



The Grapes of Wrath

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–3

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

Correct the wrong sentences.

- a The economy in the United States was strong in most of the 1920s.
- b The Great Depression began in 1939 and continued through the 1940s.
- c About 25 percent of the American people had jobs in 1933.
- d Work camps were called Hoovervilles because many American people blamed American President Hoover for their troubles.
- e During the Depression, there was lots of rain which caused further problems for farming states such as Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas.
- f There were many jobs offering high pay for hardworking people who arrived in California from the farming areas.
- g The poor people who picked fruit, vegetables and cotton often tried to help each other.
- h Everybody liked *The Grapes of Wrath* when it was published in 1939.

2 Fill in the missing words from this summary of Chapter 1.

Tom had been (a) for a long time and the new shoes he was wearing hurt his feet. As he was passing a (b) he saw a truck. He decided to try to get a (c) At first, the (d) didn't want to take him but in the end, he agreed. Near his family home Tom met Casy who had been a (e) before, and together they went to the Joad farm. The farm was deserted. Then they met Muley who told them that Tom's family had gone to stay with Tom's (f) The family (g) to go to California soon. The three men ate some (h) that Muley had caught and spent the night in a (i)

3 Match the letters with the numbers below to make complete sentences.

- a Many farmers had to leave their homes because

- b Uncle John's wife died because
- c The family thinks there are good jobs in California because
- d Ma is worried about Tom going to California with them because
- e Ma is able to make Grandpa go with them when
- f Casy says Grandpa died because
- g The Joad and Wilson families decide to travel together because
 - 1) she puts some medicine in his coffee and he falls asleep
 - 2) they can help each other on their journey
 - 3) they received a handbill saying that they could make good wages picking fruit
 - 4) she didn't go to a doctor and her appendix burst
 - 5) the people who owned the land couldn't afford to keep them there
 - 6) he didn't want to leave the land
 - 7) she is afraid he will get in trouble with the police for leaving the state

Chapters 4–5

4 Put these events in the correct order (1–8).

- a Noah leaves the family.
- b The Joads are stopped by guards at the border to Arizona.
- c Ma tells them that Grandma is dead.
- d Tom and Al fix the car.
- e They get across the desert to the valley and see the fruit trees.
- f Ma gets very angry and waves a hammer in the air because she doesn't want the family to split up.
- g Something goes wrong with the Wilson's car.
- h The family gets to California. The men bathe in the river.

5 Underline YES or NO.

- a Do Al and Tom repair the car early in the morning? YES NO
- b Was the ragged man leaving California? YES NO
- c Were the father and son at the river going to California? YES NO
- d Does Noah plan to stay at the river and catch fish? YES NO



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- e Did the police officer speak politely to Ma?
YES NO
- f Was Grandma dead before they crossed the desert?
YES NO

Chapters 6–7

6 Read Chapter 6 and choose the right name from the box.

Floyd Casy The contractor Tom
Uncle John The sheriff Connie

- a doesn't tell the men at the camp how much they will get paid.
- b hits the sheriff and then runs away.
- c goes away to get drunk.
- d warns the men they should leave the camp by the next day or they might get hurt.
- e puts out his foot and the sheriff falls down.
- f is unhappy and leaves the camp.
- g tells the police that he is responsible for the fight with the sheriff.

7 Choose the right word in *italics*.

- a The *police / committees* make the laws at government camps.
- b Mr. Thomas tells the men their wages will go *up / down*.
- c Mr. Thomas is told by the *bank / government* that he needs to change the pay for workers.
- d Ruthie is excited to see the modern *dance hall / toilets* at the camp.
- e A *nurse / teacher* will come to the government camp every week and give instructions to Rosasharn.
- f The men at the dance watch everybody carefully to stop a *fire / fight* from starting.

Chapters 8–9

8 Underline the mistakes in the sentences and correct them.

- a The family leaves Weedpatch government camp because the people there are not nice to them.
.....

- b The family can pick cotton at the Hooper Ranch.
.....
- c The store is owned by the ranch and prices are low.
.....
- d The people gathering outside the ranch want to work there.
.....
- e Casey warns Tom that the owners at the ranch will give them more work soon.
.....
- f Tom hits the man outside the ranch because that man attacked him first.
.....

9 Imagine what each person might think as he or she faces situations in Chapter 9. Write 1–7.

- a "I will help people get good jobs that will allow them to feed their families and have a nice place to live."
 - b "I don't know why I told that girl about my brother. I was just so angry."
 - c "I hope somebody can help him. I'm afraid he's going to die if he doesn't eat soon."
 - d "I feel so sad but if I can help someone else, then I will still feel some hope for the future."
 - e "I am going to be happy with my wife and get a good job working at a garage."
 - g "I'll do anything to help my family. Right now, that means I have to keep the water from coming into our home."
 - f "I always thought the family had to stay together but now I know that Tom has to leave."
- 1) Al 2) Ma 3) Pa
4) Ruthie 5) the boy 6) Tom
7) Rosasharn

After reading

10 Think about the difficulties facing the Joad family and other characters. List the feelings various characters might have had at different times in the story. Note the feeling faced by writing the person with page number. Briefly explain the situation.



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Chapters 1–3

1 Read the descriptions. Choose the names (1–9).

- a is a lonely man whose wife died several years ago.
- b is worried about Tom crossing the border and breaking parole.
- c is good at fixing cars and trucks and likes to meet girls.
- d is on parole after being in prison for four years.
- e speaks little and moves slowly.
- f used to be a preacher but doesn't have the "spirit" in him any longer.
- g carefully counts the money the family needs to travel to California.
- h is newly married and is going to have a baby.
- i tells his family that he doesn't want to leave the farm.
- 1) Tom 2) Casy 3) Ma 4) Grandpa
5) Noah 6) Al 7) Pa 8) Rosasharn
9) Uncle John

Chapters 4–5

2 Choose the right answer. Write 1 or 2.

- a Ma says the most important thing in life is
- 1) land
2) family
- b Tom thinks the best way to get ready for the future is to
- 1) plan carefully
2) just put one foot in front of the other
- c Al thinks he might want to
- 1) study about radios or engines
2) buy his own farm
- d The owner of the campground says they can't set up camp beside the road at night without paying because
- 1) that would be trespassing
2) it would not be safe
- e The ragged man says he is leaving California and returning home because
- 1) the pay is too low
2) the work is too difficult
- f Noah decides to stay behind. He plans to
- 1) go back to the farm
2) fish in the river

- g At the river, the police officer tells Ma they must leave because
- 1) the local people don't want them settling in the area
2) there isn't a hospital to help them

Chapters 6–7

3 Complete the sentences with these words.

- contractor police Farmers' Association
committees Hooverville Government camps
sheriff
- a is the name of the place where people often lived when they were looking for work in California in the 1930s.
- b Workers couldn't stay in one place for long because a often made them move along.
- c were better places to live as they had clean washrooms and had dances on weekends.
- d The tried to find people to work at the farms.
- e The at the government camps made the laws for the workers.
- f The were not allowed on government camps unless there was trouble.
- g The (which was controlled by the bank) told employers what they should pay their workers.

Chapters 8–9

4 Put these events in the correct order (1–8).

- a The Joads pack peaches into boxes and get a dollar's credit at the ranch store.
- b Tom has to leave the family because Ruthie tells a girl that he killed a man.
- c The Joads decide to leave the government camp because they don't have enough work there.
- d Casy is killed and Tom attacks a man.
- e Rosasharn's baby dies. Soon after that, Rosasharn helps a dying man.
- f The Joads move to a new place. They live in a boxcar and pick cotton.
- g The Joads drive to Hooper Ranch and see lots of people outside the entrance.
- h Tom meets Casy outside the ranch gate and hears about the strike.