

# The Grapes of Wrath

John Steinbeck

## A Before Reading

- The story describes a journey across the USA. Read 'A Note about The Story' on pages 5 and 6 of the book, and predict which of the following places will be mentioned in the story. Use a map of North and South America to help you if you are not sure.

Oklahoma	Mexico City	California	Texas	London	The Gulf of Mexico	Highway 66
	Buenos Aires	Arizona	New Mexico	Toronto	Caracas	

As you start reading, look out for these places.

- The book tells the story of farm workers who have little work or money and who travel across America in a truck. Decide if the following words from the story are connected with money, farming or trucks/cars and put them in the correct column. The first one is done for you. Check any that you do not know in your Macmillan Dictionary.

crop	profit	engine	debt	radiator	worth	wages	loan	corn	soil	credit
		brakes	hood	ripen	vineyard	pick	tyre	orchard		

Trucks/cars	Money	Farming
		crop

Can you think of any other words or expressions connected to these subjects which you might find in the story? Add your ideas to the table above.

## B While Reading

- All of the words described in the clues on the next page appear in the story. As you read, write the words in the relevant spaces in the puzzle. When you have finished, one of the columns will show an important word in the story.

1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

- 1 The name of the man who warned that there would be trouble at the dance.
- 2 Tom had been in prison for \_\_\_\_\_ a man.
- 3 The Joads helped this Kansas family when their car would not run.
- 4 The fruit which the Joad family picked when other workers were on strike.
- 5 One of the men responsible for keeping law and order was known as the deputy \_\_\_\_\_. (Watch your spelling!)
- 6 The main crop which the Joad family used to grow on their own farm.
- 7 The leader of the Joad family.
- 8 The name of the girl Al wanted to marry.

- 4 a As you read, complete column A of the table to show whether men or women in the story do each thing. Write M for men, W for women or MW for both men and women.

	A: In the story	B: In your own family or your country in general
Drive the truck/cars		
Make important family decisions		
Do farm work		
Wash clothes/dishes		
Fix the car/truck		
Cook the food		
Shop for food		
Think about money		
Look after the sick		

- b Now complete column B to say if these things are done most often by men (M), women (W) or both (MW) in your own family (or your own country in general). Do you think everything should be shared equally between men and women, or is it OK for men and women to have different responsibilities?

- 5 'You think Connie's coming back today?' Rosasharn asked Ma. (p73)

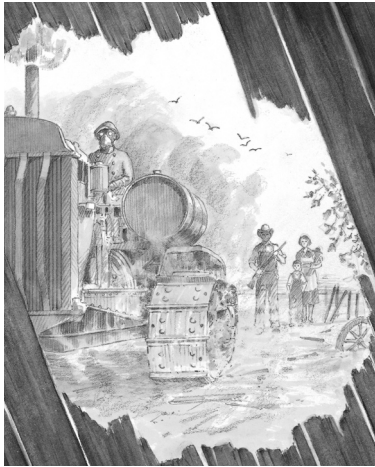
After Connie leaves and the Joad family move to the government camp, Rosasharn continues to hope that Connie will return. Write a letter from Rosasharn to Connie:

- asking why he left and if he will return
- telling him about life in the government camp
- telling him about your dreams for the future when the baby is born and life is better.

*Dear Connie,...*

## C After Reading

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*The man sitting on the iron seat of the tractor did not look like a man... He was part of the machine... He could not see the land properly, he could not smell it and feel it. This man loved the tractor, not the land. (p14)*

In the story the tractor is shown as a 'negative' machine which causes suffering for the old tenant farmers. In your opinion, do machines bring more problems or benefits? Choose a machine from the list below (or your own choice) and write a paragraph explaining the problems and/or benefits it has brought to people's lives.

Examples: the television, the telephone, the car, the computer

- 7 a The story shows us the life of a family in difficult times. Read the following sentences about family and put a tick in the relevant column to show if you agree or disagree with them.

	Agree	It depends	Disagree
A poor family together is always happier than a rich family broken up.			
Younger family members should live with older family members (eg grandparents) in order to look after them.			
Family (blood) relationships are stronger than any other.			
Women are usually the strongest members of a family in difficult times.			

- b Choose one of the sentences and write a paragraph giving your opinion on the subject.

- 8 At the end of the story, we do not know what will happen to the characters in the future. Do you think that there is hope left for them? Will Tom make it to safety or will he be caught by the police? Will Ma stay strong? Will Al get married? Will Rosasharn have another baby? Will they ever find work and somewhere better to live?

Look at the last line of Chapter 20 of the book (below), and then write an extra final chapter (Chapter 21) describing what happened to them all next.

'There,' she said. 'There.' Her hand held his head gently. She looked across the barn and smiled.

Chapter 21