

SUMMER READING Major Works Data Sheet

Title: *The Grapes of Wrath*

Author: John Steinbeck

Date of Publication: 1939

Genre: Historical Fiction

NAME: Joe Student

CLASS: English IV Honors

TEACHER: McDermet

DATE: August 15, 2014

PLOT SUMMARY

Exposition (*characters and conflict are introduced*)

Tom Joad comes home from prison to find his family's farm in Oklahoma deserted. The bank has taken over the farm. Tom and his preacher friend Jim Casy find Tom's family about to move out to California where a better life is promised. Jim and Tom decide to travel with them.

Complication (*main character takes action to resolve conflict and meets with complications*)

As the family travels from one place to another they experience many setbacks, including the death of Grampa Joad. Another family joins them as they go from one migrant camp to the next just trying to survive. They witness many instances of social injustice. Most of the time, the working conditions are horrific and finally Jim becomes a leader among the workers. He fights for their right to sanitary and sufficient living arrangements and fair wages. Granma Joad dies along the way and Tom's brother-in-law abandons his pregnant wife. Once they arrive in California things turn hostile. Jim gets into an altercation with a sheriff and is arrested.

Climax (*key scene, tense exciting moment*)

Along the way, Jim has made many enemies in high places and the police hunt him down and kill him in front of Tom. Outraged by the event, Tom retaliates by killing a police officer.

Resolution (*the closing of the story*)

Tom goes into hiding while the family moves into a boxcar on a cotton farm. Tom decides to continue Jim's work by fighting for the migrant workers even though it is dangerous for him to get involved. The rain comes and begins to flood the land. As the Joads move to higher ground for safety, Rose of Sharon (Tom's sister) gives birth to a stillborn child. They find a young boy, whose father is dying from starvation and the last scene of the book is where Rose of Sharon nurses the dying man with her own breast milk.

AUTHOR'S STYLE	EXAMPLES	
<p>Steinbeck writes very poetically and with great detail.</p> <p>Steinbeck also writes in the dialect of the mid-west farmer.</p> <p>Occasionally Steinbeck writes in the objective point of view – like a roving camera moving from scene to scene.</p>	<p>“In the water-cut gullies the earth dusted down in dry little streams. Gophers and ant lions stared small avalanches” (3).</p> <p>“Al was one with his engine, every nerve listening for weaknesses...He had become the soul of the car” (167).</p> <p>“Nope. But at leas’ we can starve to death with folks we know. Won’t have a bunch a fellas that hates us to starve with” (279).</p> <p>“Owners with rolled-up sleeves. Salesmen, neat, deadly, small intent eyes watching for weaknesses. Watch the woman’s face” (83).</p>	
MEMORABLE QUOTES		
QUOTE	PAGE	SIGNIFICANCE
“If you’re in trouble or hurt or need—go to poor people. They’re the only ones that’ll help—the only ones.”	453	This is said by Ma Joad. She believes that no matter how poor they are, they should always share, because the rich people do not care about anyone but themselves.
I’ll be ever’where—wherever you look. Wherever they’s a fight so hungry people can eat, I’ll be there. Wherever they’s a cop beatin’ up a guy, I’ll be there.”	572	This is what Tom tells his mother when he is leaving the camp to fight for the migrant workers. He is saying goodbye to her and telling her not to worry.
“There ain’t no sin and there ain’t no virtue. There’s just stuff people do. It’s all part of the same thing.”	317	This is a revelation that Jim has along the way. He had been a preacher all his life who had preached against sin but now he is discovering that people are simply people – all the same.
“Can you live without the willow tree? Well, no, you can’t. The willow tree is you.”	120-121	This is said by no one because it is in an objective point of view. It reflects the connection between the farmer and the land.
“Woman can change better’n a man. Woman got all her life in her arms. Man got it all in his head.”	577	Ma Joad said this to Pa when they were discussing how the family was falling apart.

CHARACTERS			
NAME	ROLE IN STORY	SIGNIFICANT EVENTS	ADJECTIVES that describe him/her
Tom Joad	Main character, helps hold the family together	Takes care of problems along the way; kills a police officer for revenge; takes up the role of leading the migrants	Compassionate Headstrong Risk-taker
Ma Joad	Main character, keeps the family together	Encourages everyone to keep together; works selflessly every day; never gives up	Sacrificial; unswerving in her goals; undaunted by trouble
Pa Joad	Head of the family	Plans the trip to California; protects the family; gradually breaks down when things get rough	Loyal Good man Weak in trouble
Jim Casy	Religious element; ex-preacher; leads migrants	Organizes the migrant workers; is killed because of his efforts	Social activist Passionate Philosopher
Rose of Sharon	Sister to Tom Life giver	Husband Connie abandons her while pregnant; she matures as the story progresses; ends up saving a dying man with her breast milk	Child-like to womanly Giving Understanding Patient

SETTING	SIGNIFICANCE OF OPENING SCENE
1930s midwest America during the Dustbowl	The opening scene reads like a painting. It is a description of the land. It creates an ominous mood of how important the land is and how it is affected by the weather. The weather really becomes an antagonistic character in the story, creating havoc most of the time and bringing relief occasionally. The scene sets the tone for the entire novel.
SYMBOLS	SIGNIFICANCE OF ENDING SCENE
<p>Rose of Sharon's pregnancy is symbolic because she has been abandoned by her husband and delivers a stillborn child, but is able to save a starving man with her breast milk.</p> <p>The death of the Joad's dog is symbolic because of its brutal and cruel killing. It foreshadows what is to come for the rest of the family.</p> <p>The grapes symbolize the idea that something better awaits them.</p>	The ending scene is haunting and uplifting. Rose of Sharon gives her breast milk to a man who is dying of starvation. It leaves the reader with a strangely hopeful feeling. The Joads will survive. But it will cost them everything.
POSSIBLE THEMES (WITH EXAMPLES)	
Man's Inhumanity to Man	Much of the suffering in the story is brought about by the cruelty of the rich towards the poor – from the bankers in the beginning, to the camp owners and even the police force.
Strength of Family	The Joads only survive this journey because of their commitment to one another. They also experience the strength of fellow travelers and other migrant workers. Their combined strength enables them to suffer with dignity and remain hopeful in the face of extreme despair.
Selfishness vs. Generosity	These two traits are juxtaposed constantly in the story. It begins with the selfish bankers vs. the families of Oklahoma. People the Joads meet along their journey continue to test their own generosity. Jim ends up giving his own life for the cause of others, and Tom risks his life as well. In the end Rose of Sharon gives her milk to a stranger.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE	EXAMPLES
<p>Metaphor – direct comparison of two unlike things</p> <p>Simile – comparison of two unlike things using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> or <i>than</i></p> <p>Personification – giving human qualities to inanimate objects</p> <p>Hyperbole – extreme exaggeration</p> <p>Pun – playing with words that sound alike but mean different things</p> <p>Idiom – an expression that is peculiar to a certain group</p> <p>Oxymoron – a combination of contradictory words</p>	<p>Find a variety of examples of any of the devices listed. Include the page number where the example is found. Record a minimum of six examples.</p>
Metaphor	“...a land turtle crawled, turning aside for nothing...” (20)
Simile	“as rhythmically, as thoughtfully, as a cow” (9)
Personification	“The Bank or the Company-needs-wants-insists-must have-as though the Bank or the Company were a monster” (31)
Metaphor	“the thunder...became one with the air and the earth” (35)
Idiom	“Looked like a Happy Hooligan” (500)
Simile	“great crawlers moving like insects” (35)
Personification	“You know what cotton does to the land; robs it, sucks all the blood out of it” (32)
Metaphor	“the bank-the monster- has to have profits all the time” (32)

MAJOR DATA SHEET	PAGE 6
VOCABULARY (unfamiliar or unusual words, including page number)	SENTENCE/PHRASE THAT INCLUDES THE WORD; DEFINITION OF THE WORD
Conjecture (109)	<p>“there was a look not of prayer, but of thought; and in his tone not supplication, but conjecture.”</p> <p>DEFINITION – an opinion formed without proof</p>
Harrowing (271)	<p>“He was harrowin’ one day an’ he went up to clear his lines.”</p> <p>DEFINITION – to cultivate</p>
Gingerly (364)	<p>“He felt his neck gingerly.”</p> <p>DEFINITION – very cautiously or carefully</p>
Ruthless (183)	<p>“The men were ruthless because the past had been spoiled, but the women knew how the past would cry to them in the coming days.”</p> <p>DEFINITION – having no pity; cruel or merciless</p>
Inveterate (287)	<p>“But Winfield was still a trifle of a snot-nose, a little of a brooder back of the barn, and an inveterate collector and smoker of snipes.”</p> <p>DEFINITION – always or often doing something specified</p>
Dissipated (82)	<p>“In the last part of May the sky grew pale and the clouds that had hung in high puffs for so long in the spring were dissipated.”</p> <p>DEFINITION – to cause something to spread out and disappear</p>
Pauper (441)	<p>“Granma a pauper, an’ buried a pauper.”</p> <p>DEFINITION – a very poor person who has no money to pay for food, clothing, etc.</p>