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***The Grapes of Wrath***  
BY JOHN STEINBECK



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## Table of Contents

<b>Pre-reading</b>	
Research/Presentations and Posters .....	8
<b>Chapters One - Two</b>	
Imagery .....	10
<b>Chapter Two</b>	
Characterization .....	14
Momentum and Rhythm .....	16
<b>Chapter Three</b>	
Levels of Imagery.....	14
<b>Chapter Four</b>	
Character Analysis .....	18
<b>Chapters One - Seven</b>	
Economic Background .....	22
<b>Chapter Five</b>	
Simile and Metaphor .....	28
<b>Chapter Six</b>	
Foreshadowing/Inference .....	32
<b>Chapter Seven</b>	
Point of View .....	34
<b>Chapter Eight</b>	
Allusion .....	40
<b>Chapter Nine</b>	
Characterization .....	42
<b>Chapters Eight - Eleven</b>	
Foreshadowing .....	44
<b>Chapter Ten</b>	
Characterization/Point of View .....	46
Dialect .....	48
Theme.....	50
<b>Chapters Eight - Eleven</b>	
Spirituality vs. Religion .....	52

<b>Chapter Eleven</b>	
Family Rules .....	54
Theme.....	56
<b>Chapter Twelve</b>	
Mapping.....	58
<b>Chapters One - Twelve</b>	
Theme .....	60
<b>Chapter Thirteen</b>	
Critical Thinking/Writing Creatively .....	62
Writing .....	66
<b>Chapters Twelve - Eighteen</b>	
Characterization .....	68
<b>Chapter Fourteen</b>	
Anaphora.....	70
<b>Chapter Fifteen</b>	
Style .....	74
Inference.....	78
<b>Chapter Sixteen</b>	
Conceptual Thinking .....	80
<b>Chapter Seventeen</b>	
Found Poem.....	82
<b>Chapter Eighteen</b>	
Dialogue .....	84
Letter to the Editor .....	86
<b>Chapters One - Eighteen</b>	
Character Development.....	88
<b>Chapter Nineteen</b>	
Research .....	90
<b>Chapters Nineteen - Thirty</b>	
Theme.....	92
<b>Chapter Twenty</b>	
Brochure .....	94
Journal Entry/Point of View .....	96
Headlines and Bias.....	98

<b>Chapter Twenty-One</b>	
Collage.....	100
<b>Chapter Twenty-Two</b>	
Decision Making.....	102
<b>Chapter Twenty-Three</b>	
Storytelling and Music.....	104
<b>Chapters Nineteen - Thirty</b>	
Theme.....	106
<b>Chapter Twenty-Six</b>	
Characterization .....	108
<b>Chapters Nineteen - Thirty</b>	
Theme.....	110
<b>Chapters Twenty-Seven and Twenty-Eight</b>	
Creative Decision-making/Critical Thinking .....	112
<b>Chapter Twenty-Nine</b>	
Personification.....	114
<b>Chapter Twenty-Four and Twenty-Five</b>	
Comprehension Check Puzzle .....	116
<b>Chapter Thirty</b>	
Symbolism .....	118
<b>Wrap-Up</b>	
Synthesis .....	120
Review .....	122
<b>Appendix</b>	
Terms and Definitions .....	124
Small Group Learning .....	126
Dramatization of Scenes in a Novel.....	131
Newspaper .....	132

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: \_\_\_\_\_

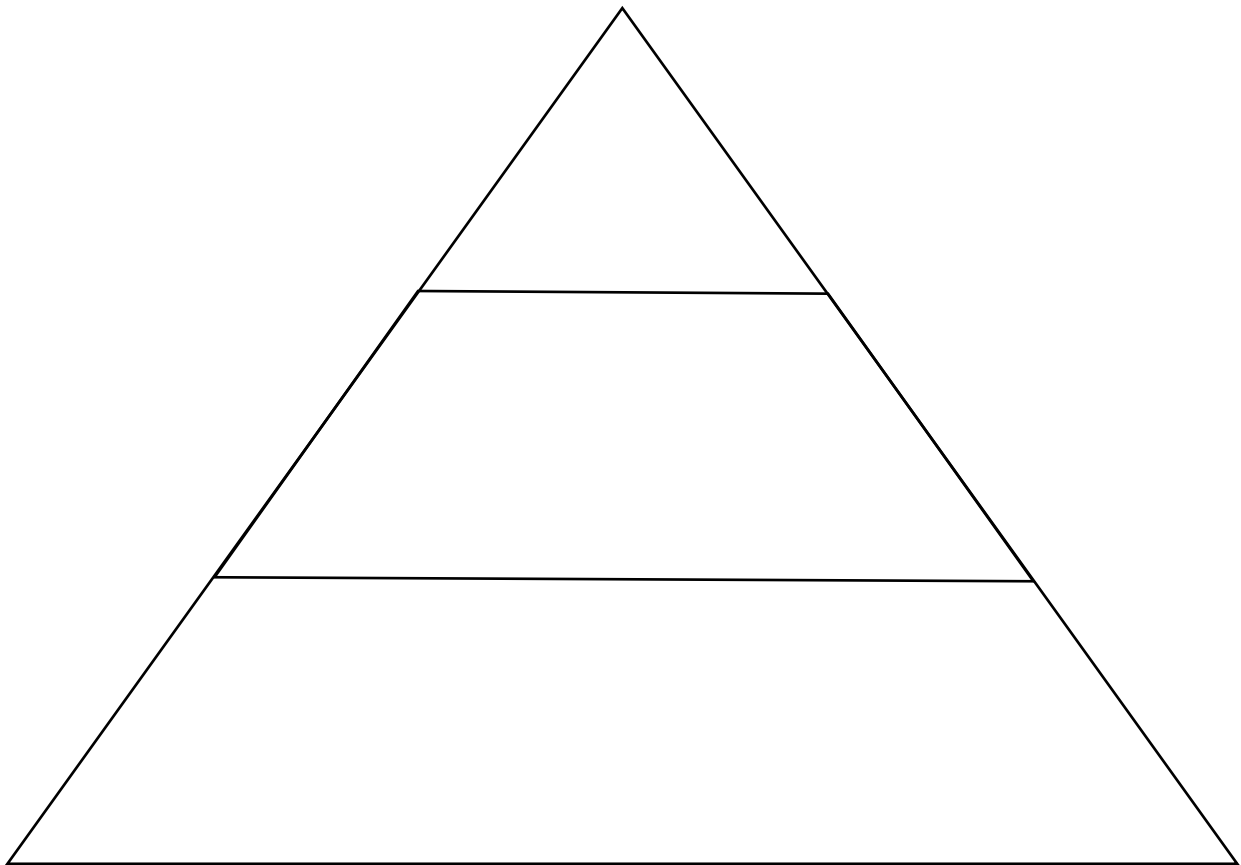
**Chapters One - Seven****Economic Background**

**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.

**Activity**With 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.