

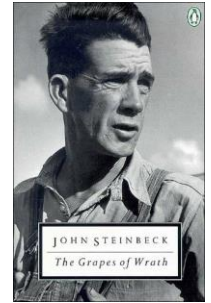
Grapes of Wrath Seminar #1

Mr. Eble, AP Language & Composition

Use this sheet as a preparation guide for our seminar next class over *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Be sure that you...

- bring questions about the text to class (beyond those below)
- bring areas of text you'd like to address



Seminar Prompt:

According to a PBS site, “Before he wrote his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck was commissioned by The San Francisco News to write a series of articles on the migrant laborers of the Salinas Valley. The result, “The Harvest Gypsies” (1936) were published consecutively from October 5 to October 12, 1936.”

Thus, *The Grapes of Wrath* is ensconced in its time, The Great Depression. Yet, Steinbeck’s novel has obviously long-lasting appeal.

In our seminar, we’ll discuss the following questions:

- What argument about his own time period does Steinbeck posit in *Grapes*? How? Explain with details from the text.
- What broader argument can you pull from *Grapes*?
- What connections in argument can you make between *Grapes* and Schlosser’s “In the Strawberry Fields?”

Be sure to come to class with some ideas and text related to these questions.