

The Grapes of Wrath – Study Guide AP Language
By John Steinbeck

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

Directions: Type the responses in well-developed paragraphs with varied sentence structures. 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 in this area.
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”.
3. Realizing that mythology, Shakespeare, and The Bible are alluded to throughout literature, **make a list or chart** and comment on the biblical allusions (references to biblical scenes, actions, characters, etc.) found in “Grapes”. You might need to review some critical analysis on “Grapes” if you are weak in this area.
4. Literature utilizes 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. Literature also depicts 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.
5. In a short paragraph, tell why you think the title is a good title or a bad title for this classical literary piece.

I acknowledged receipt of this summer reading assignment. I realize it is in addition to the school-wide reading assignment. I will have the assignment ready to hand in on the first day of school August, 2010..

Student signature

Print: Last name, first name