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## APPENDIX I

### Biography of John Steinbeck



John Ernst Steinbeck was born on February 27, 1902, in Salinas, California, the only son of John Ernst Steinbeck Sr. and Olive Hamilton. His father was a bookkeeper and accountant who served for many years as the treasurer of Monterey County, California. Steinbeck received his love of literature from his mother, who was interested in the arts. His favorite book, and a main influence on his writing, was Sir Thomas Malory's (c. 1408–1471) *Le Morte d'Arthur*, a collection of the legends of King Arthur. Steinbeck decided while in high school that he wanted to be a writer. He also enjoyed playing sports and worked during the summer on various ranches.

Steinbeck worked as a laboratory assistant and farm laborer to support himself six years of study at Stanford University, where he took only those courses needed him without seeking a degree. In 1925 he traveled to New York (by the Panama Canal) on a freighter (boat that carries inventory). After arriving



in New York, he worked as a reporter and as part of a construction crew building Madison Square Garden. During this time he was also collecting impressions for his first novel. *Cup of Gold* (1929) was an unsuccessful attempt at romance involving the pirate Henry Morgan.

Undiscouraged, Steinbeck returned to California to begin work as a writer of serious fiction. A collection of short stories, *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932), contained vivid descriptions of rural (farm) life among the "unfinished children of nature" in his native California valley. His second novel, *To a God Unknown* (1933), was his strongest statement about man's relationship to the land. With *Tortilla Flat* (1935) Steinbeck received critical and popular success; there are many critics who consider it his most artistically satisfying work.

Steinbeck next dealt with the problems of labor unions in *In Dubious Battle* (1936), an effective story of a strike (when workers all decide to stop working as a form of protest against unfair treatment) by local grape pickers. *Of Mice and Men* (1937), first conceived as a play, is a tightly constructed novella (short novel) about an unusual friendship between two migrant workers (laborers who travel to wherever there is available work, usually on farms). Although the book is powerfully written and often moving, some critics feel that it lacks a moral vision.



Steinbeck's series of articles for the San Francisco Chronicle on the problems of farm laborers provided material for *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), his major

novel and the finest working-class novel of the 1930s. *The Grapes of Wrath* relates the struggle of a family of Oklahoma tenant farmers forced to turn over their land to the banks. The family then journeys across the vast plains to the promised land of California—only to be met with scorn when they arrive. It is a successful example of social protest in fiction, as well as a convincing tribute to man's will to survive. *The Grapes of Wrath* received the Pulitzer Prize in 1940.

Steinbeck's fiction during the 1940s includes *The Moon Is Down* (1942), a tale of the Norwegian resistance to occupation by the Nazis (German ruling party that scorned democracy and considered all non-German people, especially Jews, inferior); *Cannery Row* (1944), a return to the setting of *Tortilla Flat*; *The Wayward Bus* (1947); and *The Pearl*, a popular novella about a poor Mexican fisherman who discovers a valuable pearl that brings bad luck to his family.

During World War II (1939–45), which the United States entered to help other nations battle Germany, Italy, and Japan, Steinbeck served as a foreign correspondent. From this experience came such nonfiction as *Bombs Away: The Story of a Bomber Team* (1942); *Once There Was a War* (1958), a collection of Steinbeck's dispatches from 1943; and *A Russian Journal* (1948), with photographs by Robert Capa. More interesting nonfiction of this period is *The Sea of Cortez*,



ed with scientist Edward F. Ricketts. This account of the two explorers' into sea life provides an important key to many of the themes and attitudes in Steinbeck's novels.

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Steinbeck's work remains popular in both the United States and Europe, chiefly for its social consciousness and concern and for the narrative qualities displayed in the early novels. Although he refused to settle into political conservatism (preferring to maintain traditions and resist change) in his later years, his all-embracing support of American values and acceptance of all national policies, including the Vietnam War (1955–75; conflict in which the United States fought against Communist North Vietnam when they invaded Democratic South Vietnam), lost him the respect of many liberal (preferring social change) intellectuals who had once admired his social commitments. He died on December 20, 1968, in New York City.



## APPENDIX II

### Synopsis of The Grapes of Wrath

During the American Great Depression, after being evicted from its agricultural land, the Joad family was forced to wander through the arid continent of Oklahoma to the "promised land" of green California to find a decent living.

The story begins when Tom Joad, who was just released from prison with a free parole, returned to his home in an agricultural area in Oklahoma. On the way, he met a bum named Jim Casy. After getting acquainted, Casy turned out to be the priest who had baptized Tom, but Casy had now lost his "calling". Then, Tom invites Casy to his home.

Arriving at the Joad family's house, Tom and Casy find the house empty and everything has been abandoned. There, Tom met his neighbor, Muley Graves, who was hiding from the police chase. Then, Muley told Tom what had happened with his family, with Joad's family, and with other families in the farming area. Because bad weather caused them to fail at harvest, the Bank had taken over their forty acres of land.

Following Muley's instructions, Tom finally found his family at the home of , John Joad. Pa and Ma Joad were so happy to see that Tom had returned, ere the rest of the family. Ma Joad explained to Tom that they had decided to lifornia to look for work because they had to leave their land as soon as





possible. The next day, all the Joad family members leave Oklahoma, along with Casy who decides to go with them. They began transporting their goods into a small sedan that had been transformed into a "truck" to make a long trip from Oklahoma to California's "promised land" after seeing a job advertisement for a plantation that needed hundreds of workers to pick and transport crops / fruit.

On the way to California, Joad's family must lose Grampa and Granma, they can no longer survive and die, because they have no money, they bury Granma and Grampa unworthy. Noah, who is Tom's brother, also left, and Connie also left his wife, Rosasharn. After a long journey, the Joad Family arrived in California. They tried to find work but did not get it. There are thousands of immigrants fighting for work. Not knowing where to go, they decided to keep moving until they reached a village called Hooverville, many camps were standing and small huts there. Joad's family also helped to set up a tent to rest and hope for work. But apparently not as easy as imagined.

One time there was a contractor who was looking for workers with low pay. Floyd who is a friend of Tom did not accept the contractor's bad intentions. Angry, the contractor called a Sheriff's representative to catch Floyd who was trying to escape. Want to help his friend, Tom hit the policeman until he passed out. Casy then

Tom to be arrested by the Police. That night, the camp was set on fire by the



After that incident, Joad's family continued to move until at a government camp called Weedpatch, the camp was very clean, the people who lived there were also very friendly. No one will insult them as "Okies", but not long before they are forced to move because there is no work there. They arrived at a plantation called Hoover to pick peaches. The plantation was guarded by many police. Every family that works on the plantation is given one unit of house to live in, but the house is still far from being suitable for occupancy.

Joad's family began working the plantation to pick peaches. The more days the wages earned are getting less because of the large number of workers being hired. One night Tom again met Casy the priest. Casy joined a rebellion group that refused low wages. Tom and Casy were chatting and were found out by a police officer. They quickly ran away but Casy died at the hands of the police who were chasing them. Tom then avenged Casy's death by killing the policeman. After the incident, Joad's family left the estate after Tom was named a fugitive.

Joad's family then arrives in a box truck camp, they stay there to work to pick cotton. One day there was heavy rain at the camp which caused flooding, on the other hand, Rosasharn, who was pregnant with Connie's child, was about to give birth, but unfortunately, her child was not safe. This story ends when they were displaced in a

camp because of a flood. There was a child with his father who was dying of pneumonia. Rosasharn then gave her milk to the old man.



The Joad family consists of the main characters Tom Joad, Pa Joad, Ma Joad, John Joad, Granma and Grampa, Tom's adult brothers, Noah and Al, their sisters, Rosasharn and her husband, Connie, and two younger siblings, Ruthie and Winfield, plus a former priest, Jim Casy. Tom himself is an ex-convict for killing people in a fight. He was released on parole. In California the suffering of this family is not inferior to when they were still in Oklahoma, they moved camps and plantations, also had to face difficulties due to community discrimination that did not accept Okies (poor immigrants from Oklahoma), and the absence of law in California Territory.

