

The Grapes of Wrath – Study Guide 11th Honors
By John Steinbeck

Questions #1 and #2 are to be completed prior to reading the novel!

Directions: Type the responses in well-developed paragraphs. Each item should not exceed one paragraph. This is to insure that you “think” before you **Write**”!

1. Before reading Grapes..., research the era of the late 1930s and the Dust Bowl in the Oklahoma/ California area. Write a paragraph describing this desolate time.
2. Before reading Grapes..., research John Steinbeck and his intent for this classical writing. Write a short paragraph on your findings and be able to **state and support** whether you feel that Steinbeck accomplished his goal for “Grapes”.

To complete your summer reading assignment, select item #3 **or** item #4 below:

3. As you read the book, note the extensive biblical allusions (references to biblical scenes, actions, characters, etc.). You might need to review some critical analysis on Grapes... if you are weak in this area. This is done in order for you to discover that the three items, which mostly influence American literature and literature from other eras and cultures are Shakespeare, mythology, and the Bible.
4. There are static characters, who remain the same throughout a novel or play; the reader can even predict what reaction that character will have to events in the story. There are dynamic characters, who evolve into a “different” person by the end of the literary piece. Tom Joad is a dynamic character. In a short analysis of the character describe the evolving of Tom.

Your summer reading packet is due the first day of English III Honors class, regardless of which block you are scheduled for the class.