature and writing courses until he left in 1925 without finishing a degree. During the next five years he supported himself as a laborer and journalist in New York City and then as a caretaker for a Lake Tahoe estate, all the time working on his first novel, Cup of Gold (1929). After his first marriage and a move to Pacific Grove, he published two fictitious works centered in California, The Pastures of Heaven (1932) and To A God Unknown (1933), and worked on short stories later collected in The Long Valley (1938). Popular success and financial security came only with Tortilla Flat (1935), stories about Monterey's paisanos, A ceaseless experimenter throughout his career, Steinbeck changed courses regularly. Three powerful novels of the late 1930s focused on the California laboring class: In Dubious Battle (1936), Of Mice and Men (1937), and the book considered by many his finest, The Grapes of Wrath (1939). Early in the 1940s Steinbeck became a filmmaker with The Forgotten Village (1941) and a serious student of marine biology with Sea of Cortez (1941). He devoted his services to the war, writing Bombs Away (1942) and the controversial play-novellette The Moon Is Down (1942). Cannery Row (1945) and The Pearl (1947) preceded publication of the monumental East of Eden (1952), an ambitious saga of the Salinas Valley and his own family's history. The last decades of his life were spent in New York City and Sag Harbor with his third wife Elaine, with whom he traveled widely. Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. He died on December 20, 1968 at the age of 66. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation. 0 Comments 0 Likes Statistics Notes Be the first to like this 1. Erin, Emma and Avery oSetting, Mood, and Theme oLiterary and Figurative Devices oConflict, Character, and Plot Development 2. Theme, Setti ng, and Mood and Tone 3. Tone Mood The rough native language of The mood fluctuates between the Californians is the initial long periods of tone of these discouragement and chapters, showing the harsh destitution, which often leads difference between the tle to the men's ripening anger working poor and the "Okies". and ability to avoid Overall use of biblical "breaking", to unpredictable references and symbols used moments of slight faith- in both depressing as well as which is the reason the Joads optimistic contexts. are able to continue their journey. 4. Theme Setting Moved from "Weedpatch", the Overall theme portrayed government camp, where they were throughout the last chapters momentarily comfortable until there was no work to be found, to "Hooper is a final grasp for hope. Ranch' peach farm, where their sense of community as well as the amenities The transformations made by are much less. They then find work the characters through picking cotton in Tulare, and live in a glum boxcar, where they are faced newfound values and the with the hardships of weather, a falling apart family, and a lifestyle belief that together their where hiding is the only solution to goals could be achieved is their hardships. The abandoned barn is the final place they end up, where what eventually instilled the the silence sweeps over the Joad theme of hope into the family, allowing them to reflect on their past and invest into their reader. collective future. 5. Literary and Figurative Devices 6. • Chapter 26 • Prosecution of Jim Casy- becomes a Martyr • Jim has a noble death. He dies trying to save the people, trying to protect the migrant workers. • Because Jim was a Christ figure, his death gives him the title of a Martyr, dying fighting for what he believed in, like Christ. • His final words. "You don't know what you're a-doin," were an allusion to Christ's final words, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not of what they do." Chapter 27 This chapter is an intercalary chapter, highlighting Steinbeck's use of Stream of Consciousness*. It is designed to show the reader the perspective and struggles of the workers in a general sense. The characters which generate the dialogue and action in the chapter are can be compared to characters in the novel which provides a small amount of understanding to the reader. The stream of consciousness in this chapter is Steinbeck just writing his ideas as they come to him, nothing in specific detail and it flows quickly. He is showing us a side of the cotton farms that maybe the characters don't see, or are trying to ignore. He may also have been trying to display to the reader, the kind of community the Joad's were in. The tone is this chapter is a newsreel literary technique. The voices of the migrants are static and collaged together in a way that precedes the Joad's action in the next chapter. 7. Chapter 28 The cave that Tom finds for himself to stay in, represents a re-birthing. The cave is symbolic of a womb, and Ma goes in to say farewell. She touches his face with her hands, which is reminiscent of his return home earlier in the book. While hiding in the cave Tom is forced into silence and finally able to reflect on Casy's words. It is there that Tom becomes aware of his social responsibility to help the people. Tom's speech to his mother was very similar to one that Jim Casy may have given. (see page 572) His mother coming to say farewell was the break from which Tom became separate from the family and was able to move on and spread his message. • Chapter 29 • The presence of the water in this chapter has a transforming meaning. At the beginning of the chapter Steinbeck depicts the black storm clouds marching in from the ocean and pouring down over the land, while at the end of the chapter Steinbeck writes about the grass coming through the earth, and the hills slowly turning pale green. This shows the transformation from death to renewal. • The circle of squatting men figures prominently as well, a tribute to the resolute life force symbolized by the land turtle in Chapter 3. As in the first chapter, the woman worry that their men will break under the strain of accumulated hardships, but now there is a difference: Where two men squat together, fear turns to anger. As long as they can work together, they will be able to survive. • This final intercalary chapter serves as a partner to the novel's opening chapter by repeating several key motifs. The description of the weather and its effect on land is essentially the same except, instead of drought, Steinbeck is delivering the spread of the floods. There is foreshadowing again in the flooded vehicles and the fleeing families, which would be what became of the Joad family. The chapter also contains stream of consciousness because it explains what was going on outside if the family during the rains. 8. Chapter 30 The removal of the tarp from the center of the boxcar shows the unity of the two families into one, giving the reader as small amount of foresight to what is to come. When Ma insists on fleeing the boxcar, Al makes the choice to stay with his fiancé and her family. The rain gets in the truck and renders it useless and just as the truck (which is a symbol of the vitality of the family throughout the narrative), there is virtually nothing left of the Joad family. Yet it is at this moment that they will be forced to put into action in a critical decision. Rose of Sharon's pregnancy holds the promise of a new beginning. When she delivers a stillborn baby, that promise seems broken. But rather than slipping into despair, the family moves boldly and gracefully forward. Rose of Sharon's gesture, expressed to a man, who reminds us of Grampa, unifies the Joad family as they initiate their membership in the vast human family and provides a sense of hope for all the migrant families and for humanity. 9. Biblical Reference In the last few pages of his book, Steinbeck creates Allusions in the Bible. The Great Flood (Noah's Ark) When Rose of Sharon goes into labour they close the door on the boxcar, like the door on the ark, and the men proceed to build up a bank around it. As the waters rise, the plank that serves as the entrance to the car begins to rise with the water. The water rose higher and higher into the evening and becoming so strong that it ripped a poplar tree right down, the water broke through the bank the men has built and the men headed for shelter inside the car, with the women. The Joad's could be considered to be Noah's family, because after all of the other families had fled., the Joad's were left to tough out the storm inside of their Ark. Rose of Sharon's gesture at the end in the book could be an allusion to the dove which is sent out, in the fact that her act is completely selfless and provides the reader with a sense of renewal or rebirth of her character. The flood also represents a renewal of the land, and perhaps nearing the end of the depression. If you look back to the beginning of the book, the land is over farmed and malnourished. The water of the flood provides nourishment and moisture to the land. "Tiny points of grass came through the earth, and in a few days the hills were pale green with the beginning year." (Page 592) Moses The way in which Uncle John disposes of the child's corpse recalls Moses being sent down the Nile. The image suggests that the family, like the Hebrews in Egypt, will be delivered from the slavery of its present circumstances. " And then he leaned over and set the box in the stream and steadied it with his hand. He said fiercely, "Go down an' tell 'em. Go down in the street an' rot an' 'em that way. That's the way you can talk." 10. Conflict, Char acter, and Plot Development An in depth look into the final plot line and the developments of characters in the last stages of this exceptional adventure. 11. •Ma Ma would be the Boss because when the times get tough, she gets a going. Ma takes charge of the family, and things start to happen under her direction. Ma is one tough Character chick, the only time we see her crack under her emotions, is when she has to say goodbye to her son Tom. •Pa Archetypes Is the Lost Soul, because he used to be in charge of the family, and now Ma has taken his post. Pa still stays strong and true to the family, but you can see he is a little hurt and beat down by all that has happened. "Tom Joad a mixture of the outcast and the warrior. He is tough when he needs to be, but we can see that tom has a soft side. He is sensitive about his family but is the leader when he needs to. He is the outsider because he had been gone for so long, maybe why him and John Casy understood each other so well. •Jim Casy-The Christ Figure The outcast because when he was known as the preacher he was set as an outcast from the normal folks. Towards the end he is trying gain more contact with people in general. •Rose of Sharon The Waif because she can't get her mind off of anyone but herself. But, when she is almost nine months pregnant she insists on helping the family pick cotton, a sign that she is having a change of heart. Rose of Sharon goes from being the Waif at the end of the novel to the Crusader, putting herself in that vulnerable position, for the benefit of the old man, someone who was completely out of the family, and herself. •Uncle John Is a beaten down figure, but he comes out strong after Rose of Sharon's baby is sill born. He was given the duty of getting rid of the child, so he puts it in the river and points it toward town, telling the baby to go tell 'em, show 'em what's happening. •Al •Is definitely the charmer. He seems to find a lady-friend no matter where the Joad's travel. 12. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT Tom Joad Jim Casy Tom decides to leave the Joad family, and with a new purpose. He Jim Casy is last presented to us accepts Casy's belief that there is no in chapter 26 as he leads a strike individual soul, but instead a against the poor working collective soul of which each person only has a part, and vows to continue conditions on the Hooper Casy's struggle for better treatment of Ranch. Casy is an unlikely the workers. This is a turning point for leader, but as he tells Tom about Tom, as he previously invested himself to individualist action for himself and his time in jail and how he his his family, but now wishes to work for perspective had grown, we can the common good, understand why he has taken Casy urges Tom to go out and tell the this new role upon himself. He families on the farm about the strike, but Tom refuses to no longer calls himself a leave, unready to accept the preacher, but he does continue responsibility and "discipleship", to be a speaker and a teacher. 13. Ma Joad Rose of Sharon It is Ma Joad who bids farewell to Tom, proving Rose of Sharon spends a majority of the once again to be the center of the family. She took up to the last chapters, being the also portrays a huge change in at the end of the pessimistic character who is concerned solely of her own needs. Not only does she look, when she advises Tom to leave alone consider herself and her satisfaction in the rather than attempting to keep the family family first, she disregards and sees right together. She has realized that family unity is through everything her own family has insignificant without the greater society unity worked through and encountered together, for which Tom will strive. Although Tom is like When Connie abandons her for good, she her golden child, she finds that she cannot then is able to see that it is her family who is most important and has the most weep over his departure, significant impact on her life. A character Steinbeck suggests in these chapters that transformation from a women such as Ma Joad are equipped to handle complainative, selfish character, to a change and pain better than the men. During character with humility and a sense of community comes from Rose of Sharon by the course of the novel, it is the men who have the end of the novel, rallied against their fate: Uncle John and Connie Ma's inspiration through the novel and deserted the family, while Grampa died when particularly chapters 26-30 finally inspired he was forced to leave Oklahoma. Ma Rose of Sharon to step up to the plate and Joad, accepted the hardships and changes they contribute to the greater community, where face, as she explains it is inevitable. she fed the dying man in the barn. This action would never have come from Rose of Sharon before the series of "unfortunate", yet mind-opening events she went through. 14. Uncle John Uncle John is quiet for most of the book, however in the last chapter he is able to overcome this and communicate through his use of symbolism. When he is asked to bury Rose of Sharon's stillborn baby, he takes it and sends it down the river saying "Go down an' tell 'em. Go down in the street an' rot an' tell 'em that way. That's the way you can talk." 15. Cotton pickers wanted signs are everywhere, attracting so many Plot & Conflict Plot/Conflict pickers there isn't enough work for everyone. The owners rig their scales and workers put stones in their bags to add more weight. The Joad's are given a boxcar to live in but have to share it with The Joad family's supplies are running low and work is scarce another family, after staying for a month in the government camp. They are able to make enough money to buy more food and After leaving the camp, the truck gets a flat tire but a wealthy clothes for the family and a treat for Ruthie and Winfield. man gives news of employment at a peach farm farther up the Ruthie gets into a fight with another girl and threatens that Tom road, has killed two men and is in hiding. When they arrive at the peach farm it is guarded by police who Ma warns Tom and tells him to leave so he won't get caught, are keeping mobs of people at bay. They are paid 5 cents for Tom talks about Casy's wisdom (every man's soul is a small piece every box of peaches they pick. of one great soul) and how he plans to continue his work. At the end of the first day they have only made \$1 even with Ma leaves Tom and is met by a cotton farmer who needs pickers. everyone in the family working. Al and Agnes announce their marriage. They spend the dollar on food which they buy from the store. Ma doesn't like how expensive everything is and even after they have Families travel to pick their cotton but not much is earned eaten all the food, they are still hungry. because there are so many pickers. Tom leaves to investigate the trouble with the mobs and finds Jim It starts to rain. Casey in one of the tents. Rivers overflow, cars are washed away, and people are forced to Jim Casy tells Tom of the price cut to 2.5 cents per box that beg/steal food. caused the strike to begin. Rose of Sharon goes into labour Policemen walk into the camp and recognize Casy as the strike The men make a dam and a tree falls and breaks it. leader. Uncle John floats Rose of Sharon's stillborn baby down the river. Jim Casy starts protesting but moves his head into the swinging Family is forced to leave to find dry ground from their flooded club of the policeman and is killed. shelter. Tom kills one of the officers, is hit in the face, and flees back to The Joad family finds a barn. his family. Inside the barn is a boy and his starving father who hasn't eaten Tom offers to leave, but Ma insists that he stay, in 6 days and can't digest food except soup or milk. Family leaves the peach farm and finds work picking cotton. Tom Ma looks at Rose of Sharon and she immediately knows what to hides in a culvert close to the plantation because his bruised face do would cause suspicion. Rose of Sharon tells everyone to leave and then breast feeds the Ma sneaks him food every night. sick man. the grapes of wrath study guide answer key. the grapes of wrath study guide answers

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