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Literature Made Fun!



The Grapes of Wrath
BY JOHN STEINBECK



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ISBN 978-1-60389-233-9
Item No. 200934

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters One - Two
Imagery

Objectives: Observing the way imagery contributes to tone and theme
Examining the relationship between imagery in intercalary and plot chapters

Activity I

In the opening chapter, Steinbeck makes repeated use of colors to describe the farmland and the weather. Find as many words describing color and shade as you can and write them in the COLOR CHART that follows. Count the number of times each is used. What ideas do you associate with each color? Record them in the third column. One chart entry has been done for you as an example.

COLOR CHART

Color Word	Examples	Ideas Associated
red	"the air and the sky darkened and through them the sun shone redly..."	hell, heat, dryness
gray		
green	"	
pale		

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Two

Momentum and Rhythm

Objective: Understanding how an author builds and resolves suspense through detail

Activity

Steinbeck builds momentum and suspense in Chapter Two through small details about the characters' actions and their environment. The speed of the truck, the silence of Tom, and the nervous movements of the driver all build towards the climax of the chapter.

Trace this buildup by drawing a plot line across a piece of paper. Make the line flat when there is little tension, and record upward movement when the suspense builds. Include plateaus when nothing of significance is happening. Add points to the line to signify major tension-builders in the chapter. Beside each point, explain in words what it signifies.

Name: _____

Date: _____

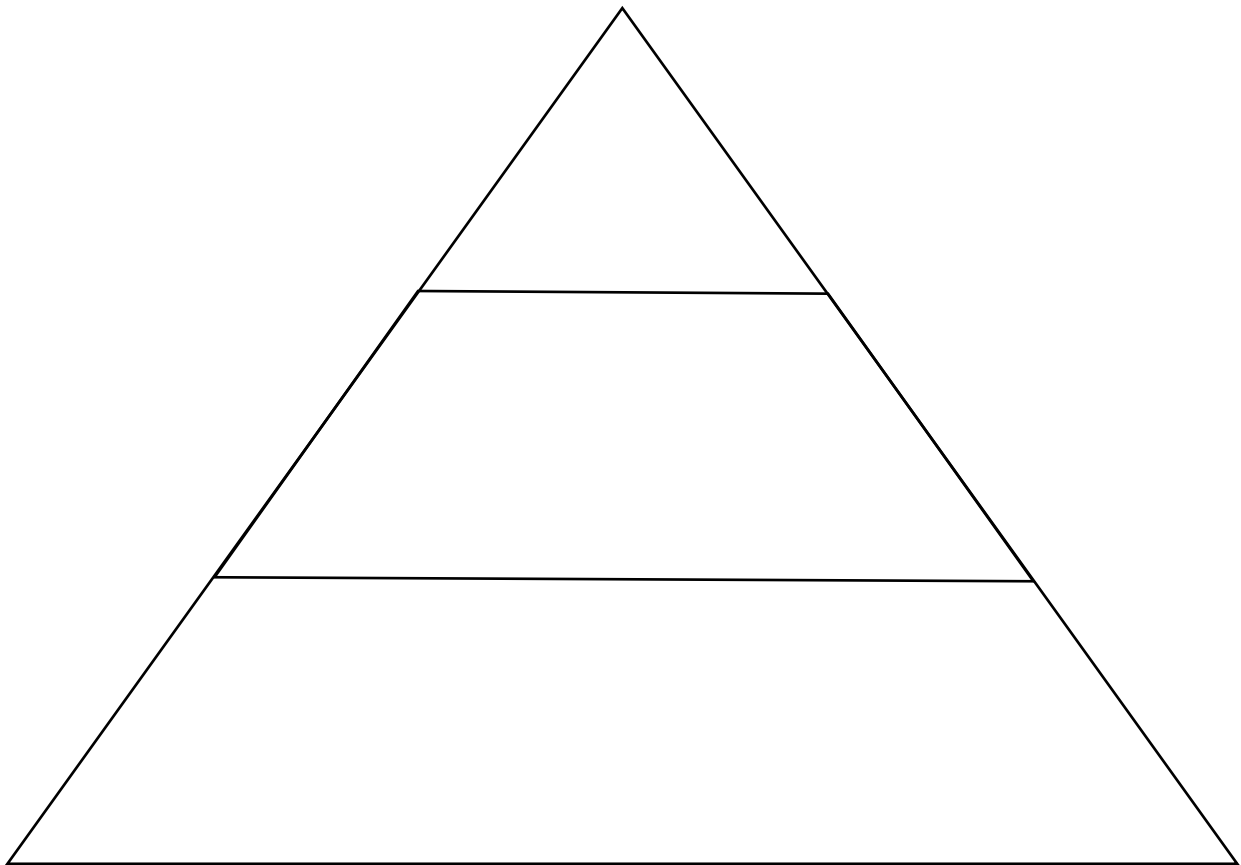
Chapters One - Seven**Economic Background**

Objectives: Understanding Steinbeck's views on the economic situation in the United States in the 1930s, especially financial and political causes, and relating it to classic economic theory
Understanding what Socialism is

Activity I

Label each section in the pyramid that follows by assigning a rank to each of the groups of characters. Put the least powerful group on the bottom and the most powerful on the top. Which group is the most populous?

- a. tractor drivers, middlemen
- b. tenant farmers and their families
- c. owners, large banks and corporations



Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters Eight - Eleven**Foreshadowing**

Objective: Recognize instances of foreshadowing and make predictions about the direction of the story

About the handbills promising work in California, Ma says, "I'm scared of stuff so nice. I ain't got faith. I'm scared somepin ain't so nice about it."

Activity

Speculate on the ways Ma's prophecy may be fulfilled.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters One - Twelve**Theme****Objective:** Understand the author's view of human nature

In Chapter Twelve, Steinbeck describes both a positive and a negative side of human beings.

ActivityWith your group, think of as many examples as you can of both predatory and kind or decent human behavior in *The Grapes of Wrath*. Record at least four examples of each in the following chart.

Human beings as predatory	Human beings as kind/decent
a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.
d.	d.