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acquire something basic in the beginning? That's something that will guide you to understand even more regarding the globe, experience, some places, following history, amusement, and a lot more? It is your very own grow old to do its stuff reviewing habit. in the middle of guides you could enjoy now is the grapes of wrath by john steinbeck below. (Book 592 From 1001 Books) - The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck The Grapes of Wrath is an American realist novel written by John

Steinbeck and published in 1939. The book won the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize for fiction, and it was cited prominently when Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962. Jul 22, 2016 · Context. The Great Depression; Overview. Not only one of Steinbeck's greatest works, The Grapes of Wrath (1939) has also secured its place as one of the most famous novels in the entire American literary canon. The final piece of Steinbeck's labor trilogy—following In Dubious Battle (1936) and Of Mice and Men (1937)—The Grapes of Wrath was written ... Steinbeck's insistence that The Grapes of Wrath be "keyed into the American scene from the

beginning" by reproducing all the verses of "Battle Hymn," ... (November 1999) survey of

readers, writers, editors, and academics ranked John Steinbeck as the number one writer among

from more ... 1939: Steinbeck writes The Grapes of Wrath; published to popular acclaim in April. 1940s 1940: Steinbeck wins the Pulitzer Prize for The Grapes of Wrath. 1941: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. 1943: Steinbeck works with Alfred Hitchcock on Lifeboat. 1945: World War II ends. Steinbeck\'s sons are born: Thom in 1944, John

the century's "100 Best" (a list whittled down

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5. the grapes of wrath

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16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40

steinbeck's liberal mixture of native philosophy,

common-sense leftist politics, blue-collar radicalism, working-class characters, homespun folk wisdom, and digressive narrative form—all set to a bold, rhythmic style

qualified the novel as the "american book" he had set out to write, the novel's title—from julia ward howe's "battle hymn of the republic"—was clearly in the

deal democrat, liked the song "because it is a march

book it has a large meaning," he announced on september 10, 1938, to elizabeth otis, his new york

american grain—and steinbeck, a loyal rooseveltian new

and this book is a kind of march—because it is in our own revolutionary tradition and because in reference to this

after its arduous composition from late may through late

("never worked so hard in my life nor so long before," steinbeck told carl wilhelmson), the grapes of wrath passed from his wife's typescript to published novel (viking's designers set the novel in janson type-face) in a scant four months. in march 1939, when steinbeck received copies from one of three advance printings, he told pascal covici, his editor at the viking press, that he

was "immensely pleased with them." the novel's

result of its imposing length (619

the novel and its author.

anniversary of "black sunday,"

the nearly 150

wrath won the 1940

directly to readers'

150,000

became a cornerstone of his 1962

impressive physical and aesthetic appearance was the

pages) and elmer hader's striking dust jacket illustration

(which pictured the exiled joads looking down from

steinbeck's insistence that the grapes of wrath be

was only partly met: viking press compromised by printing the first page of howe's sheet music on the book's endpapers in an attempt (unsuccessfully, it

"keyed into the american scene from the beginning" by

turned out) to deflect accusations of communism against

given the drastic plight of the migrant labor situation in california during the depression, steinbeck refused intentionally to write a popular book or to court

commercial success. it was ironic, then, that shortly after its official publication date on april 14, 1939 (the fourth

the most devastating of all dust bowl storms), fueled by

reviews—mostly positive—that appeared in newspapers, magazines, and literary journals during the remainder of the year, the grapes of wrath climbed to the top of the bestseller lists for most of the year, selling 428,900

copies in hardcover at \$2.75 each. (in 1941, when sun

copies of grapes had already been sold.) the grapes of

pulitzer prize (steinbeck gave the \$1,000 prize to friend ritch lovejoy to encourage his writing career), eventually

nobel prize, and proved itself to be among the most enduring—and controversial—works of fiction by any american author, past or present. in spite of flaws, gaffes, and infelicities its critics have enumerated—or perhaps because of them (general readers tend to embrace the book's mythic soul and are less troubled

by its imperfect body)— the grapes of wrath has

its conscience. few novels can make that claim.

resolutely entered both the american consciousness and

if a literary classic can be defined as a book that speaks

concerns in successive historical and cultural eras, no

preoccupations are, then surely the grapes of wrath is such a work. each generation of readers has found something new and relevant about it that speaks to its

probably won't be indifferent. although steinbeck could not have predicted its success (and was nearly ruined by its roller-coaster notoriety), the fact is that, in the past six-plus decades, the grapes of wrath has sold more than fifteen million copies and currently sells annually

copies. a graph in book (july/august 2003) indicates that

novels in 2002, grapes ranks eleventh—five spots behind

of the fifty bestselling "classic" british and american

hemingway's the old man and the sea (steinbeck and hemingway are the only writers with three titles each on

changed america. moreover, a recent spate of turn-ofthe-century polls, all employing differing, even opposed methodologies, agendas, and criteria, arrived at similar

the list). in that same issue of book, jerome kramer includes grapes as one of the twenty books that

conclusions: surveys by radcliffe publishing course,

journal, and british booksellers waterston's all place the grapes of wrath among the premier works in english of

moreover, an elaborate writer's digest (november 1999)

ranked john steinbeck as the number one writer among the century's "100 best" (a list whittled down from more than seven hundred nominees). the criteria—admittedly

healthy dose of critical skepticism thrown into the mix, and a strong awareness of our turn-of-the-century obsession with compiling "best" lists, there is still

something more significant at work in these dovetailing independent assessments of grapes' achievement than

partisanship, demographic distribution, or simpleminded puffery, something more than the vagaries of cultural correctness and identity politics is at work in these polls

survey of readers, writers, editors, and academics

slippery—used to judge each author included "influence," "quality," and "originality." even with a

the mere operation of special pleading, narrow

that keeps steinbeck's novel relevant to the kind of large-scale public conversation that took place in california in 2002, the year of steinbeck's one hundredth birthday, when the state's humanities

council, in an unprecedented and ambitious project, invited everyone in the state to read and discuss the

the "bard of the people," which, according to anne keisman, became the "largest single author tribute in

grapes has also had a charmed life on screen and

1940. the film was nominated for seven academy

—ford as best director; darwell as best supporting actress. (a restored dvd version with added historical features, movietone documentary newsreel footage of

dust bowl conditions, and extended interpretive

commentary by susan shillinglaw and joseph mcbride was released in 2004.) it proved to be a "hard, straight picture . . . that looks and feels like a documentary film and . . . has a hard, truthful ring," steinbeck reported on

(folksinger/songwriter woody guthrie said it was the "best cussed pitcher i ever seen," and urged readers of his column in people's world, "go to see it and don't miss. you was the star in that picture. ") frank galati faithfully adapted the novel for his chicago-based steppenwolf company, whose broadway production, featuring gary sinise as tom joad and lois smith as ma

joad, won a tony award for best play in 1990.

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too. cesar chavez, jim harrison, edward r.

steinbeck's novel has created legacies in other ways,

awards, and took home two oscars

stage. steinbeck sold the novel's film rights for \$75,000 to producer darryl f. zanuck at 20th century fox. then

nunnally johnson scripted a truncated film version, which was nonetheless memorably paced, photographed (by ace cinematographer greg tolland), and acted (henry fonda as tom joad, jane darwell as ma joad, and john carradine as jim casy) under the direction of john ford in

american history."

december

15,

1939,

after

seeing

hollywood

preview.

its

novel at 140 public library venues. california's effort was itself part of a nationwide steinbeck centennial honoring

modern library board, hungry mind review (now ruminator review), san francisco chronicle, heath anthology of american literature newsletter, library

the twentieth century.

fitzgerald's the great gatsby, but seven ahead of

matter what their critical approaches, methods, or

times. you might love it, you might hate it, but you

dial press issued a cloth reprint for a dollar, the publisher announced that more than 543,000

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first published in 1939, steinbeck's pulitzer prize- winning epic of the great depression chronicles the dust bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one oklahoma farm family, the joads—driven from their
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bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one oklahoma farm family, the joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised
land of california. out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an america divided into haves and have-nots evolves a drama that is
intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. a portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's
fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the great depression and probes into the very nature of equality
and justice in america. at once a naturalistic epic, captivity narrative, road novel, and transcendental gospel, steinbeck's powerful landmark novel is perhaps the most american of american classicsmore get a
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year old serves largely to put them off fine literature for the rest of their lives. the depth of understanding and compassion for the human condition as communicated by a book like this is simply unfathomable to those who haven't lived much life yet, but after you've gotten a healthy dose of living, it comes across like fine music to a trained ear. my heart doesn't bleed for the joads today
as it might have 25 years ago. yes, it's grim and unfair, but it's no longer shocking or disturbing, and i can see now that steinbeck didn't intend sensationalism to be the main point. what he's about is revealing the human dignity, the innate goodness and unbreakable pride of these people, and by extension the american people in general, something that still resonates today, especially with reference to the working classes. when the joads and their kind decline government hand outs, requesting instead the simple opportunity to work hard and be rewarded commensurate with their labor (even if it means a grueling cross-country journey to a place they don't know) one can hear today's white working poors'
exasperated disdain for government, insisting that they simply be allowed to keep more of their pay and not be held back in their efforts by nit-picking legalities and cultural trivialities that disapprove of their lifestyles. sadly, most such people will never read the grapes of wrath. worse yet, many liberal lawmakers won't read it again after high school and won't glean from it an essential understanding about the pride and
perseverance of the american working class which the far right is playing like a fiddle much to the detriment of the entire nation. a book like the grapes of wrath should be required reading - for every american over 30more flag 1063 likes · like · see review view all 126 comments aug 05, 2012 stephanie *eff your feelings* rated it it was amazing · review of another edition shelves: 2012, classics, favorites if you are an american you need to read the grapes of wrath. it scares the poop out of me because, my follow americans, we are
out of me because, my fellow americans, we are repeating history. if live anywhere else read it as well as a guide for what not to do. in the grapes of wrath mr. steinbeck tells the tale of the
first great depression through the joad family from oklahoma, who has been displaced from their family farm through no fault of their own. you see, there was a big bad drought which made farming impossible. in those days the fa if you are an american you need to read the grapes of wrath. it scares the poop out of me because, my fellow americans, we are repeating history. if live anywhere else read it as well as a guide for what not to do.
in the grapes of wrath mr. steinbeck tells the tale of the first great depression through the joad family from oklahoma, who has been displaced from their family farm through no fault of their own. you see, there was a big bad drought which made farming impossible. in those days the family farm fed the family and what they had left over they sold. but when the drought hit the only thing that would grow was cotton, you can't eat cotton, and that crop sucked the life right out of the soil so no other crop could grow in it for a very long time.
"these things were lost, and crops were reckoned in dollars, and land was valued by principal plus interest, and crops were bought and sold before they were planted. then crop failure, drought, and flood were no longer little deaths within life, but simple losses of money. and all their love was thinned with money, and all their fierceness dribbled away in interest until they were no longer farmers at all, but little shopkeepers of crops, little manufacturers who must sell before they can make. then those farmers who were not good shopkeepers lost their land to good shopkeepers. no matter how clever, how loving a man might be with earth and growing things, he could not survive if he were not also a good shopkeeper. and as time went on, the business men had the farms, and the farms grew larger, but there were fewer of them."
some guys with a lot of cash came along and bought up all the struggling family farms and leased the land back to the former family farmers and when they couldn't produce, the new owners kicked the families out of their homes. put them on the streets, children and elderly and allwho cares, right? poor people are less than.
from california came hand bills, pamphlets promising jobs and urging the homeless to drag their whole lives via barely moving junk heaps to the golden state where grapes grew in bunches by the side of the road. what choice did they have? they drove across deserts and mountains, losing loved ones along the way, they answered those hand bills in droves. what else could they do?
what happened when they got to california? they didn't get jobs, they got ridicule. they were called okies and shitheals and were looked down upon. "how can they live like that?" the people with money would ask, as if being poor was a choice. as if they were just lazy and all it would take to get out of poverty was to get a jobbut there were no fucking jobs. the owners sent out more handbills then they needed to. why? because the more men begging for a job the less the owners would have to pay them. supply and demand. the greedy sons a bitches wanted to pay as little as possible, and that is exactly what they did. the okies did not have a union of course.
"and the great owners, who must lose their land in an upheaval, the great owners with access to history, with eyes to read history and to know the great fact: when property accumulates in too few hands it is taken away. and that companion fact: when a majority of the people are hungry and cold they will take by force what they need. and the little screaming fact that sounds through all history: repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed, the great owners ignored the three cries of history, the land fell into fewer hands, the number of

of history, the land fell into fewer hands, the number of the dispossessed increased, and every effort of the great owners was directed at repression. the money was spent for arms, for gas to protect the great holdings, and spies were sent to catch the murmuring of revolt so that it might be stamped out. the changing economy was

ignored, plans for the change ignored; and only means to destroy revolt were considered, while the causes of revolt went on." who are the "great owners" today? the walton family (of walmart), six of them, have the same amount of money as the bottom 40% of americans. that is 124,720,000 people, people. \$93 billion.....billion and they want more, more money than could be spent in several lifetimes. they don't need it all, but the rest of america does. do you think the walton's might have an interest in keeping people poor? go check out who's in that store at 3am. let's also take a look at who is running against president obama. mittens is so rich that he doesn't even know what a doughnut is, and he's fighting for the waltons and all of the 1 %. he's so rich he thinks he is entitled to the office and "us people" do not need to see his tax returns.....the nerve of us, move on. we need to sit down, shut up, and stop asking questions because he, being a rich bastard, is an "owner" and we should know our place. not bloody likely. "our people are good people; our people are kind people. pray god some day kind people won't all be poor. pray god some day a kid can eat. and the associations of owners knew that some day the praying would stop. and there's the end." also posted at shelfinflicted ...more flag 481 likes · like · see review view all 91 comments may 06, 2019 michael rated it it was amazing this is another review-as-i-go, which helps me capture my thoughts of the moment, before i forget them!

one thing that strikes me in these early pages is

scooped up by tom. you see the world through the

i-go, which helps me capture my thoughts of the

one thing that strikes me in these early pages is steinbeck's technique of focusing on things that are

descriptions of the natural world like that wonderful chapter about the turtle, who eventually gets scooped up by tom. you see the world through the turtle's eyes for a moment and you see how the indifference of the characters to nature is a larger phenomenon that leads to their own ruin. steinbeck reinforces this theme later when he talks about how farmers can no longer afford to feel and relate to nature, that they're basically chemists dealing in nitrogen and machine operators dealing with

tractors. but, he says, when the "wonder" is gone, people are doomed. and of course the entire book is about the doomed nature of the dust bowl, and this--he says--is how we got there, through this kind of moral

there's another, similar type of moral breakdown at work in the wonderful passage about the car dealers talking

forces--greed, capitalism, deceit--that also serve as a

this is what i appreciate so far: that this book is about something! that steinbeck has something to say about the human endeavor. i find this element missing in so much contemporary fiction, which doesn't really seem to

as it gets closer to california, and the landscape changes, the first ominous whisperings appear that california will not be the paradise the joads expect. still they carry on, feeling like they have no choice, swept up

at first the joads encounter only the cruelty of

camp, they finally meet with simple human

capitalism--that the large field owners want to have hundreds of thousands of poor workers to choose from because it will keep wages low. then in the government

kindness--really the antithesis of all that. steinbeck is

crushed in the capitalist machine. money becomes like an ideology, a mask that shields the owners from the consequences of their bad actions. but it's also become necessary for survival. no longer can small farmers work their own land. they are forced into the larger economy, forced to earn wages and participate in the world of

money in order to survive. thus, the joads are eventually forced to leave the government camp in search of work.

eventually they find work picking peaches, but they soon

where? they don't know. somewhere vaguely north.

become caught up in labor unrest that spills into fatal violence, and they're forced to leave. i won't give away much of what follows. suffice it to say that the harrowing

ordeals don't end there, nor the emphasis on simple

a brave, fierce work that brims with the sense that it doesn't have to be this way--that people have made choices to be cruel but can make choices to be kind, as well. that something has to change because for most people, this architecture and logic of cruelty brings no relief and no joy. ...more flag 400 likes · like · see review view all 31 comments jan 10, 2010 ahmad sharabiani rated it really liked it · review of another

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the grapes of wrath is an american realist novel written by john steinbeck and published in 1939, the book won the national book award and pulitzer prize for fiction, and it was cited prominently when steinbeck was

the narrative begins just after tom joad is paroled from mcalester prison, where he had been incarcerated after

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while hitchhiking to his home near sallisaw, oklahoma,

when they arrive at tom's childhood farm home, they find it deserted. disconcerted and confused, tom and casy meet their old neighbor, muley graves, who tells them the family has gone to stay at uncle john joad's home nearby, graves tells them that the banks have evicted all

they have moved away, but he refuses to leave the

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being convicted of homicide in self-defense.

tom meets former preacher jim casy, whom he remembers from his childhood, and the two travel

being convicted of homicide in self-defense.

books) - the grapes of wrath, john steinbeck

awarded the nobel prize in 1962.

awarded the nobel prize in 1962.

steinbeck

together.

the farmers.

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area....

machine. simple human kindness becomes, by the end, the mother's milk that can sustain them, but only barely and uncertainly, and we're left with the indelible portrait of people trying to survive, unsure how it might turn out.

human kindness as the antidote to the capitalist

showing how important kindness is and how it is

about how to rip people off. here we see other

form of human self-sabotage.

be about much of anything at all.

in this tide of history.

moment, before i forget them!

breakdown.

turtle's eyes for a mome this is another review-as-

supposedly "tangential" to the main narrative of the joad family but yet are central to their fate. I'm thinking of the

steinbeck's technique of focusing on things that are supposedly "tangential" to the main narrative of the joad family but yet are central to their fate. i'm thinking of the descriptions of the natural world like that wonderful chapter about the turtle, who eventually gets

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???????more flag 320 likes · like · see review view all 9 comments oct 04, 2021 swaroop rated it it was amazing · review of another edition oh, steinbeck! [2014, 75th anniversary limited, penguin/viking]
"a tale of dashed illusions, thwarted desires, inhuman suffering, and betrayed promises—all strung on a shimmering thread of hope!" [1939, the viking press]
i did not at all realise until much later, that after finishing the last paragraph of the book i was just staring blankly into the nothing. i remember my initial thoughts to be about me being so very thankful and grateful for every oh, steinbeck!
[2014, 75th anniversary limited, penguin/viking] "a tale of dashed illusions, thwarted desires, inhuman suffering, and betrayed promises—all strung on a shimmering thread of hope!" [1939, the viking press] remarkable, terrific, and unforgettable!
i did not at all realise until much later, that after finishing the last paragraph of the book i was just staring blankly into the nothing. i remember my initial thoughts to be about me being so very thankful and grateful for everything i have. and, then the thoughts were about how complicated, complex, difficult and stupid idiots, we, humans, are:
-why can't we live together in peace and joy? -why can't we realise how limited our life span is? -how long will we keep fighting, destroying and killing each other in the name of boundaries, nationality and religion? -what makes us think that just by standing on a piece of land for a short while, makes us its owner?
"once california belonged to mexico and its land to mexicans; and a horde of tattered feverish americans poured in. and such was their hunger for land that they took the land—stole sutter's land, guerrero's". "well, you and me got sense. them goddamn okies got no sense and no feeling. they ain't human. a human being wouldn't live like they do. a human being couldn't stand it to be so dirty and miserable. they ain't a hell of a lot better than gorillas."
-why are immigrants and those who cross borders in search of better lives are always treated like dirt, garbage, leftovers and in such an inhumane way? -when my heart and intentions are all about sharing warmth, kindness, peace and joy, why cannot i expect the same in return? -how do i become a threat and danger to you, when i have never wished bad, ill or evil for you or your loved
ones? -is it not a basic human right to expect a safe home, clean clothes, warm food and fresh water, and a better and healthy life for my loved one? [2017, penguin books]
the grapes of wrath was initially very difficult to read. everything felt so raw and straightforward. the language of the characters was also so much 'localised', and difficult to follow and understand. but, i have waited so long to read this steinbeck, and as if 'one with faith shall never be denied', after a few chapters the story started to fill the heart and the characters became 'alive'. nothing in this story is sugarcoated or masked, everything is so real! it is advisable to read content warnings before reading this book.
selfishness, narrow-mindedness, shallow and small thinking of us, humans. it is amazing how people are treated as 'outlanders' and foreigners even in their own country. "there's dancing and hugging, when there should be
wailing and moaning in sin." i do not understand anything about any religion, but is that what being a 'true believer' is all about!? - either you keep chanting the written words or you are a sinner. we truly seem to have arrived at a weird definition of 'sin'.
imagine this situation. you have just started cooking food for your family on the stove which is placed outside the tent, in which you and your family are currently living. the supplies and groceries you have are just enough for your family. while cooking you realise that few strangers, mostly children, have started assembling nearby following the scent of the cooking food. they keep looking, expectantly, at the food and your hand which is moving the steaming food in the pot. the strangers are at a little distance, but you are clearly
aware of their presence and their hungry eyes. you need to feed your family who has worked hard labour the whole day, are now so very hungry and they need strength to work the next day. i wholeheartedly wish and hope none of us is ever in these circumstances, but if you were the one cooking the food, and also you are the mother of the family, what would you do? more than anything, the grapes of wrath is about dreams, hopes, expectations, selflessness and kindness. [1968, viking press]
"don't roust your faith bird-high an' you won't do no crawlin' with the worms." in order to provide happiness, health and warmth for your family and loved ones, what is the price you are ready to pay? what are the sacrifices you are ready to make? are you able to walk through the tunnel of darkness and uncertainty until you reach the light at the end?
as a human being, despite all your personal circumstances, would you be able to show at least the basic level of kindness and empathy towards your fellow human being? can you offer a warm smile and a kind greeting to a stranger, even though you may have darkness and pain inside? "in the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage."
^^from the notes:: ======== how can we live without our lives? how will we know it's us without our past?
how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there?
how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there?
how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? ======== where does the courage come from? where does the terrible faith come from?
how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? ======== where does the courage come from? where does the terrible faith come from? ===================================
how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? ========= where does the courage come from? where does the terrible faith come from? ========= when somepin happens that i got to do somepin—i'll do it." ======== this is the beginning—from "i" to "we." if you who own the things people must have could understand this, you might preserve yourself. if you could separate causes from results, if you could know that paine, marx, jefferson, lenin, were results, not causes, you might survive. but that you cannot know. for the quality of owning freezes you forever into "i," and cuts you off forever from the "we."
how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? ======== where does the courage come from? where does the terrible faith come from? ======== when somepin happens that i got to do somepin—i'll do it." ======== this is the beginning—from "i" to "we." if you who own the things people must have could understand this, you might preserve yourself. if you could separate causes from results, if you could know that paine, marx, jefferson, lenin, were results, not causes, you might survive. but that you cannot know. for the quality of owning freezes you forever into "i," and cuts you off forever from the "we." ========= they were not farm men any more, but migrant men. and the thought, the planning, the long staring silence that had gone out to the fields, went now to the roads, to the distance, to the west.
how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there?
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how'll it be not to know what land's outside the door? how'll you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? **********************************
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how if the not to know what land's outside the door? how if you wake up in the night and know—and know the willow tree's not there? **********************************

the same copy then sat on my various book shelves ever since. i've never been able to sell it or give it away, so finally, at 42, with far looser abs and a pair of fat jeans in the closet, i decided to give it an actual try. now, the ladies at my book club will tell you. . . i'm not easily at 17, i bought the grapes of wrath, cracked it open, and, after reading a few pages, declared it boring. yawn. i was off to the mall with my tight abs to find some jeans that would accentuate my vacuous mind. the same copy then sat on my various book shelves ever since. i've never been able to sell it or give it away, so finally, at 42, with far looser abs and a pair of fat jeans in the closet, i decided to give it an actual try.

would accentuate my vacuous mind.

to the mall with my tight abs to find some jeans that

now, the ladies at my book club will tell you. . . i'm not easily won over by any book, though i do believe that a good book is a good book. . . merely because you like it. a good book may not have any other merit other than you thought the protagonist was sweet. or cute. but, a great book? well, a great book is a whole different story. a great book has nothing to do with you, or at least not you individually. a great book pays tribute to the collective you, our collective consciousness. a great book garners the support of divinity and has the staying

years.

Page 4/13

power of the people through multiple generations and

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Bookmark File PDF The Grapes Of Wrath
By John Steinbeck
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and this is a great book. one of the best ever written. this is the rare great american novel, up there with lonesome dove, the catcher in the rye and gone with

the wind. i can only imagine that steinbeck's hands were shaking as he removed the last page from the typewriter (yes, writers used something called typewriters back then). i picture a silent room as he experienced a true moment of awe. i like to think he had tears in his eyes, or that they slid slowly down his face, just as mine did

throughout this read. as frost would say, "no tears in the

writer, no tears in the reader."

not read this novel without tears, laughter, anger and awe. this novel is better than approximately 95% of novels currently on this planet. i'd like to travel back in time and cup steinbeck's face in my hands and say, "you did it, john. you did it." ...more flag 239 likes · like · see review view all 47 comments julie g how kind, nicole. thank you! may 08, 2022 05:00pm · flag pam great review. lonesome dove is so much more fun though! may 08, 2022 08:10pm · flag jun 27, 2020 vit babenco

believe me, if you are over 35 and have a heart, you can

rated it it was amazing · review of another edition "and

the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain..." revelation 16:10

the grapes of wrath begins with the description of the severe drought and dust storms that deprived farmers of their livelihood and sustenance... the dawn came, but no day. in the gray sky a red sun

appeared, a dim red circle that gave a little light, like dusk; and as that day advanced, the dusk slipped back

toward darkness, and the win "and the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain..." revelation 16:10 the grapes of wrath begins with the description of the severe drought and dust storms that deprived farmers of their livelihood and sustenance... the dawn came, but no day. in the gray sky a red sun appeared, a dim red circle that gave a little light, like

road and find a better place... but is there a better place?

right, but we have it still. and when the owner men told

armies of bitterness will all be going the same way. and they'll all walk together, and there'll be a dead terror but freedom of the poor is restricted by the freedom of the state and freedom of politicians and freedom of the "here's me that used to give all my fight against the devil 'cause i figgered the devil was the enemy. but they's somepin worse'n the devil got hold a the

country, an' it ain't gonna let go till it's chopped loose. ever see one a them gila monsters take hold, mister?" that's the way of the state. "lead 'em around and around. sling 'em in the irrigation

ditch. tell 'em they'll burn in hell if they don't think like you. what the hell you want to lead 'em someplace for?

jus' lead 'em."

"i hear 'em an' feel 'em; an' they're beating their

wings like a bird in a attic. gonna bust their wings on a

"i'm learnin' one thing good," she said. "learnin' it all a time, ever' day. if you're in trouble or hurt or need – go to poor people. they're the only ones that'll help -

the power always is on the side of the rich and if you're

suffocating particles fall everywhere ...you can't breathe... in your nose, eyes, clothes, food, house, the darkness at noon unable to see the sun during a dust storm, the top soil flying away carried by the winds never to return in the depression, when people ... farmers lost their homes and land to the banks

incapable to repay their loans, (no crops no money) symbolized by the joad family of oklahoma in the 1930's . seeing black and white during the

bleakness of the dry, dust bowl days as the suffocating particles fall everywhere ... you can't breathe... in your nose, eyes, clothes, food, house, the darkness at noon unable to see the sun during a dust storm, the top soil flying away carried by the winds never to return in the depression, when people ... farmers lost their homes and land to the banks incapable to repay their loans, (no crops no money) symbolized by the joad family of oklahoma in the 1930's . seeing black and white pictures tell only a small portion of this, the real story that john steinbeck wrote about masterfully in his novel the

grapes of wrath. where a hungry large group of people, travel to the promise land of california a distant 1,500 miles away but find more starvation, abuse and death. in

were drunk) . rose a teenager married to a lazy, shiftless dreamer connie and pregnant, uncle john who likes the bottle and his late wife he mourns too much for, their ancient parents and four other children. and last but not least the preacher reverend jim casy who doesn't want to preach any more, having lost his faith the thirteenth member (some will not get to their goal) . he's now after walking around searching for a purpose, in fact living like a bum decides since the people have left for the golden state, why not him too? oklahoma, texas, new mexico, arizona and at long last crossing the colorado river into the paradise of california, with high mountains

an old dilapidated automobile the joad's, ma the de facto leader and pa, tom, just released from prison for killing a man in self defense (it didn't help that both

and hot steaming deserts, discovering more desert wastelands and still hundreds of miles to the fertile, prosperous, pretty, fabulously wealthy valley of san joaquin the richest one on the planet, but not for the 300,000 okies, (a misnomer, since many are not from oklahoma) an unknown name to the newcomers as they're scornfully called here, unfriendly natives and

police hate, greatly distrust these poor needy miserable

hour, 25, 20 and dropping how can the workers survive? tom is angry, tired of the endless struggle going from place to place in search of work, lack of food, housing, especially the treatment by the well off... like he is scum . nevertheless believes that nobody is above him and will fight back if necessary. deadly strikes, deputies

burning down the laborers camps, violence and starving the old and the young, the vulnerable will not endure. a strong statement about man's inhumanity to his fellow being ...a little kindness sought but will it be found? ...more flag 201 likes · like · see review view all 33 comments jun 25, 2014 lisa rated it it was amazing review of another edition shelves: 1001-books-to-readbefore-you-die, so-good-it-hurts, nobels, unforgettable, favorites man-made environmental catastrophe and its (in)human cost - a study in inequality and injustice!

imagine having to leave your country because it is a wasteland created by a decade of dust storms? imagine

having nowhere to go, but still crossing the desert in

imagine not being welcome when you arrive, with nothing but what your family vehicle can carry ...

and injustice!

us without our past?"

heard myself say:

story line!

"the grapes of wrath!"

hope of finding a future after your past was wiped out by human failure, greed and environmental carelessness?

"how can we live without our I man-made environmental catastrophe and its (in)human cost - a study in inequality

imagine having to leave your country because it is a

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wasteland created by a decade of dust storms? imagine

hope of finding a future after your past was wiped out by human failure, greed and environmental carelessness?

"how can we live without our lives? how will we know it's

imagine nobody caring about those thousands of "us" who lost their identities with their farms and livelihoods. immigrants are always also emigrants, and they carry the memory of being somebody, somewhere, in a distant past. to treat them as if they existed in a

historical vacuum is as cruel as it is common, and it is the recurring topic of steinbeck's heartbreaking writing.

steinbeck is one of those authors that i love

unconditionally, more and more with each reading

heavy epic novels of good and evil. in the end, i

dusty air, i heard his dialogues in the everyday

experience. i once travelled from where i lived in texas to visit steinbeck country in california - looking for his traces in monterey and salinas, always accompanied by his complete works, from hilarious short novels to the

discovered his characters in the faces i saw on the road, i smelled his descriptions of nature in the humid or dry,

exchanges on markets and in hot small town streets.

i love them all, each one in my carefully kept steinbeck collection. asked by one of my children the other day which steinbeck had influenced me most, i thought i was going to give an evasive, diplomatic answer, not making a statement for or against any specific story. instead i

and the moment i said it i knew that i meant it. it may not exactly be my favourite steinbeck, but definitely the one i

catastrophe caused by greed and paid for by individual

welcome newcomers. the poverty, the suffering, the love

and despair - it is tangible in each sentence, in each

family saga, social study, historical document, political standpoint, ethical statement on compassion and greed it is all there, but invisible under the masterfully crafted story, which has its own quality, beyond the message on

i don't know how to close this review, as i am not done with this novel at all, despite having read it several

times. but one quote shall stand as a warning to those who believe their wealth protects them against being

humans, and feeling poor for behaving poorly:

"if he needs a million acres to make him feel rich, seems to me he needs it 'cause he feels awful poor inside hisself, and if he's poor in hisself, there ain't no million acres gonna make him feel rich, an' maybe he's disappointed that nothin' he can do 'll make him feel rich." ...more flag 182 likes · like · see review view all 30 comments jun 14, 2017 helene jeppesen rated it it was amazing · review of another edition this book was incredibly scary; especially because it was so realistic.

john steinbeck has a way of depicting society and

land. it's usa in the middle this book was

john steinbeck has a way of depicting society and

because they are so amazing.

because they are so amazing.

abhorrent circumstances.

the vintage.

people in a raw and honest way that leaves you with a hollow feeling inside, and yet you devour his books

in "the grapes of wrath" we meet tom, who has just been released from prison on probation, as well as his family who&apos:s about to move to the west because banks and tractors have evicted them from their own home and

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in "the grapes of wrath" we meet tom, who has just been released from prison on probation, as well as his family who's about to move to the west because banks and tractors have evicted them from their own home and land. it's usa in the middle of the great depression and times are changing, everyone is moving from east to west in order to find work and survive these new and

in many ways, the writing of this book is very straightforward, but at the same time it digs deeper when you read between the lines and look behind the characters' behaviour and dialogue. i was especially fond of how steinbeck, at every other chapter, stops up to depict the conditions in america at that point in time; whether it be about a car seller and his greediness, the devastating conditions for the workers in the fruit fields or a turtle.

i was a big fan, and especially the ending left me speechless. until now, "east of eden" has been my favourite of steinbeck's, but "the grapes of wrath" is a close runner-up. ...more flag 179 likes · like · see review view all 6 comments feb 06, 2011 jason rated it really liked it · review of another edition shelves: for-kindle, 2012, reviewed in the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for

this book really gets my goat. those poor, dirty joads. so poor and so, so dirty, after being displaced from their oklahoma farm following the dust bowl storms that wreck their crops and cause them to default on their loans, the joads find themselves a family of migrants in search of work and food. they join a stream of hundreds of thousands of other migrant families across the united stat in the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage.

this book really gets my goat. those poor, dirty joads. so poor and so, so dirty. after being displaced from their oklahoma farm following the dust bowl storms that wreck their crops and cause them to default on their loans, the joads find themselves a family of migrants in search of work and food. they join a stream of hundreds of thousands of other migrant families across the united states to what they believe to be the prosperous valleys of california. only once they arrive, they discover that there is nothing prosperous about it—not only is there a

serious shortage of work (mostly caused by an

overabundance of labor that came with the influx of so many other migrant families), but they also have to

contend with growing anti-migrant sentiment among the

local population and wealthy landowners who think nothing of taking advantage of them in their state of vulnerability. without proper labor laws protecting worker's rights and no trade unions to represent their interests, the joads are severely underpaid for whatever work they do manage to find, and they simply fall deeper

the reason this gets my goat is 'cause it doesn't have to be that way. yes, the joads are uneducated and wouldn't qualify for anything more than basic manual labor. yes, it is the great depression and this is not an easy time to find a job even for skilled workers. and yes,

they are a family of 47 and they probably look pretty ridiculous all crammed up in the back of their makeshift pickup truck. but gosh darn it, if only they had unions! if only they had fair labor standards to guarantee them a

minimum wage! if only they had the protection of

from colluding to keep prices high and wages low!

all this? after all, aren't labor unions and economic regulation precisely what she argues against? by that account, if atlas shrugged is the supposed bible of rightwing thinkers, then i'd have to say that the grapes of wrath might just be its antithesis. but the real difference,

as far as i can tell, is that while atlas shrugged

it is, and how it was, for so many hard working americans who were taken advantage of under a system that did nothing to protect them. and what's even more remarkable is that steinbeck's characters

(whom, by the way, rand would refer to as

government legislation to prohibit wealthy landowners

which leads me to wonder... what would ayn rand think of

represents a crazy woman's vision of a whack job world that could never actually exist, john steinbeck tells it like

"moochers"—just thought we should be clear on that) make dagny taggart and henry reardon look like a

and deeper into despondency.

the essential needs and worries of poor, common

people without protective networks.

feel uncomfortably, chillingly getting under my skin immediately, just recalling the voices of the characters makes me shiver - as they suffer through the ordeal of

fleeing from the dust bowl, that environmental

families, to a californian paradise which doesn't

folks and frightened of them, most assuredly, the affluent farmers keep cutting the wages 30 cents an

poor they won't give you anything, you'll have only what you can take. ...more flag 239 likes · like · see review view all 12 comments dec 26, 2014 henry avila rated it really liked it review of another edition during

the bleakness of the dry, dust bowl days as the

that's the way of politicians.

dusty winda tryin' ta get out." and that's the fate of the poor.

the only ones."

the bitterness we sold to the junk man – he got it all us to go, that's us; and when the tractor hit the house, that's us until we're dead. to california or any place – every one a drum major leading a parade of hurts, marching with our bitterness. and some day – the

dusk; and as that day advanced, the dusk slipped back toward darkness, and the wind cried and whimpered over the fallen corn. no land, no home, no money, no food - time to hit the

Bookmark File PDF The Grapes Of Wrath By John Steinbeck
couple of pussies. what is it ma joad says? that if you're

in trouble or hurt or need, to "go to poor people—for they're the only ones that'll help."

this is a novel about the working poor, and it should

this is a novel about the working poor, and it should serve to remind us what can go horribly wrong in an unregulated economy. ...more flag 162 likes · like · see review view all 38 comments feb 02, 2008 jennifer rated it it was amazing · review of another edition *review contains a partial spoiler*

if you read enough reviews, you'll notice that most of the people who gave this book 1 or 2 stars had to read the book for a high school class. most of the 4 and 5 star ratings came from those who read it as adults. i recommend listening to those who read it as adults.

many people hate the ending, but i thought it was great. creepy? yes, but there was an immense amount of

many people hate the ending, but i thought it was great. creepy? yes, but there was an immense amount of beauty and generosity in that creepy little ending. at one point in the story, ma tol' ros *review contains a partial spoiler*

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many people hate the ending, but i thought it was great. creepy? yes, but there was an immense amount of beauty and generosity in that creepy little ending. at one point in the story, ma tol' rosasharn that it ain't all about her (most high school kids think everything is all about them, which is probably one reason they couldn't enjoy

them, which is probably one reason they couldn't enjoy this book or most other classics they are forced to read). realizing this at the very end made rosasharn crack her first smile in ages (at least that's my take on the mysterious smile). i wasn't disappointed in the lack of closure at the end, because the closure came in the middle when ma said, "rich fellas come up an' they die, an' their kids ain't no good an' they die out. but we keep a'comin'. we're the people that live. they can't wipe us out; they can't lick us. we'll go on forever, pa, 'cause we're the people." so you know they will be fine whether life continues to be a struggle or not. they will be better off than the rich man with the million acres they talked about - "if he needs a million acres to make him feel rich, seems to me he needs it 'cause he feels awful poor inside hisself, and if he's poor in hisself, there ain't no

we're the people." so you know they will be fine whether life continues to be a struggle or not. they will be better off than the rich man with the million acres they talked about - "if he needs a million acres to make him feel rich, seems to me he needs it 'cause he feels awful poor inside hisself, and if he's poor in hisself, there ain't no million acres gonna make him feel rich, an' maybe he's disappointed that nothin' he can do'll make him feel rich." another good quote is "i'm learnin' one thing good...if you're in trouble or hurt or need - go to the poor people. they're the only ones that'll help - the only ones." i saw a special on 20/20 around christmas time about how the lower class are more generous overall than the middle and upper class, so this still applies today. would anyone like my savings account? i think i'm going to give poverty a shot:) ...more flag 157 likes · like · see review view all 17 comments jul 17, 2019 matt rated it it was amazing · review of another edition shelves: great-

depression, classic-novels "i'll be all around in the dark. i'll be everywhere. wherever you can look – wherever there's a fight so hungry people can eat,

i'll be there, wherever there's a cop beatin' up a guy, i'll be there. i'll be in the way guys yell when they're mad. i'll be in the way kids laugh when they're hungry and they know supper's ready, and when the people are eatin' the stuff they raise and livin' in the house they build, i'll be there too..." - tom joad in john steinbeck's the grapes of wrath "and the angel th "i'll be all around in the dark. i'll be everywhere. wherever you can look - wherever there's a fight so hungry people can eat, i'll be there. wherever there's a cop beatin' up a guy, i'll be there. i'll be in the way guys yell when they're mad. i'll be in the way kids laugh when they're hungry and they know supper's ready, and when the people are eatin' the stuff they raise and livin' in the house they build, i'll be there too..." - tom joad in john steinbeck's the grapes of wrath

"and the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the

the book of revelations 14:19 (king james version)

for as long as i can recall, i have loved reading. but that love has been tested before. i am speaking, of course, about *school*, and in particular, about a succession of uninspired english teachers foisting uninspired syllabi upon their disinterested students. it only takes one

fourth-rate translation of crime and punishment to make

maybe it was the very fact that i was being *forced* to read that did it. whatever the reason, i spent most of high school and college absorbing very little of value

john steinbeck's the grapes of wrath was the exception.

you foreswear the written word in favor of the

videogame console.

translate the runes.

from my literature courses.

great winepress of the wrath of god..."

you can keep to kill a mockingbird and (especially) catcher in the rye. it was steinbeck's sturdy portrayal of the itinerant joad family, leaving the dustbowl of oklahoma for the green fields of california, that captured my imagination.

my reasons for enjoying the grapes of wrath are probably the same reasons that this perennially-assigned book has so many critical detractors. i loved the simplicity of the language, which eschewed formal daring (i.e., pretentiousness) in favor of a lyrical plainness that brought to mind robert penn warren. i also

appreciated the blunt-force of the message, there is very

little subtlety here. instead, it is a parable, filled with obvious symbolism and rife with meanings. steinbeck does not try to hide his message; he is not endeavoring to get you to spend the rest of your days attempting to

this summer, i decided to test my recollection with a

reread, while also consuming another bona fide classic.

coming on the heels of *les misérables*, the 528-page okie epic felt practically brisk.

a summary of *the grapes of wrath* is incredibly straightforward (which was probably another reason i appreciated this as a student). it opens with tom joad on his way home from prison, where he has served four years for manslaughter. the home he finds, however, is changing fast. dry weather is destroying the crops, and corporate-owned tractors are driving off the tenant

farmers. soon enough, tom and the joad family (pa and ma; granpa and granma; uncle john; brothers al, noah, and winfield; and sisters rose of sharon and ruthie), along with former preacher jim casy, hop in a beat-up old truck and hit route 66. in their journey to california, and their encounters once they arrive, we experience themes – the white working class; economic inequality;

migration – that seem as relevant as ever.

perhaps the most striking thing about the grapes of wrath (which is otherwise proudly straight-down-the-

to steinbeck's opus. the intercalary chapters are

profiteering:

middle), is its use of intercalary chapters. it is a structure that can possibly determine – on its own – your reaction

cutaway scenes that are inserted throughout the central narrative. they have nothing to do with the joad family whatsoever and consist of descriptions of the weather; vignettes between unrelated characters; and towards the end of the novel, a fierce denunciation of merciless

the people come with nets to fish for potatoes in the river, and the guards hold them back; they come in rattling cars to get the dumped oranges, but the kerosene is sprayed. and they stand still and watch the potatoes float by, listen to the screaming pigs being killed in a ditch and covered with quick-lime, watch the mountains of oranges slop down to a putrefying ooze;

and in the eyes of the people there is the failure; and in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. in the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and

as you might have guessed already, i am fine with these chapters. in fact, some of them i really liked. one clever chapter, for instance, is told in stream-of-conscious style from the perspective of a used car salesman as he gulls the hicks and rubes who wander onto his lot. of course, one can view this quite differently, as mere filler that needlessly swells an otherwise spare storyline. i will acknowledge that it is an arguable point. yet in adding these sections, steinbeck is able to create the larger context through which the joad family is moving, adding

growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage.

a mythic overlay to their journey, making it into a modernized version of westward pioneers in their

for me, the most impressive thing about steinbeck's writing is his uncanny and immersive powers of description. when he paints a scene, he fills out the

a gentle wind followed by rain clouds, driving them

finest dust did not settle back to earth now, but

the characters are admittedly archetypes, which is a fancy way of saying they are built from the feet-up with

clichés. still, steinbeck draws everyone, even side characters like uncle john, with great vividness. the lodestar of the group is ma, fierce and tough as a cob, willing to do anything to keep the family together, and

disappeared into the darkening sky...

imbued with a pragmatic wisdom:

northward, a wind that softly clashed the drying corn. a day went by and the wind increased, steady, unbroken by gusts. the dust from the roads fluffed up and spread out and fell on the weeds beside the fields, and fell into the fields a little way. now the wind grew strong and hard and it worked at the rain crust in the corn fields. little by little the sky was darkened by the mixing dust, and the wind felt over the earth, loosened the dust, and carried it away. the wind grew stronger. the rain crust broke and the dust lifted up out of the fields and drove gray plumes into the air like sluggish smoke. the corn threshed the wind and made a dry, rushing sound. the

canvas, all the way to the edges. you know what a thing looks like; how the heat feels; what sound the wind is

covered wagons.

making:

"ain't you thinkin' what's it gonna be like when we get there?" [al asked]. "ain't you scared it won't be nice like we thought?"

"no," [ma] said quickly. "no, i ain't. you can't do that. i can't do that. it's too much – livin' too many lives. up ahead they's a thousan' lives we might live, but when it comes, it'll on'y be one..."

one of the ways you know an author has done a good job with a character is when you feel yourself hating him or her with great passion. in that regard, steinbeck also succeeds, as selfish al, senseless winfield, whining rose

of sharon, and hopeless ruthie all drove me nuts. now, you might say that's the bulk of the cast. that is correct.

(there is also the general implication that human beings,

on occasion, engage in sexual relations, a fact that caused at least one contemporary critic to label this "pornography." it is not, dear reader, pornography).

the grapes of wrath has always been attended by

cause. but steinbeck really tried to avoid being

to be sure, there is within these pages a critique of

went to hoovervilles and government camps. he collected the stories. his sympathies were with the

capitalism and the way it – in its purest form – can wring a person's life for a bigger margin of profit. this came from an honest place, as steinbeck covered migrant workers during the great depression as a journalist. he

worker and their mistreatment served as the wellspring of his anger. near the end of *the grapes of wrath*, when he finally unleashes a barrage at unrestrained corporate

steinbeck believed a revolution was coming, ultimately,

capitalism, it still feels raw, eighty years after it was

he was wrong about the shape history was taking. perhaps he misread the tea leaves. more likely, the

power of people working together.

published.

controversy. some of it stems from the aforementioned earthiness. more of it comes from steinbeck's alleged politics. the charge, as is often the case if someone

gives the free market the side-eye, is that steinbeck was espousing communism. certainly, he was a pro-labor leftist, and accordingly showed some sympathy with the

pigeonholed into one ideology. at the end of the day, he was interested in people, and the only theory that he delineates with any kind of coherence is the belief in the

things are helped along, however, by a lot of witty dialogue, ribald humor (including a couple tom joad penis jokes), and genuinely tense confrontations.

sudden explosion of the second world war, which created millions of jobs, cut the revolution off at the knees.

(the irony is that the joad family, derided by californians as "reds," are innately conservative people who were intent on avoiding government handouts. after pearl harbor, they likely found decent defense industry jobs and got ma that white house she was always dreaming on. heck, the next generation probably voted for reagan. commies, indeed!).

unpacking the controversies and the politics and the symbolism and even the timelessness are beside the point. what makes *the grapes of wrath* a great novel is that it transports you into a fully-realized world, with fully-realized characters. when i finished the final page (even

with its whacky ending), the story did not end. i continued to think about the characters, to imagine where they might go next. and even when i stopped actually thinking about them, i still remembered them.

it has been twenty years since i read this last, and upon reading it again, it struck me that i had never forgotten it in the first place. ...more flag 144 likes · like · see review

view all 8 comments jan 27, 2022 margaret m (semi hiatus until october) rated it it was amazing shelves: best-historical-fiction "...in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. in the souls of the people the grapes

of wrath are filling and growing heavy."

and so 5 stars for a sobering read that is 'the grapes of wrath', an epic story and a haunting journey of the joad family that epitomises the plight of many people during the 1930's great depression. route 66 became a path of people in flight as they headed west in search of a livelihood after the devasting effects of the dust and scorching summer had destroyed th "...in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. in the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy."

family that epitomises the plight of many people during the 1930's great depression. route 66 became a path of people in flight as they headed west in search of a livelihood after the devasting effects of the dust and scorching summer had destroyed their agricultural and their means of supporting their families with it.

a book that tells of hunger and destitution while the landowners and large companies reeked in huge profits

wrath', an epic story and a haunting journey of the joad

while forcing people to work in atrocious conditions and for appalling wages. it tells of the brutality at the hands of law and order that was unleashed to keep a desperate work force subservient and in need. and it tells of the lack of morality as thousands of people were subjected to the most inhumane treatment, in living conditions tantamount to slavery.

"and the migrants streamed in on the highways and"

"and the migrants streamed in on the highways and their hunger was in their eyes, and their need was in their eyes. they had no argument, no system, nothing but their numbers and their needs."

after an arduous journey across america, people continued to experience the worst of exhaustion, fatigue,

and tiredness beyond what any sleep could cure as they

Page 6/13

toiled the lands and witnessed the large companies destroy crops, because to give it away free meant people would not be forced to buy this produce.

Bookmark File PDF The Grapes Of Wrath By John Steinbeck

review and comments

john steinbeck writes a fascinating story of crime that goes beyond denunciation, and through his writing you can feel the sorrow and desperation etched on the faces and in the souls of men, women and children, and in the case of the joad family like many others would have been forced to bury their dead en route.

he tells of story of the have's and have not's', but not just in financial terms, the have not's are those devoid of any community, demonstrating the best of human nature, as

moral code and abused a people displaced and in need, starving without homes, and without shelter. the have's were the people rich in their values and you can feel this in the way steinbeck describes their sense of he speaks of the "...twenty families that became one family, the children were the children of all. the loss of home became one loss, and the golden time in the west was one dream"

a powerful literacy feast for the eyes, a tale of hardship that touches your heart, and a master class in writing that has stood the test of time. epic, reflective, haunting, absorbing and yet beautiful. ...more flag 138 likes · like see review view all 80 comments sep 17, 2021 leonard gaya rated it really liked it review of another edition blood, frogs, lice, flies, pestilence, boils, storms, locusts,

darkness, and death. these were the plagues the lord clamped onto egypt (exodus, 7-10). and these plagues triggered the migration of the people of israel into the wilderness. after spending forty years in the desert, they finally reached the "land of milk and honey". more plights and perils were awaiting them there. some three thousand years later, on another continent across the ocean, a people of farmers went through a similar ordea blood, frogs, lice, flies, pestilence, boils, storms, locusts, darkness, and death. these were the

plagues the lord clamped onto egypt (exodus, 7-10). and these plagues triggered the migration of the people of israel into the wilderness. after spending forty years in the desert, they finally reached the "land of milk and honey". more plights and perils were awaiting them there. some three thousand years later, on another continent across the ocean, a people of farmers went through a similar ordeal once again. and this is how john steinbeck elevated the story of the impoverished sharecroppers

from the dust bowl region during the great depression to the level of an epic voyage, comparable to the exodus

or the odyssey. like the israelites of yore, these oklahomans were forced, by drought and economic hardship, to leave their land and travel down the road 66 to a new "promised land", a new canaan named california. the grapes of wrath is a re-interpretation of the bible in yet another way. a few characters are, indeed, sometimes very explicitly, christlike figures. compare casy's "you don' know what you're a-doin'." (penguin modern classics paperback, p. 386) with luke 23,34. compare tom's "i'll be there" (p. 419) with matthew

18,20. even the title is a quote from the apocalypse of john 14,19, and the whole novel is the story of a people looking for redemption and a new land, which they may

further still, one could argue that steinbeck is also retelling some of the canonical works of 19th-century

american version of les misérables: tom joad is the jean valjean of the new world, and the corporate farmers of 1930s california are just as awful as the police and army of 1830s paris. in brief, steinbeck's novel is the paragon of the "great american novel"; a multi-layered narrative that lends itself, like the bible, to a typological reading on

literature. in a sense, the grapes of wrath is the

or may not find on this earth...

different levels.

at any rate, despite its epic or mythical dimension, steinbeck's writing is anything but lofty. on the contrary, it conveys people's mindset and daily struggles, their constant concern for simple material things: the state of disrepair of their car and how they manage to fix a flat tire, the need to put bread on the table and the recipe they use to make fried dough, the toilet flush and lack of loo roll. the narrator describes these things with meticulous precision - a technique typical of survival literature, from defoe's robinson crusoe to mccarthy's the road. more could be said about the characterisation and the deft and consistent use of dialect and turns of phrases of the people of oklahoma – this also harks

back to mark twain and william faulkner's novels.

compelling political manifesto, the novel's structure

steinbeck examines the causes and effects of the southern migration (from a marxist point of view). namely, the rising mechanisation and automation of agricultural labour and the constant push for higher

corporate profits and lower individual wages.

the grapes of wrath is also, among many other things, a

oscillates between classic narrative chapters (the joads' story) and discursive, slightly outraged lectures whereby

in short, the terrifying "pillars of fire" of ancient israel are now replaced by the dehumanising "invisible hand" of modern capitalism: a vast network of socio-economic forces that engirdles the whole of western civilisation. in the end, forced migrations, people trying to flee wars, persecution, deprivation and starvation, unsanitary

refugee camps, combined exploitation and hatred of incoming migrants, viewed as subhuman in their new "land of milk and honey" – all this is as real as ever today, in many parts of the world. all of which makes steinbeck's novel as essential as ever. the 1940 film adaptation is, for the most part, faithful to steinbeck's plot and dramatic tone, except for the final section - notably, the bleak and slightly disturbing motif of the caritas romana at the end of the novel is absent from the film. nonetheless, it is one of john ford's finest movies. steinbeck's novel also influenced many other works of fiction, from stephen king's the stand to christopher nolan's interstellar. ...more flag 165

likes · like · see review view all 17 comments feb 11, 2022 debbie rated it really liked it · review of another edition shelves: classics, great-depression, 2022-reads, contemporary-fiction, own, american-west-coast why i

1. this book has always intrigued me ever since i was a kid, seeing it on my parents' bookshelf, so i added

2. i pushed it up that list after reading the four winds by kristin hannah a few months ago (i highly recommend

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chose to read this book:

it to my wtr list about two years ago;

3. february is "classics month" for me!

unrelenting dust storms); and,

why i chose to read this book:

my wtr list about two years ago;

her novel for the atmospheric descriptions of the unrelenting dust storms); and, february is "classics month" for me! note: this book may appeal to readers who have some background knowledge of the great depression, specifically of the dust bowl and migration of american farmers to california. positives: the character-development in this novel is its strong suit! as i traveled along with the joad family, migrant farmers (okies) from the dust bowl to the land of milk and honey, i cheered for ma joad and her no-nonsense attitude and shook my head in frustration over son, al's one-track mind. i was awestruck by the times they gladly

helped out others, even though they had very little of their own to share. likeable or not, if you were living in close quarters with another family for several months, their personalities would grate on your nerves as well; such descriptive realism! i could vividly picture every scene and appreciated the authentic dialogue; and, 3. if you prefer <300-page books, then don't read this novel! the first 200 pages focuses on the actual journey

from oklahoma to california, whereas the final 200

plot is slow-going, i savored all the successes and

 although steinbeck gives a detailed account of a typical migrant's journey to california and the hardships awaiting them there, i wish he wrote a more descriptive setting re: the dust storms these midwestern families

what was steinbeck thinking with that ending? i know

that several readers really liked that part, but i have issues when a strong realistic story strays into massive symbolism in the last paragraph! i don't think steinbeck understands women that well if he thinks any woman would do what rose of sharon did! eww!? to me, her

overall, i had empathy for the hopes and dreams the joads had along their journey and understood that when

those hopes were dashed, it only led to despair and anger (wrath). unfortunately, this story has been, and

likes · like · see review view all 74 comments feb 18, 2013 maciek rated it really liked it · review of another edition shelves: pulitzer-prize-for-fiction, reviewed,

historical-fiction, own-in-paperback, national-book-award-

frighten a man whose hunger is not only in his own cramped stomach but in the wretched bellies of his

the grapes of wrath won john steinbeck both the national book award and the pulitzer prize, firmly engraving his name on the stone tablet featuring the canon of great american writers, published in 1939, it is arguably steinbeck's best known work and is still widely read today, admirers praised steinbeck for writing an epic tale of biblical proportions, singing songs of how can you frighten a man whose hunger is not only in

how can you

continues to be, relevant today. ...more flag 139

for-fiction, read-in-2013, owned-books

issues they encountered along the way.

actions just didn't make sense!

niggles:

faced; and,

children?

pages depicts this family's life in california. although the

his own cramped stomach but in the wretched bellies of his children? the grapes of wrath won john steinbeck both the national book award and the pulitzer prize, firmly engraving his name on the stone tablet featuring the canon of great american writers. published in 1939, it is arguably

steinbeck's best known work and is still widely read

of biblical proportions, singing songs of the common men and women and their struggle against exploitation by the rich and powerful, the strength of a family and the endurance human spirit in the great depression and the tragedy of the dust bowl, which forced many families to abandon land which was their livelihood for generations. detractors accuse steinbeck of being sentimental and one-sided, of greatly exaggerating the effect that the period and the surrounding had on the people he

describes, of being a socialist, a marxist, a communist

associated farmers of california called the book "a pack

criticism didn't stop at negative reviews. the book was banned across the country and sometimes publicly burned by enraged citizens; steinbeck received hate mail and death threats. the book made him a lot of powerful enemies. the associated farmers have begun an hysterical personal attack on me both in the papers

and a whispering campaign, he said, i'm a jew,a pervert, a drunk, a dope fiend. a whispering smear campaign against steinbeck was set in motion by his new enemies, aiming to defame him and turn him from a celebrated author into a figure of hatred: they accused

him of being a jew, who wanted to deliberately

undermine the economy and acted in zionist-communist interest. the associated farmers are really working up a campaign, he wrote to his agent, i have made powerful enemies with the grapes, they will not kill me, i think, but they will destroy me if and when they can. he was right. when lewis milestone, author of the screenplay for mice and men came to central california to explore possible locations for the movie, steinbeck never stopped at any ranches in fear that they might get physically assaulted

and a propagandist (sometimes not all at once).

pornographical and scatagorical talk.

of lies" and "communist propaganda", while burton rascoe writing for newsweek added that the grapes of wrath was nothing more than superficial observation, careless infidelity to the proper use of idiom, tasteless

today. admirers praised steinbeck for writing an epic tale

environmental damage inflicted by the growth of corporate agriculture in california, and a condemnation of both the politics and consequences of large-scale agribusiness. mcwilliams documented the social and

economic trends which led to establishment of huge land holdings in california and the constant need for

cheap migrant labor; he found that the "okies" were only the latest group to be exploited by the invisible owners of california's first industry. the previous groups included

by their residents. the undersheriff of santa clara county was a friend of steinbeck, and warned him to never stay in a hotel room alone: the boys got a rape case set for you. you get alone in a hotel and a dame will come in, tear off her clothes, scratch her face and scream and you try to talk yourself out of that one. they won't touch your book but there's easier ways, steinbeck found himself under enormous stress and strain as he realized that associated farmers controlled the sheriff's office in california, and were "capable of anything"; he was also investigated by the fbi under president hoover, which saw him as a dangerous subversive. he had to adopt an alias while visiting los angeles and keep secret files. he was aware that most of the people who hated him have themselves been victims of propaganda used precisely by those who accused him of being a propagandist; he told his agent that the articles written against me are all by people who admit they haven't read grapes, indeed wouldn't dirty their minds with it. john steinbeck in 1939, when the book was published. still, at the same time, many other readers found the grapes of wrath to be enthralling and necessary - a book which attracted attention to the plight of poor migrant farm workers to the west, showed the brutality and harshness of their condition and challenged the nation to do better for those people. earle birney called the book a deed - the act of a man out of the pity and wrath of his heart, and it was read and loved as such. it captured the turbulent period of american history and provoked a reaction. it made an impact, a real and lasting one - which is its greatest achievement. interestingly enough, within months of its publication journalist carey mcwilliams published his own work on treatment of migrant workers in california. factories in the field: the story of migratory farm labor in california was a landmark study which exposed the social and

before the publication of factories in the field, mcwilliams became the head of california's division of immigration and housing where he focused on improving wages for agricultural workers and their living conditions; he increased inspections of labor camps owned by the growers, as he felt that on-farm housing made the

native americans and immigrants from china, japan, mexico, india, armenia and the philippines. shortly

workers more dependent on their employers, and changed the formula which was used to deny relief to workers who refused to accept farm work at prevailing piece wages, effectively forcing some of the growers to increase their piece rates. understandably, mcwilliams and his work were also not well received by california growers; they called him an agricultural pest number one, worse than pear blight or boll weevils, and accused of conspiring together with steinbeck to ruin their

reputation. funnily enough the two never met, and did not arrange the release dates of their work in any way. (mcwilliams was also involved in the committee led by

senator robert la follette jr., which became known as la follette civil liberties committee and which has performed the most extensive investigation in american history into employer violations of the rights or workers to organize and bargain collectively. between 1936 and 1941, the committee conducted extensive hearings and collected a vast number of testimonies. these hearings exposed $_{\textit{Page 7/13}}$

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the tactics used by america's leading corporations to

prevent their workers from forming unions: employment of extensive industrial espionage and strikebreaking

services, stockpiling munitions such as submachine guns, rifles and tear gas, and even subverting local law by hiring their own police forces. the committee closed its hearings in late 1939 and early 1940, when it traveled up and down the california coast and collected testimonies of more than four hundred labor organizers, growers and farm workers. mcwilliams ghostwrote the committee's report, a stern indictment of california's agricultural factory system, but it was not presented to congress until october 1942, without much impact: no one was listening and no one cared, for we were at war.

mcwilliams felt that the war enabled both growers and state officials from implementing a reform which they would almost certainly would have been forced to implement otherwise, and that the whole country went to sleep until a young black girl named rosa parks refused to go to the back of the bus in montgomery, alabama in

would almost certainly would have been forced to implement otherwise, and that the whole country went to sleep until a young black girl named rosa parks refused to go to the back of the bus in montgomery, alabama in 1955. he, however, did not stay silent and stop working. on the contrary, failure to implement recommended reforms seemed to give him more strength to combat injustice: he published prejudice: japanese americans, symbol of racial intolerance, a sharp critique and a chronicle of internment of japanese-americans during the war, and was active in opposing mccarthyism. in 1960 carey mcwilliams became the first american reporter to reveal that the cia was training a group of cuban exiles in guatemala to serve as guerrillas in the bay of pigs invasion. his article appeared in october, five months before the invasion happened. he died in 1980.) carey mcwilliams, a good man.

the copy of the grapes of wrath that i read had a great introduction by robert demott, who provided plenty of excerpts from steinbeck's journal and revealed his ambitions and doubts as he was composing the book. steinbeck was convinced that if he could "do the book properly", it would be a truly american book and "one of

the really fine books". at the same time, he was

constantly thinking about what he perceived to be his own lack of ability and limitations as a writer, which greatly troubled him. honesty was what he saw as the answer and the way to write the book - if he could keep

steibeck had plenty of opportunity to do exactly that. while his initial writings have not been successful, he struck a chord with 1935's *tortilla flat* which tells the

the honesty in, everything would be fine.

series of california novels, stories of common people trying to make it during the great depression - *in dubious battle*, *of mice and men* and the most important one, *the grapes of wrath*.

the severe drought of the early 1930's resulted in a massive agricultural failure in the southern region of the great plains, above all in western oklahoma and the texas panhandle, where the fields have been heavily overcultivated by wheat farmers after the first world war. the area consisted of millions of acres of exposed topsoil, no longer anchored by growing roots as the crops withered and died from lack of rainfall. constant sunshine dried the soil and turned it into dust, which

then blew away in amounts sufficient to black out the sky and reduce visibility to a few feet; these immense dust storms centered on the panhandles of oklahoma and texas, and the adjacent areas of kansas, colorado and new mexico. by the mid 1930's countless families have been deprived of means to earn their livelihood, pay their mortgages and buy equipment necessary to

story of danny and his friends, a group of paisanos who live in post-war monterey, but real success came with a

stay competitive with growing industrialization. dust bowl victims were forced to leave their lands, and without any real prospects of employment move to california - the promised land.

a dust storm hitting boise city, right in the panhandle of oklahoma on april 14th, 1935. this storm was particularly severe, and was one of the worst dust storms in american history, causing immense economic and agricultural damage - it is estimated to have displaced 300 million tons of topsoil in the great plains. it became known as the

black sunday. (right click - open in a new tab for a

the dust bowl migration. to write the seven articles,

weedpatch camp who became a major source of

three trips through california. they visited the

in 1936 steinbeck was hired by the san francisco news, which commissioned him to write a series of articles on

published as the harvest gypsies, steinbeck traveled to california and visited local labor camps, shantytowns and hoovervilles - migrant settlements named so after president herbert hoover, who was widely blamed for the depression. there he met tom collins, manager of the

information and a travelling companion. collins collected statistics on camp life which steinbeck used as primary material for his articles, and both traveled together on

settlements, went to meetings, stayed on camps and ranches, worked in the fields. after the publication

steinbeck and his wife drove west along route 66, from oklahoma to california, like countless migrants before

these experiences provided steinbeck with more than enough material to depict the lives of poor farmers

bigger photo)

forced to migrate west. he set out to write a novel, conscious of the importance of what he saw and experienced. *i am not writing a satisfying story*, he told his editor, pascal covici. *i've done my damnedest to rip a reader's nerves to rags, i don't want him satisfied...i tried to write this book the way lives are being lived not the way books are written.*all through the process, steinbeck remained aware of the fact that he was creating a literary work. demott describes the grapes of wrath as an engaged novel with a partisan posture, many complex voices, and passionate prose styles. steinbeck saw the composition process of the novel similar to the composition of a

symphony - he wanted his chapters, voices and styles speak to each other, resonate with recurring themes, the

total impression far more powerful than its individual

steinbeck wrote of events and people he himself experienced and knew, and his concern was

humanitarian: to do justice to the migrant men and women, their desire to work and their efforts to retain their dignity and settle in the promised land, be an

by their corporate employers was largely a silent

whole throbbing thing emerges.

advocate for the common working people whose abuse

tragedy. men willing to work were hungry and starved in the land of plenty, which for steinbeck (and any moral human being) was unacceptable; he sided with david rather than goliath, and set out to write an epic which would surpass all of his other work. this must be a good book, he wrote in his journal, it simply must. i haven't any choice. it must be far and away the best thing i have ever attempted - slow but sure, piling detail on detail until a picture and an experience emerge. until the

steinbeck was aware of his ambition and consciously employed imagery from and parallels to the single best read epic text in the us - the bible. the exodus of the joad family to california was written with the attention and momentum of the biblical exodus of the isrealites, led by moses out of egypt. california is the promised

land, a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk

parts.

and honey (exodus 3:7-9). the okies arriving at the border of california are stopped by the border patrol guards, who refuse to let them enter (except for when the labor is needed) - much like the israelites faced persecution and cruelty from the amonites, moabites and edomites when they were trying to enter caanan. tom joad can be seen as moses - he killed a man who spoke bad about jim casy, like moses killed an egyptian who was beating a hebrew slave, and both served as leader figures for their people. jim casy is a christ figure, down to the same initials - a preacher who questioned the established religion and fought the temptations of flesh, and lead the twelve joads like christ lead his

twelve disciples. like jesus, he disappeared and wandered alone; he taught the gospel of social and spiritual unity: love for all men, sympathy for the poor and oppressed. (view spoiler)[casy believed in his mission to save the suffering workers so much that he was willing to give his life for it, and his death is exactly like that of christ - he dies a martyr, killed because of his beliefs, murdered by an agent of power with a piece of

the joads depend on their car like noah depended on his ark, and like noah gathered all the necessary species to preserve life on earth they gathered all their important things to ensure their own survival. the old testament practically jumps off the page - there's even a literal

it is also interesting to see from the perspective of a

steinbeck's landscape is bleak and hostile, his

deprivations which forces them to cross many

protagonists experience real life-threatening risks and

the grapes of wrath became the most successful social

protest novel of the 20th century, and its message remains fresh and accurate even today, especially today, we live in a period characterized by growing income inequality and the widening gap between the

contemporary reader how the novel reads like a perfect example of a dystopian novel: large banks took hold over the land of the joads and evicted them from it, forcing them to leave their native land of oklahoma where society has collapsed and migrate towards a new, better world. the theme of large corporations and financial institutions effectively assuming control over lives of individual people is a classic dystopian theme, and so is the journey of a group of those who survived the collapse of society - classic example being the stand, more recent being the pulizer winning the road.

wood. (hide spoiler)].

flood in this story.

boundaries.

richest and the poorest, where certain institutions of the financial sector have been deemed "too big to fail" effectively making them more dangerous than ever. corporations lobby the politicians to ensure that their own interests are met, and enjoy a wide range of big government subsidies and tax breaks, sponsored by ordinary citizens. while the big corporations enjoy all the benefits guaranteed by a big, nanny state ordinary citizens are being told that they don't deserve it and that they have to help themselves and pull themselves up by their own bootstraps; politicians and pundits use the words "welfare" in pejorative context when it comes to their own viewers and constituents, as if it was something shameful instead of an extended hand, which

helps the ordinary working people stay afloat. a welfare state is inconsiderable if it could actually benefit those who need it most - the poor and struggling ordinary citizens, who are left to walk on their own and slowly cross to the other side. in this vision of society all that i

selfishness and no care for the weaker, a world where people push forward with sharp elbows and know the

succinct post on his facebook page, which i quote here in its entirety (emphasis mine). play us out, mr. reich.

"one of the legacies of the reagan-thatcher era -- which is very much still with us -- was to denigrate the very idea of the "public good." anything preceded by the

adjective "public" -- public schools, public transportation, public parks, public libraries, public welfare -- was (and is) suspect. the private sector, it was assumed, could do

"clients." well, we now have three decades to assess the results. what happened? "privatization" has meant more profits for the private sector, better services for those wealthy enough to pay more for them, and poorer

services and higher taxes for almost everyone else. the rich have seceded into their own private schools, private jets, private health clubs, and privatized communities; most americans must now pay individually for what previous generations paid for collectively, through their taxes. certain public goods, like higher education, have morphed into private investments. but the biggest loss, i think, has been our sense of the common good

itself: out understanding that we are all in it

we have and enjoy in life depends on what we achieve in common with others." ...more flag 117 likes · like · see review view all 73 comments may 11, 2016 carol rated it it was amazing shelves: historical-

fiction, favorites, classics, chunkster, read-2016 omgosh! powerful and tragic......with an ending

in **the grapes of wrath**, hard times plague the joad family from beginning to end, and chronicle the great depression of the 1930's. no rain, dust storms and the dreaded "monster" bank ended a much-loved and long-lived way of life forcing farmers to become migrant workers traveling from one <u>unwelcome</u> place to another; and no work + no money = no food, but the joad's **never** give up despite being tired, beaten

never to be forgotten!

down, angry and sad.

and.....

together, that we are bound together by an implicit social contract involving obligations to one another that define a decent society, and that much of what

it better; competition and the profit motive would generate savings and efficiencies; citizens would be better served if they were treated as "customers" and

regard as a vice is turned into a virtue: greed,

price of everything and the value of nothing.

american economist robert reich recently made a

never to be forgotten!

in the grapes of wrath, hard times plague the joad family from beginning to end, and chronicle the great

depression of the 1930's. no rain, dust storms and the dreaded "monster" bank ended a much-loved and long-

workers traveling from one <u>unwelcome</u> place to another; and no work + no money = no food, but the joad's **never**

sad. they shared their lives, what little food they had and gave **everything** of themselves as you will see by the

lived way of life forcing farmers to become migrant

give up despite being tired, beaten down, angry and

while not a particularly fast read, steinbeck (my #1

developing an atmospheric description of the time,

favorite author) creates realistic characters and devotes several (short) interim chapters (including chapter 1) to

remarkable conclusion of this 1939 classic.

"jus' try to live the day, jus' the day."

omgosh! powerful and tragic......with an ending

while east of eden continues to be one of my all-time favorite reads, i definitely felt the grapes of wrath deserving of a 5 star rating as well. "it is a work conceived on a completely different plane."

...more flag 115 likes · like · see review view all 42 comments oct 11, 2015 elyse walters rated it it was amazing i'm listening to the audiobook. it's sooooo good!!!!

i've read the book. i've seen the stage production, but i

never listen to the audiobook.... and the narrator's are so so terrific!!!! flag 128 likes · like · see review view all 27 comments dec 27, 2014 madeline rated it really liked it shelves: the-list chirst. this was a tough one to read.

i don't just mean it was depressing. it was, obviously - a book about a poor family being forced from their home during the great depression and having to beg for the chance to pick cotton at fifteen cents per hour can't be anything except depressing - but it wasn't the most depressing book i've ever read, that hoper probably goes to the hunchback of

read. that honor probably goes to the hunchback of notre dame, although i guess angela's ashes is a close second.

this was hard to read, not because it was a por chirst. this was a tough one to read.

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Bookmark File PDF The Grapes Of Wrath By John Steinbeck angela's ashes is a close second.

this was hard to read, not because it was a portrayal of a horrible period of history that actually happened. that

few joad families during the great depression, but millions of them, so your percentage of possible happy endings is going to be pretty low. it wasn't even sad because steinbeck was using the

backdrop of the great depression to illustrate the greater problems in america - the disparity between rich and poor, the way low-level laborers have to fight tooth and nail to achieve the most basic human rights, the fact that the people who run the major banks and farms are horrible unfeeling shells of human beings, etc. the grapes of wrath is sad for all of these reasons, but

here is what makes it sadder than anything: not the fact that steinbeck is writing about a horrible period in history that's behind us now. it's because that horrible period went away, and then it came back. we aren't in the

middle of a second dust bowl, but make no mistake: we are living in the second great depression.

if you haven't read yet and have always been meaning to, there's no better time than now. steinbeck's book was written in the late 1930's, but just about everything that happens here is happening right in your state - possibly

contributed to the tragedy of the book, of course, coupled with the knowledge that there were not just a

in your neighborhood - as you read this. you read about the banks in the great depression sending men to bulldoze people's houses while the family stood outside, and find yourself thinking, "well, at least now they just pile all your stuff on the curb after you get foreclosed on." you read about migrant families accepting offers to work all day at pitiful wages, because fifteen cents an hour is still better than zero cents an hour and the kids have to eat, and you think about the immigrants who pick your food in exchange for shitty wages. you read about the joad family and the others being called "okies" and forced out of their camps by the cops, and think

people, and rose of sharon was literally feeding a dying man with her own body and oh my god personal

sacrifice...but on the other hand, she was breastfeeding an adult man, and it was weird and gross and then the book was over. nope. (hide spoiler)] ...more flag 111 likes · like · see review view all 19 comments sep 12, 2021 kay rated it really liked it · review of another edition shelves: classics, historical-fiction, fiction 4.5? a classic by john steinbeck during the depression era. the story follows the joad family's journey from the hardship in oklahoma to california looking for a better

i was very reluctant to give it a try after reading reviews that it's a slow story. to my surprise, i listened to the second half twice. it was that good and the ending was very moving. i must disclose this is a bbc audio production and it feels like listening to a classic story on

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"the grapes of wrath" written by john steinbeck.

the radio. this is a version with 3 narrators and is 2 hours and 46 mins long. ...more flag 113 likes · like see review view all 31 comments jan 02, 2020

?ntellecta rated it it was amazing · review of another edition shelves: american-literature i've read the book

steinbeck describes the hardships, readers, moods and developments very forcefully. steinbeck has a grandiose style of storytelling and has become one of the nobel prize winners for a reason. his book "the grapes of

wrath" excited me from the start. i really liked this book, because it was written in a very lively language. john steinbeck manages to transfer feelings directly to the

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nevertheless, it is very easy to understand with the

characterized by a striking language that avoids sentimentalities and therefore looks very honest.

cussing, the cussing matters little to me, but i mentioned it because i have friends who avoid

warning: this is an extremely long and ranty review because i hated this book more than life itself. if you loved this book enough to be triggered by a negative review, don't read the review. i read this book years ago, but i'm not removing the review

update 03/11/2021: i did some minor edits,

and i'd like to clarify that i hate the book because of

the politics - not because of the cussing. the cussing matters little to me, but i mentioned it because i have friends who avoid language.

warning: this is an extremely long and ranty review because i hated this book more than life itself. if you loved this book enough to be triggered by a negative review, don't read the review. i read this book years ago, but i'm not removing the review despite having no idea how i'd feel about the novel now. opinions are a thing. i

can roast this book. why don't you write a positive

majorly triggered (to the point of bullying, stalking,

read a negative review of a fictional novel.

also, do think about the kind of person you are if you get

harassment, demanding personal information, etc., all of which has happened over this one review!) when you

also, grow up, 'cause adults don't do that kind of crap over a book. they just enjoy the book themselves and let other people hate it because it literally doesn't hurt you

forced by her mother, a young girl listened to an audiobook version of the grapes of wrath by john

steinbeck. it was something like forty hours long and all 144,000 seconds were moments of extreme torture.

let's dig into this so-called classic and see what really

there are some books that become "classics" for no

the jungle showed the world the terrible conditions of

conditions, cleaner food, and less disease. despite its original intention, it developed a great purpose that was

the grapes of wrath, though? as far as i can tell, it can

government for everything that goes wrong in your life, insistence and later dependence upon welfare, and

there are many things wrong with the grapes of wrath.

i'm not the kind of person who easily understands things i can't touch and feel - like theories and symbolism - so everything i understood about the themes comes from what i've read. i'm told there's a

great deal of metaphorical speaking and such -

personally, i didn't pick up on the greater half of it. i think people over analyze things like paintings and books. that said, i'll quote from analyses of the book

the first obvious belief in this novel is that everyone is part of a community of some sort - the "emersonian

connected and owes everyone else their money, time, and thoughts. at the same time, steinbeck hints that only poor people are capable of being a part of this oversoul as ma states, "if you're in trouble or hurt or need - go to poor people. they're the only ones that'll help - the

through this connection, there's supposedly a kind of continuity to life. the turtle in chapter three symbolizes the perpetuation of the life circle, as does that whole creepy thing at the end with rose of sharon and the old guy. (i'll talk more about that in the "stupid dumb okies"

as a commentary i read explains, "jim casy's reference to sin and virtue being part of one thing prefigures his concept of the oversoul, the belief that all souls are just small parts of one large soul." first of all, what a load of garbage. (my apologies to anyone who believes this, i respect you, but nope. individualism in jesus christ for

second, let's talk a little bit about jim casy, casy is an immoral, stinking old man who seduces young women

special guy, right? honestly, i can't understand why this would be acceptable, even in the 1930s. maybe even more so in the '30s as far as the sleeping around side of it; less so as far as the age discrepancy probably

now, back to the government. in this book, "government camps" are treated like a kind of heaven. who is paying

provide every need and comfort to the sojourners from oklahoma and other parts of the midwest. who ... the

let's do a quick breakdown of what actually happened to the midwesterners beneath all the subterfuge of

-let's stop for a moment to note that it crashed because

2: the banks all failed and there was no money to loan to

3: in the midwest, over-worked lands and dry weather

4: new equipment got invented that could make farming

-stupid government. inventing new farming equipment. 5: land-owners actually wanted to efficiently harvest crops rather than give charity to a whole ton of farmers.

-(or rather gimme some more government, because only government can make this right, let's all be communists

6: farmers got kicked off the land that they didn't own

-(it's kinda weird that they have such loyalty to land they

7: farmers moved west to california because they were

look ... i hate the government myself. but for the exact opposite reason of this book. i hate the government

because it seeks more power than it should have ... and

the government is there to govern. not to provide us good lives. the american dream is not "and then the united states gave us a good life free of charge." no, it's "the united states gave us the opportunity to work hard and, from the sweat of our brows, to build a good life."

sometimes that has been harder than others ... but for

also, i want to take a moment to say that though connie is a terrible wishy-washy idiot, he kind of had the right idea with what the novel treats like 'crazy dreams.' if he got an education and went into some sort of technical

i read that steinbeck's style was influenced by the king james version of the bible. uh ... no. the kjv isn't quite so dead and hopeless. the grapes of wrath's style is dry, rambling, and boring. there's nothing happy, uplifting, poetic, or good about it. it's a lifeless droning. there's

conversations of one character with another character. they talk about everything under the sun - but it never gets anywhere. the rest of the book is extremely long descriptions which was sure to make you fall asleep.

only the fact that i was driving while listening to this story

another literary technique steinbeck uses often is

repetition. it's particularly evident in chapter seven. as my commentary says, the chapter "... is a staccato monologue delivered by a used car salesman pitching

Page 9/13

no real feeling in it - no real grasp of humanity.

most of the book consists of the meaningless

kept me awake - that's for sure!

jalopies to dispossessed croppers."

this particular event/issue you can't blame the

line of work, he would have done well.

uneducated and could not do anything but farm.

people rely on it more than they ever should.

-oh no did the government ruin the weather???

of the greedy american people who invested in it.

-the government shouldn't be involved in trade and

-but that's not the government's fault, really.

business. it's not the government's job.

-again, not the government, but whatevs.

steinbeck's prose (more on that later).

1: stock market crashed in 1929.

for the government camps? the government. why? because the government's sole responsibility is to

while masquerading as a preacher. sounds like a

oversoul" is the correct term, that everyone is

only lead to negative consequences - blaming the

meat processing factories bringing about safer

frankly quite impressive. i salute thee, you

some very incorrect views of the world.

(paraphrased) to share these themes.

only ones."

section.)

me!).

present, etc.

folks.

easier.

together.)

government!

part 2: writing style

government wronged?

created the dust bowl.

-i hate the government. -the government sucks.

-down with the government.

and had no right to stay on.

don't even own, but whatever.)

-dang, government. you're so mean.

-stupid government.

reason whatsoever. the jungle by upton sinclair was one of those. however, at least every so-called "classic" i've read before has had a reason for existence or at least

ticks at the heart of school's biggest monster.

that being said, i was delighted to find that it was really exciting - a literary delight, this man really can write! it is

exciting until the end! ...more flag 120 likes · like · see review view all 10 comments may 24, 2018 kellyn roth rated it did not like it recommends it for: absolutely no one shelves: setting-usa-west, rating-r, setting-unitedstates, sad-books, written-during-period, books-foradults, read-for-school, era-1930s, not-for-christians, romance-too-much update 03/11/2021: i did some minor edits, and i'd like to clarify that i hate the book because of the politics - not because of the

the radio. this is a version with 3 4.5?

the only ones who help poor people are other poor

man after her baby died. first: allow me to turn into a middle-schooler for a second and say ewwwwwwww second: i kind of get what steinbeck was trying to say with his ending, because it kind of tied into his idea that

because of the ending. look, i know that steinbeck didn't was just the cherry on top of a shit subplot sundae that the ending (view spoiler)[had her breastfeeding an old

(the only reason this gets four stars instead of five is have to give the joads a happy ending, and i'm not saying he gave them a sad one either - he gave them a weird one instead. i was already pretty sick of hearing about rose of sharon and her magical pregnancy, so it

it's sad and it's searing, and beautifully written, and unrelentingly depressing, but it should be read.

is this review getting too politcally-minded? good. that's how steinbeck would have wanted me to talk about his book, because let me assure you - the grapes of wrath is extremely fucking political, another reviewer called it the anti-atlas shrugged, which is pretty damn apt. it's all about unions and the rights of the worker and how poor people need government assistance because sometimes life just sucks for no fucking reason.

about politicians who scream about "illegals" taking away the good american jobs and deporting kids'

parents.

opportunity.

opportunity.

reader.

reader.

language.

review instead?

any.

part 1: themes

one or two logical points.

underappreciated story!

language level he choosed.

Bookmark File PDF The Grapes Of Wrath By John Steinbeck well, it does show well how the salesman is manipulating the farmers, but it's still boring and could be cut down to maybe a few paragraphs. in fact, i'd say

paragraphs - the repetition isn't used just as a literary device, but rather the whole book is repetition. it's true that repetition ingrains things into peoples' heads. i think the grapes of wrath is trying to ingrain the joad's whiny story into our heads. there is no main character in this book, at first you say, "well, tom, of course!" but really, every minor character

most of the book could be cut down to just a few

is the main character. it's confusing and makes it impossible to truly sympathize with everyone. you're left in apathy, not caring what happens to the characters. which brings us to ... part 3: stupid dumb okies

in california, they hate people from oklahoma and call them "okies," usually with five or six slurs attached. however, steinbeck does nothing whatsoever to

counteract this. in fact, the "okies" are incredibly dumb! uh, good job grinding the reputation of oklahoma into the

all of the joad family and most of the characters we meet are incredibly dumb. they do dumb things; they say dumb things; they personify idiocy! honestly, is anyone

ground?

in this book likable at all? let's see: there's tom. he's a many-time murderer who hates everyone and everything and isn't afraid to show it. he has a terrible temper and is known for lashing out at everyone in sight. he also sleeps around. a lot. then there's ma. on the surface, she seems pretty cool, the calm and controlled one of the family. however, she

is also pretty dumb, seeming to think that tom is actually a good guy. sorry, weak-willed mother. your children mostly suck? she was probably the best character of the

story. also, you let your mentally disabled son wander off and didn't even go looking for him. good job. jim casy is the former preacher who makes fun of the bible, of god, and basically everything related to christianity. he sleeps around even more than tom, seducing young women who he was supposed to be a

spiritual guide to. so likable. he also doesn't believe that morals are a thing. though neither does anyone else in

this book, to be fair. rose of sharon joad (or rosasharn). she's a great of hunger. and i don't mean "nurse back to health." i

character. whines about anything, thinks about nothing but herself, is generally weak-willed and annoying. at the end, she decides to nurse an old man who's dying mean, nurse, like one would nurse a baby. that's not creepy and disgusting at all. (another point against ma: she let that happen and in fact encouraged it. ma is actually a pretty bad ma, to be honest?)

pa joad is weak-willed and annoying and has no idea how to lead his family, leaving them hanging and letting ma take over. al, the joad's teenage boy, could be summed up in two words: wants girls. he loves having sex, and he has sex all the times with multiple girls and brags on it. i just love this guy ... one of my favorites!

granpa joad. he cusses, walks around with his clothes unbuttoned ... and i mean even his underwear ... and is basically dirty filthy, inside and out. no grief when he dies. i didn't even care.

leaves her open to ridicule. though to be fair she is 100% senile. but they treated this as comical and make fun of her, kinda? but when she dies, again, i wasn't that sad. like, okay, now we don't have to deal with her extremely annoying voice. all the same, it was sad how christianity is portrayed as something only a senile grandma could appreciate! that said, the book has no obligation to portray a religion in any light it so chooses, and as such, this is not a serious complaint. just a

granma joad. she prays, but since christianity is a ridiculous stupid silly thing this is just ridiculous and

personal one.

for california.

idiot, whatever.

rubbish.

disgusting. 7: the end?

plot, ever?!

how anyone would enjoy it!

part 5: negative content

including a "family guide" of sorts.

expression, in fact, was "chr*st."

words) in all its forms.

conditions.

way.

of wrath.

thanks for reading,

in the end.

part end: conclusion

asks for it. this was also sad, as he really deserved more. if only one person in this story had offered him love! people in this book suck. ruthie. bossy and domineering little girl. winfield. spoiled brat.

noah. actually, he's sweet ... i like him. but then in the end he wanders off. because the joad family are jerks

and won't take care of their son who has a mental disability. i'm very sad for him, too. he deserved so

uncle john. can't get over himself. *eye roll* he needs jesus' grace to move past his life, but of course no one in this novel will offer that to him. even when he almost

much more! part 4: plot (is there one?) the basic "plot" of the book goes like this. (spoilers *included,* of course.) 1: tom gets out of jail (for murder). comes home, picks up filthy casy on the way. finds his family home

alone the plot, they head out to california. they slowly get there in another boring, long section. granma and granpa both die, by the way. no one really cares, though, let alone me. 3: they get to california. the work they thought they were

going to get - even after they were warned several times by multiple people that there would be no work - isn't

abandoned. eventually makes his way to his uncle's farm more or less where his family is preparing to leave

2: after chapters and chapters of absolute boring dry sentimental nonsense that is no help to anyone, let

4: they live at a bad camp, then they move to a government camp which is nice except there's still no work, so they don't have food. eventually they leave the government camp and go to another place where they pick peaches. connie abandons "rosasharn," his wife and tom's sister, at this point, and she whines a lot. even though she's the one who married the shiftless

as they pick cotton. and the river floods. and rosasharn's baby is stillborn, but at this point i couldn't care less. and after a couple days of living on a platform they built above the water in the boxcar, they decide to leave. although al stays behind. and at this point casy isn't around anymore, by the way. #dead

people who have run off) walk down the road and it starts to rain. they go into this barn, there's a starving guy, and rosasharn offers him her breast milk, it is

okay, isn't that the most exciting, interesting, intriguing

i know, it's dry as a bone. i frankly don't know why or

for my friends who want to know this kind of thing, i'm

profanity: g*ddamn in all its forms, g*d in all its forms, chr*st, j*sus chr*st, and several other forms of those

cussing: d*mn in all its forms, sh*t in all its forms, h*ll in all its forms, various other words. b*tch (and related

words taken in a vary light way. tom's favorite

6: so they (everyone but all and the dead people and the

5: anyway, at some point in here, tom's temper flares up once again. and now he's seriously in trouble and

6: then they end up living in these abandoned boxcars

runs away from the family, good riddance to bad

sexual: lots of kissing/necking/petting, etc. never described in great detail, but it's there. there's one scene where i believe rosasharn and connie have sex. tom, casy, and all talk about sleeping with women, degrading acts they've done with women, etc. as a woman, this made me super uncomfortable. many, many sexual jokes and innuendos and references.

now, you can say whatever you want to me. you can say

pages of absolute nonsense delivered in a boring, dry

who would i recommend this book to? absolutely no one. don't waste your time. if you can get out of it, get out of it! your life is too precious to waste on the grapes

there are other books about this historical period that are honest about life without resorting to nonsense,

other: death, destruction, murder, violence, scary scenes, police violence, mobs, scummy living

i didn't understand it. you can say i'm just a silly highschooler who doesn't know a thing about fine literature. but this is a 1-star book! it's six hundred

featuring characters who are actually worth relating to and imitating, and have a more realistic view of this complicated system that isn't the simple, "everything is the fault of the government." why are so many high school students forced to read this?

~kellyn roth ...more flag 106 likes · like · see review view all 130 comments sep 02, 2016 natalie vellacott rated it did not like it shelves: classics this was a library book. i didn't get on with it at all despite trying to read it twice. i gave up about a third of the way through

it is about the life of one american family during the

in places but the story itself is so very slow. it just

about a third of the way through in the end.

it is about the life of one american family during the

great depression, there is some beautiful creative writing in places but the story itself is so very slow. it just didn't hold my interest due to the lengthy dialogue between

great depression. there is some beautiful creative writing

didn't hold my interest due to the lengthy dialogue between the characters who were talking about nothing in particular. it was like being a fly on the wall at a really dull tea party wh this was a library book. i didn't get on with it at all despite trying to read it twice. i gave up

the characters who were talking about nothing in particular. it was like being a fly on the wall at a really dull tea party where everyone is making small talk. it seems they were allowing waves of nostalgia to sweep over them--forcing everyone to listen as one by one they recounted monotonous tales from their youth.

i guess i probably shouldn't make such comments about something labelled a classic, but for me it was not. as a christian, i also found the language, particularly the regular blasphemy, offensive and would probably have stopped reading earlier for that reason had it not been a classic. i also didn't appreciate the early scenes where the local vicar was using his position to bed all of the young women in his parish. i don't recommend this book due to the language, the sexual content and the monotony, i'm sorry i wasted a

few hours on it. i consider that i have carried out my duty by advising you, fellow readers, not to do the same. ...more flag 106 likes · like · see review view all 79 comments sep 11, 2016 michael finocchiaro rated it it was amazing · review of another edition shelves: made-

into-movie, favorites, pulitzer-fiction, american-20th-c, novels, classics, pulitzer-winning-fiction, fiction, nobel-lit, national-book-award

steinbeck's classic blew me away again with the power of its vision, the depth of its character, and the realism of its dialogs. i also rewatched the movie and found it to be relatively faithful to the book. a few things were dropped (the wilsons, noah's leaving, the pathos-laden ending with rosasharon in the farmhouse) and a few things were swapped around (the government camp and the peach camp), but henry fonda did a perfect performance as the interesting tom joad whose character arc goes from steinbeck's classic blew me away again with the power of its vision, the depth of its character, and the realism of its dialogs. i also rewatched the movie and found it to be

a more sweeping, journalistic voice about the larger political and social context; and a closeup into the thoughts and actions of people implied on the fringes (most notably the roadside cafés which play a role twice

relatively faithful to the book. a few things were dropped (the wilsons, noah's leaving, the pathos-laden ending with rosasharon in the farmhouse) and a few things were swapped around (the government camp and the peach camp), but henry fonda did a perfect performance as the interesting tom joad whose character arc goes from somewhat hardened criminal to socially conscious drifter. i also loved casy and found john carradine stupendous in that role. the narration of the book has three voices: the third party narration of the joad family's trials and tribulations;

in the primary narrative - younger's tom's initial ride to the farm, older tom's purchase of bread and candy). i feel that this technique was borrowed in principle at least from the dos passos usa trilogy - the closeups

reminded me of the camera eye sections and the sweeping passages of the newsreel sections. the book itself tells the story of the joads and by extension of an entire generation of mid-western farmers in the us that were forced off their land after the dust bowl, a period of several years of famine, to seek their fortunes in a promised land out west in california.

the harsh realities of life on the road, the prejudice of stationary observers towards the "oakies", and the exploitation by farmers and farming associations of the

labor surplus are painfully delineated. there is nonetheless some great humor (ma's beating a man with a chicken as told by tom, ruthie and winfield's discovery of the toilets, etc) in here and some great moments of humanity - primarily in casy's speeches and

in my all-time favorite one, "wherever there's a man, i'll be there too" by tom. the relationships in the book, particularly between ma and tom are beautifully drawn and yet the minor characters are also given time to change with the situations. of course, not everyone makes it to the land of milk and honey, and the land itself does not welcome

them with open arms but rather with rejection and disdain.

as for the historical context, it is hard for us to get exact numbers, but somewhere between 400,000 and 3.5m people were displaced from the great plains area that was affected by the drought and violent dust storms between 1931 and 1939 during which 75% of the topsoil

was wiped out in the oklahoma panhandle, western kansas, eastern colorado, and northern texas. not all of the displaced went to california, nonetheless, it is estimated that 1/8 of today's california population are

descendants of survivors of the dust bowl. it is also hard to estimate the number of deaths, but most sources settle on a number of about 7000 primarily from malnutrition and disease (both hinted at in the book, of course).

steinbeck depicts this vividly with sharply drawn images

Page 10/13

and an appeal to our emotions: we see that

Bookmark File PDF The Grapes Of Wrath By John Steinbeck unfortunately, the great depression has also impacted california and there are no jobs there either. it is

important to note his insight that it was not just farmers that were driven from the land: in the book at the first stop for the joads, they meet a shopkeeper who left because he had no more customers. in fact, people from across the economic spectrum were impacted and forced to rethink their means of getting an income. also important to this book is the fact that it was not just

climate change that pushed people off the land, it was also the ruthlessness of banks and speculators as well as technological change. this period represents a shift from manual sharecropping of smallish plots to the massive scale of industrialized agriculture. the heartlessness with which the guys in suits drive the joads and their neighbors of their land is shocking, and yet realistic. the practice of printing handbills for wide distribution in order to drive down labor prices as well as the labeling any resistance to falling wages as "red" was a powerful theme in the book.

there is a feeling of inevitableness, but also injustice as few provisions were made by the government for these

victims of change, and the gutting of legislation to protect small landholders from rapacious actions by the

large financial interests during the coolidge, harding, and hoover administrations left gaping holes in the safety net. an absolute american masterpiece, there is no question in my mind of this novel deserving the 1940 pulitzer prize over other great books like chandler's the big sleep and tropic of capricorn also being published in 1939. this one just has an eternal, lasting perfection to it. grapes of wrath was one of the primary sources quoted when

steinbeck was awarded the nobel prize for literature in 1962. his moving acceptance speech here. my votable list of pulitzer winners which i have read (only have the 40s, 50s, and 60s to finish!): ...more flag 125 likes · like · see review view all 21 comments mar 20, 2013 dolors rated it it was amazing · review of

another edition recommends it for: those with grit

enough to keep the faith recommended to dolors by: bruce springsteen shelves: dost, best-ever, read-in-2014 oklahoma, 1939. tractors invade the barren plains, ruining crops, demolishing houses, stripping farmers of their livelihood, leaving only billows of dust and ransacked land behind, bewildered families choke with disbelief at the lame excuses of the landowners who blame a monster bigger than them. not the severe droughts, not the iron machines, not their useless greed, but the bank, the bank forced them to do it.

and so a pilgrimage of thousands of destitute families to

the promised land of calif oklahoma, 1939. tractors invade the barren plains, ruining crops, demolishing

houses, stripping farmers of their livelihood, leaving only billows of dust and ransacked land behind. bewildered

families choke with disbelief at the lame excuses of the landowners who blame a monster bigger than them. not

the severe droughts, not the iron machines, not their

useless greed, but the bank, the bank forced them to do and so a pilgrimage of thousands of destitute families to

the promised land of california where the valleys are ripe with fresh hope and sweet grapes begins, and the roads

become a limbless reptile hauling an endless tail of wrecked trucks and rootless people who have exchanged their living heritage for the expectation of

honest jobs and decent lives. a debunked list of thwarted illusions and betrayed promises awaits the *joads*, the protagonists of

steinbeck's tale of protest and epitomization of countless second rate americans who had to endure the degradation of being treated like cattle, the marginalization of inhuman living conditions and the

bigoted treatment of their fellow citizens as a result of

the great depression's climatic, social and economic debacle. more than seventy years later, steinbeck's

denouncement of the effects of an abusive system that endorses laws of supply and demand over humanity and social justice mirrors the precarious situation of many

developed countries that are struggling against unmanageable unemployment rates and massive migratory movements, which elevates the writer's

that speaks on its own.

moral equity.

implacable adversity.

tom joad:

compassion.

statement.

"the grapes of wrath" is composed of juxtaposed symphonic alternating movements. short, jazzy and lyrical chapters combining journalistic language with spiritual rhythms give an atemporal view on the migrant drama, which in turn arise as premonitory for the interweaved longer narrative chapters depicting the joad family's exodus to california and their symbolic plight for

framed in bold dialogue and raw dialectical jargon, a menagerie of styles, dissonant voices, folk wisdom and biblical imagery gives shape to the mystic soul of the book, which orbits around two concentric points: land

prophetic voice of protest to an enduring literary classic

and family. when the joads are obliged to abandon their farm they are also deprived of their dignity, of their ancestry, of their roots. once the land is lost, drastic developments threaten the family unit but *ma joad*, tough and vulnerable mother, resilient and respectful wife, gentle and brawly cornerstone of the joads' collective willpower, and her son tom, the male counterpoint to ma's ability to adapt, personify the indignation that fuels

the spark of revolt to preserve self-respect in front of

and paralyzing vexation, leaving only one absolute, pulsating soul that speaks for all people, the ghost of

"then it don't matter. then i'll be aroun' in the dark. i'll

but when hope becomes desperation, desperation melts in prayer, prayer degenerates into hunger and hunger ferments in wrath and the skies break lose in floods of misfortune and a mother caresses the disfigured face of her son in the dark, the debilitated bonds that kept the family together shatter silently in fragmented impotence

be ever'where - wherever you look. wherever they's a fight so hungry people can eat, i'll be there. wherever they's a cop beatin' up a guy. i'll be there. i'll be in the way kids laugh when they're hungry an' they know supper's ready, an' when our folks eat the stuff they raise an' live in the houses they build – why, i'll be there." and this is how steinbeck's polivalent epic evolves from socio-economic determinism to numinous spirituality, for

the fury of losing land and lineage metamorphoses into a chant of redemptive love for mankind that overcomes

needs and rekindles a perdurable harmonious faith that can only be born of the most inexhaustible and universal

"the people in flight from terror behind – strange things

beautiful that the faith is refired forever." ... more flag 104 likes · like · see review view all 99 comments may 03, 2020 dave schaafsma rated it it was amazing review of another edition shelves: fiction-20th-century, bestbooks-ever 4/14/21: on this day in 1939, john steinbeck published this book, not satisfied it was any good, but acknowledging "it was the best he could do." he thought many readers would object to the book's political

happen to them, some bitterly cruel and some so

individual boundaries, temporal limits and material

that book, that had been a staple of the modern novels elective class there for many years, but that year one 4/14/21: on this day in 1939, john steinbeck published this book, not satisfied it was any good, but acknowledging "it was the best he could do." he thought many readers would object to the book's political statement. i first read grapes of wrath in high school, then again taught it in a rural parochial (christian) high school) in western michigan in the late seventies. i loved teaching

that book, that had been a staple of the modern novels elective class there for many years, but that year one of the more conservative parents complained to the school board that the book was immoral, not consistent with the values of the community. he saw that his son was being required to read it, recalled reading the book and found it personally offensive. he thought the swearing was excessive (made a list of the swear words used), there was an ex-preacher in the book that had slept with some of his female parishioners he took objection to, and the final scene in the book, where a young nursing mother who has lost her child feeds a starving man, he found disgusting. if he had dug a little deeper he might have discovered that the author of the book, john steinbeck, was also once a member of the communist party. we

i first read grapes of wrath in high school, then again taught it in a rural parochial (christian) high school) in western michigan in the late seventies. i loved teaching

might have then had just enough evidence to burn it. the only member of the school board that had read the book was the chairman of the board, who thought it was a very good book, but none of the other members had read it, nor would they, and they voted to remove it from our english curriculum, though they--sensing a possible insurrection from students and teachers---allowed us to finish teaching the book. why fear an uprising? as i knew the board was meeting to vote on the book, i invited my students to write essays for them on the question of the book's morality, and several of them wrote stirring defenses of the book, to no avail. i am sure our reading

of the remainder of that book was some of the most passionate learning i have ever been part of, and i will

students; i loved them (some [minor] students bought me bottles of wine when we were done reading it) and the book; what a great and anguished experience for us

thanks to phillip, here is a link to an npr stpry on how it is

this book got banned in california and other places:

when john steinbeck wrote the grapes of wrath he had spent time in the camps in california. he had helped organize farm workers for a living wage. he had seen

starvation and disease. when he wrote the book he had the king james version of the holy bible with him at all times, i had read, hoping to have his passionate prose

the story, which is at its base a critique of the inhumanity

environmental disaster and the strength of the human spirit in the face of unspeakable challenges and tragedy,

thousands who lost their farms in the "dust bowl" era in

focuses primarily on one family, the joads, one of

the thirties when adequate safety nets were not available, when there was no unemployment relief, when adequate union action was still a dream, when american citizens were actually refugees in their own country, when people starved in the streets for lack of a crust of bread. in other words, it is both historical fiction and a cautionary tale, a time of economic depression and people (often, and largely) hating each other in their

first hand the lowering of wages for hundreds of thousands of americans in his state to the point of

of unbridled capitalism, a story of man-made

npr.org/templates/story/s...

echo its lyrical moral tone.

never forget my engaged, thoroughly committed

all.

struggles rather than supporting each other in crisis. the joads--ma, pa, uncle john, tom, noah, rose of sharon, grandpa, and grandma, ruthie and winfield, their dogs, accompanied for a time by ex-preacher jim casey--were living through a drought, their farms had become clouds of dust, they couldn't raise crops, so they couldn't make mortgage payments to the bank as hundreds of thousands could not, they were pushed off their land, their house and barn razed,

"sure, cried the tenant men, but it's our land. . . we

it's no good, it's still ours. . . that's what makes ownership, not a paper with numbers on it."

were born on it, and we got killed on it, died on it. even if

and they, from oklahoma, called "okies" and worse, saw

whole area country headed west for twenty times fewer jobs than there were people, and what happens in a

capitalist system when that happens? wages go down to

"dump potatoes in the rivers and place guards along the banks to keep the hungry people from fishing them out.

there is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation. there is a sorrow here that weeping cannot symbolize. there is a failure here that topples all our success. the fertile earth, the straight tree rows, the sturdy trunks,

and the ripe fruit. and children dying of pellagra must die because a profit cannot be taken from an orange. and coroners must fill in the certificate- died of malnutrition-

because the food must rot, must be forced to rot."

flyers for jobs in california and suddenly they and a

criminal levels, prices stay up, and food is literally kerosened or dumped into ditches in front of starving

slaughter the pigs and bury them, and let the

putrescence drip down into the earth.

again read.

people (as is now being done!!).

hatred is showered on poor people for their poverty, for their willingness to attempt to feed their families for less money, for impossibly low wages, police forces are doubled to move people along, doctors won't see these refugees, these migrants, these "shitheels," and prices are gouged by their fellow americans for almost every essential item. let's just pause a second and think of the environmental disaster in syria that created waves of migrants/refugees all over europe, and that wall at the us-mexican border, and the ongoing refugee crises all over the world and see if you think this might be a useful book for us to

callary chapters that allow the author to help us understand the economic crisis and its human/moral costs on a broader, systemic level, and lyrical/metaphorical interludes such as one featuring a turtle persistently trying to cross a highway. the key theme is that the people can stand against the rich and powerful if they are unified, if they are one, if they see themselves as ma tells them they must be, a family, supporting each other with love and decency. that final scene in the rain reminds me of the father and

the structure of the book includes a close reading of one family's tale alternating with the story of the situation writ a little larger, with unnamed folks appearing, inter-

while tender acts of charity are present, there are also also warnings in the book: if you keep a family from feeding its children that rage--the grapes of wrath--will come to pass. the people will come together to save themselves. ". . . and in the eyes of the people there is the failure; and in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. in the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling

son at the end of cormac mccarthy's the road: you do the right thing and live the right way until you die. but

and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage." ma emerges as the matriarchal moral center of the book, and women are seen as the central foundation of human survival. which makes sense more now than ever. "she seemed to know, to accept, to welcome her

position, the citadel of the family, the strong place that could not be taken." and along the way they learn moral/political lessons in the face of police crackdowns on the hungry: "and the little screaming fact that sounds through all

history: repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed."

"if he needs a million acres to make him feel rich, seems to me he needs it 'cause he feels awful poor inside hisself, and if he's poor in hisself, there ain't no

million acres gonna make him feel rich, an' maybe he's disappointed that nothin' he can do 'll make him feel rich." "we're sorry. it's not us. it's the monster. the bank isn't Page 11/13

Bookmark File PDF The Grapes Of Wrath By John Steinbeck like a man. yes, but the bank is only made of men.

no, you're wrong there—quite wrong there. the bank is something else than men. it happens that every man in

a bank hates what the bank does, and yet the bank does it. the bank is something more than men, i tell you.

it's the monster. men made it, but they can't control it." "the bank - the monster has to have profits all the time. it can't wait. it'll die. no, taxes go on. when the monster stops growing, it dies. it can't stay one size." [you may

recall the bailout concept here in the old us of a: too big to fail?] "this is the beginning—from 'i' to 'we'. if you who own

the things people must have could understand this, you might preserve yourself. if you could separate causes from results, if you could know that paine, marx, jefferson, lenin were results, not causes, you might survive. but that you cannot know. for the quality of owning freezes you forever into 'i,'and cuts you off forever from the 'we.' "

a great and powerful and majestic book, with principles in it to save a planet. one of the greatest ever. ...more

flag 99 likes · like · see review view all 30 comments mar 19, 2017 diane rated it it was amazing · review of another edition shelves: marx-was-right, audiobooks, classics this novel is amazing. the grapes of wrath is one of those books that for years

i'd been embarrassed i hadn't read yet. i was familiar with other works by john steinbeck, but somehow i hadn't gotten around to this classic of american literature until now.

pardon my language, but holy shit is this book good. i

was blown away by the scope of the work, how it followed not just the joad family traveling from oklahoma to california, but it also meditated on the problems of all

the displaced families o this novel is amazing.

the grapes of wrath is one of those books that for years i'd been embarrassed i hadn't read yet. i was familiar

of those farmers ended up in california, hoping to find work and a decent living, but instead found menial

wages, prejudice, hunger and disease. it's a devastating

i listened to this on audio, read by the talented actor

performance. i also recommend the 1940 film version directed by john ford and starring henry fonda, which was mostly faithful to the book. in the movie, fonda

seems to be carrying the entire weight of the depression

i think what is most alarming about reading the grapes of wrath in the early 21st century is recognizing how relevant the themes are today, because the country is still run by big banks and greedy corporations. karl marx

five stars for the impressive john steinbeck. five stars for the joad family, searching for a new life. and five stars

"there ain't no sin and there ain't no virtue, there's just

"and the little screaming fact that sounds through all history: repression works only to strengthen and knit the

"muscles aching to work, minds aching to create - this is

"she seemed to know, to accept, to welcome her

position, the citadel of the family, the strong place that could not be taken. and since old tom and the children could not know hurt or fear unless she acknowledged hurt or fear, she had practiced denying them in herself. and since, when a joyful thing happened, they looked to see whether joy was on her, it was her habit to build laughter out of inadequate materials....she seemed to know that if she swayed the family shook, and if she ever deeply wavered or despaired the family would fall."

"if he needs a million acres to make him feel rich, seems

to me he needs it 'cause he feels awful poor inside hisself, and if he's poor in hisself, there ain't no million

disappointed that nothin' he can do 'll make him feel

"sure, cried the tenant men,but it's our land...we were born on it, and we got killed on it, died on it. even if it's no good, it's still ours....that's what makes ownership,

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acres gonna make him feel rich, an' maybe he's

not a paper with numbers on it." ...more flag 105

gujarat, uttar pradesh and tamil nadu, says an intelligence bureau note submitted to the modi

the december 19 report, marked to national security adviser ajit kumar doval, principal secretary to the prime

minister nripendra mishra, and agriculture ministry,

gujarat, uttar pradesh and tamil nadu, says an intelligence bureau note submitted to the modi

the december 19 report, marked to national security adviser ajit kumar doval, principal secretary to the prime

minister nripendra mishra, and agriculture ministry, among others, has blamed rising farmer suicides on

outstanding loans, rising debt, low crop yield, poor

more than 270,000 indian cotton farmers have killed themselves since 1995. campaigners say a contributing

factor may be the high price of genetically modified seeds flooding the market, which is piling pressure on

there are some books which hit you with an impact like a sledgehammer. the grapes of wrath by john steinbeck is

i read it during a period of recuperation after a severe bout of viral flu during my late teens. i never knew who steinbeck was before i read this book, and i had only a sketchy idea of what the great depression was. after i finished it, i had become a fan of the author, and my political views had shifted permanently to the left of the

the western states nervous under the beginning change.

mexico, arizona, california. a single family moved from the land. pa borrowed money from the bank, and now the bank wants the land. the land company--that's the bank when it has land--wants tractors, not families on the land. is a tractor bad? is the power that turns the long furrows wrong? if this tractor were ours it would be good--not mine, but ours. if our tractor turned the long furrows of our land, it would be good. not my land, but ours. we could love that tractor then as we have loved this land when it was ours. but the tractor does two

things--it turns the land and turns us off the land. there is

one man, one family driven from the land; this rusty car creaking along the highway to the west. i lost my land, a single tractor took my land. i am alone and bewildered. and in the night one family camps in a ditch and another

family pulls in and the tents come out. the two men

here is the node, you who hate change and fear

squat on their hams and the women and children listen.

revolution. keep these two squatting men apart; make them hate, fear, suspect each other, here is the anlarge of the thing you fear. this is the zygote. for here "i lost my land" is changed; a cell is split and from its splitting grows the thing you hate--"we lost our land." the danger is here, for two men are not as lonely and perplexed as one. and from this first "we" there grows a still more

dangerous thing: "i have a little food" plus "i have none." if from this problem the sum is "we have a little food," the thing is on its way, the movement has direction. only a little multiplication now, and this land, this tractor are ours. the two men squatting in a ditch, the little fire, the side-meat stewing in a single pot, the silent, stone-eyed women; behind, the children listening with their souls to words their minds do not understand. the night draws down. the baby has a cold. here, take this blanket. it's wool. it was my mother's blanket--take it for the baby. this is the thing to bomb. this is the beginning--from "i" to

if you who own the things people must have could understand this, you might preserve yourself. if you could separate causes from results, if you could know paine, marx, jefferson, lenin, were results, not causes, you might survive. but that you cannot know. for the quality of owning freezes you forever into "i," and cuts

the western states are nervous under the beginning change. need is the stimulus to concept, concept to action. a half-million people moving over the country; a million more restive, ready to move; ten million more

and tractors turning the multiple furrows in the vacant

has there been a change? i don't think so. the news

the tractors of capitalism are still mowing the vacant

...and in the eyes of the people there is the failure; and in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. in the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and

let's hope the world sees sense before the grapes of

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in 1962 steinbeck received the nobel prize for literature.

steinbeck grew up in the salinas valley john steinbeck iii

in 1962 steinbeck received the nobel prize for literature.

california, a culturally diverse place of rich migratory and

steinbeck grew up in the salinas valley region of

regionalistic flavor to his writing, giving many of his

steinbeck moved briefly to new york city, but soon returned home to california to begin his career as a writer. most of his earlier work dealt with subjects familiar to him from his formative years. an exception was his first novel cup of gold which concerns the pirate

henry morgan, whose adventures had captured

in his subsequent novels, steinbeck found a more

steinbeck often populated his stories with struggling characters: his works examined the lives of the working class and migrant workers during the dust bowl and the great depression. his later body of work reflected his wide range of interests, including marine biology,

one of his last published works was travels with charley, a travelogue of a road trip he took in 1960 to rediscover america. he died in 1968 in new york of a heart attack

Page 12/13

politics, religion, history, and mythology.

and his ashes are interred in salinas.

authentic voice by drawing upon direct memories of his life in california. later he used real historical conditions and events in the first half of 20th century america, which he had experienced first-hand as a reporter.

immigrant history. this upbringing imparted a

works a distinct sense of place.

steinbeck's imagination as a child.

was an american writer. he wrote the pulitzer prizewinning novel the grapes of wrath, published in 1939 and the novella of mice and men, published in 1937. in all, he wrote twenty-five books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction books and several collections of short

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and several collections of short stories.

stories.

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little difference between this tractor and a tank. the people are driven, intimidated, hurt by both. we must

texas and oklahoma, kansas and arkansas, new

poorly paid growers, forcing many into a cycle of

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think about this.

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government late last week.

government late last week.

export.

was right: the working class is oppressed, y'all.

for dylan baker's excellent narration.

dylan baker, and i would highly recommend his

chapter of american history.

on his shoulders.

favorite quotes

stuff people do."

repressed."

man."

rich."

was blown away by the scope of the work, how it followed not just the joad family traveling from oklahoma to california, but it also meditated on the problems of all the displaced families of the great depression, and on all the poor farmers who were driven from their homes and their lands by big banks and greedy corporations. many

until now. pardon my language, but holy shit is this book good. i

with other works by john steinbeck, but somehow i hadn't gotten around to this classic of american literature

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seventeen of his works, including the grapes of wrath (1940), cannery row (1945), the pearl (1947), and east of eden (1952), went on to become hollywood films, and steinbeck also achieved success as a hollywood writer, receiving an academy award nomination for best story in 1944 for alfred hitchcock's lifeboatmore books by john steinbeck more articles featuring this booklove grows up in the new aristotle and dante novel benjamin
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the great depression
not only one of steinbeck's greatest works, the grapes of wrath (1939) has also secured its place as one of the
of wrath (1939) has also secured its place as one of the most famous novels in the entire american literary canon. the final piece of steinbeck's labor trilogy—following in dubious battle (1936) and of mice
and men (1937)—the grapes of wrath was written between march and october 1938. an instant bestseller upon publication, fifteen million copies of the book have been sold, with another 150,000 being added annually.
the grapes of wrath, which has been translated into dozens of languages, was awarded the pulitzer prize for literature, and played an important role in steinbeck winning the nobel prize in 1962.
many facets of steinbeck's life helped shape the text. inspiration came from the 1937 documentary short the
plow that broke the plains, directed by steinbeck acquaintance pare lorentz; the film shows the harsh conditions that existed in the dust bowl region. steinbeck witnessed labor struggles as large numbers of migrants arrived in california, and he had the opportunity to tour
arrived in california, and he had the opportunity to tour labor camps and interview migrant families. in the winter of 1938, steinbeck saw firsthand the miserable conditions brought on by intense flooding in visalia, ca.
these experiences, along with a series of san francisco news articles called "the harvest gypsies" and a satire titled "l'affaire lettuceberg" which steinbeck later
destroyed, planted the seeds for telling the grapes of wrath in a more realistic, objective fashion.steinbeck chronicled the novel's progress in a journal he kept while writing, published posthumously as working days:
the journals of the grapes of wrath(1989). in 1940, 20th century fox released a film adaptation of the novel; directed by john ford, the movie went on to
win two academy awards, for best director and best supporting actress (jane darwell as ma joad). the grapes of wrath has also been adapted for the stage, as an
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